Picking the pathway that’s right for you
Information about the wide range of subjects open to you at Prospect School to help you make the right choices

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Read below, understand the ‘How to choose a pathway’ chart overleaf and study the subject information to ensure you make the right subject choices for you

Core Subjects – compulsory for all
- English Language and Literature – 9 hours per fortnight
- Mathematics – 8 hours per fortnight
- Science – 9 hours per fortnight
- Core Physical Education – 2 hours per fortnight
- Personal, Social, Health Education, Citizenship and Careers Education – 2 hours per fortnight

Preference Subjects
The number of subject preferences your child can make will be shown on their individualised preference form. Each of these subjects will be allocated 5 hours per fortnight.

English Baccalaureate
- French
- German
- Community Languages
- Geography
- History

Arts
- Art & Design
- Art Photography
- Drama
- Music

Technology
- Construction
- Hospitality & Catering
- Graphic Design
- Design & Technology
- Computer Science
- Digital Technology
- Media Studies

Work-related
- Business Studies
- Health & Fitness
- Physical Education
- Health & Social Care
- Hospitality
- Hair & Beauty
- Religious Studies
- Wider Key Skills

Choosing your pathway
We want all students to be able to follow a broad and balanced curriculum, which gives them a combination of academic, creative and practical subjects, that best meets their learning needs. In addition to the compulsory core subjects, students will indicate a preference for

In order to ensure that student make the right decisions about the subjects that they wish to study at GCSE, they will be supported in their choice to follow a pathway.

Pathway One
Students are likely to be secure or mastered in most students, and will be expecting to achieve predominantly grades 6 and above at GCSE. Students following this pathway will achieve the EBacc, which requires them to study at least one humanity subject and one language. They then choose two further subjects, which we recommend come from the Specialist subjects, to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum, although they can choose an additional EBacc subject. This is a predominantly academic pathway, which is likely to lead to Sixth Form and University in the future.

Pathway Two
Students are likely to be secure or developing in most students, and will be expecting to achieve predominantly grades 4 and above at GCSE. Students following this pathway should choose a combination of subjects to include one EBacc subject (a language or humanity) and three further subjects, to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum. This is a balanced pathway, enabling some students to continue into the Sixth Form, or to vocational or further education post 16.

Pathway Three
Students are likely to be emerging or developing in most subjects, and will be expecting to achieve GCSE grades at 3 or below. They will be most suited to choosing subjects in the Specialist subjects, including Wider Key Skills, which counts as two choices. In addition to this, they should choose two further subjects. This pathway will enable students to succeed and progress to further education or vocational training after their GCSEs.
## How to chose a pathway

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What will I do in English Language?

English Language is a creative course which students find highly rewarding. Through class discussion, group work and individual written assignments, you will learn how to read and analyse texts independently. We will focus on the language and structure of both fiction and non-fiction writing and you’ll also continue to learn the skills of identifying and synthesizing information.

You will evaluate and compare texts and be tested on both your reading and writing skills.

How will I be assessed?

The final GCSE grade consists of:

- Two written examinations at the end of Year 11: 100%
- 50% of the examinations test your reading skills.
- 50% of the examinations test your writing skills.

Why do I study English Language?

Alongside Maths, your GCSE grade in English Language is the first grade to be checked by colleges, universities and employers. More than that, your reading and writing skills affect how well you do in almost every area of your school life and they will continue to be important long after you’ve left school.

Student Progression

Students might like to study A Level English Language/Literature and/or English Literature.

What will I gain from studying English Literature?

English at GCSE helps you practice, improve and develop your reading and writing skills as well as your speaking and listening skills. These are important in a job, career, and further and higher education establishments.
English Literature is designed to encourage students to engage critically with and explore a variety of texts across the major genres including modern texts as well as classic literature.

**What will I do in English Literature?**
You will read, discuss and write about novels, plays and poetry. You will improve your skills in building an argument and finding supporting evidence for your ideas. You will learn to read and engage critically with literature. Students often say that the books they read whilst studying English Literature are the best they've ever read, and you'll be encouraged to enjoy a variety of texts (including modern texts, Shakespeare and 19th Century novels) through fun and innovative teaching and learning.

**How will I be assessed?**
The final GCSE grade consists of:
- Two written examinations at the end of Year 11.

**Why do I study English Literature?**
Great literature opens readers' minds to a variety of themes and issues, and the texts we teach are guaranteed to challenge the way you think about the world around you. You will learn about the society we live in and students often say they learn lots about themselves and their own attitudes and behaviours. Through studying Literature, you will also develop your writing skills - something which will help you in all of your subjects.

**Student Progression**
Students might like to study A Level English Language/Literature and/or English Literature

**What will I gain from studying English?**
It will increase your ability to form an argument, think for yourself and show that you have the skills to understand a range of texts and are able to communicate your understanding to others. English Literature is seen as a very important subject by higher education establishments and employers.
From years 9 onwards, students will either study for the Higher or Foundation tier and progress will be continuously monitored.

**What will I do in Mathematics?**
You will study:
1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

You will also aim to recall, select and apply your knowledge of Mathematics and to interpret, analyse and solve problems in a range of contexts.

Some students may also study GCSE Further Mathematics.

**What are the important deadlines?**
You will sit all the exams at the end of Year 11.

**How will I be assessed?**
There are three exam papers, two with a calculator and one without, that can be sat at Foundation or Higher tier. Problem-solving skills will also be assessed along with your ability to communicate well.

**Maths GCSE number grading**
Maths GCSE is now a number grading system from 1–9 with 9 being the highest level of achievement.
Foundation papers cover grades 1–5, Higher papers cover grades 3/4–9 year dependent.
The final decision on tier of entry is taken in the beginning of Y11 where tracking results, work ethic, completion of homework are all considered in order to ensure each student achieves their potential grade.

**Student Progression**
Students might like to study A Level Mathematics, Core Mathematics, Further Mathematics.
Prospect School Year 8 Options

Physical Education

**CORE SUBJECT COMPULSORY**

Students will follow the core physical education programme, which consists of 3 hours of core PE over the 2 weeks.

**What will I do in Physical Education?**
You will continue with module-based activities as in previous years. Greater emphasis will be placed on:
1. Scoring and judging
2. Strategies and tactics
3. Competitions
4. Self-analysis and evaluation

**Why do I do Physical Education?**
Keeping yourself fit and healthy is vital! You will participate in a variety of activities that will develop different elements of fitness – ranging from your mobility and agility to developing your actual skill level. It is very important that you participate in PE lessons as it is a core lesson within the National Curriculum.

**What are the important deadlines?**
There are no specific deadlines in this subject because assessment is continuous.

**How will I be assessed?**
Your teachers will assess your progress and attainment in all areas of the subject throughout the three years although this is not used towards a formal qualification in Year 11.

**What will I gain from Physical Education?**
Sport and PE develops many skills and attributes. Not only will you have the opportunity to improve your own personal skill levels at many activities, but you will also learn the importance of good sportsmanship and the importance of working with others within a team.
Hopefully you will carry on with some sport or activity outside of school too. We also introduce you to some activities that are not part of the curriculum lower down in the school e.g. trampolining and volleyball.
PSHE/Citizenship

Core Subject Compulsory

PSHE/Citizenship is part of the core curriculum and is studied for one hour per week. It includes PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education), Citizenship and Careers Education.

What will I do in PSHE/Citizenship?
The work you do will include the following topics:

- Safe and healthy lifestyle – e.g. drug and sex education.
- Citizenship – including the work of government, the law, our rights and responsibilities, the media, global issues.
- Financial awareness and understanding.
- Preparation for the world of work and the choices you need to make at the end of Year 11.
- Application to the Sixth Form via UCAS Progress in Year 11

What will I study PSHE/Citizenship?

- To consider and discuss a wide variety of important and topical issues
- To help develop your understanding of society and yourself.
- To think about what you want to do in the future

What are the important deadlines?
There is no coursework as such but there will be times during the course when you will complete tasks to assess your progress.

How will I be assessed?
There is no formal assessment or examination in this subject but there will be regular assessment activities in lessons.

What will I gain from PSHE/Citizenship?

- Increase your knowledge and understanding about a variety of important and topical issues to do with health, citizenship, finance and the world of work.
- Gain experience in discussion and listening skills and develop an enquiring mind.
- Develop your knowledge of your personal qualities, an appreciation of the views of others and an ability to reach informed decisions about your future.
- Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people.
Prospect School Year 8 Options

What will I do in Double Award Science?

Students will:
• Observe demonstrations
• Plan and carry out practical experiments
• Make, record and present observations.
• Analyse data mathematically to draw conclusions
• Learn how to apply their knowledge in new areas
• Communicate scientific ideas

What will I gain from GCSE Combined Science?

In 2018 grades A* to G will be replaced by 9–1. Combined Science will have a 17 point grading scale from 9–9, 9–8 through to 2–1, 1–1

How will I be assessed?

The course is linear and assessed by a total of six examinations taken at the end of year 11. Whilst there is no coursework, students will be required to complete practical activities which will develop their practical skills.

Student Progression

Students may go on to study Science at Key Stage 5.

The GCSE Combined Science (Double Award) is a qualification resulting in two Science GCSEs. The GCSE course gives students a good knowledge of a wide range of science subjects, by studying units from each of the three sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students have 9 hours per fortnight which provides sufficient time for students to understand the science course in depth, and, for most students, will offer the best opportunity to attain the very highest GCSE grades.

Why should I study Science?

The study of GCSE Science will enable students to:
• develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
• develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
• develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in other learning environments
• develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science, through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

* Science is compulsory. Students take GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (overleaf). The Science Department will decide based on pupil performance which science option they will study.
Studying GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics qualifications will result in three Science GCSEs. Students have 9 hours per fortnight which provides sufficient time for students to understand the science course in depth and will offer the best opportunity to attain the very highest GCSE grades.

What will I do in the three Science subjects?

Through science, students will:
- Observe demonstrations
- Plan and carry out practical experiments
- Make, record and present observations.
- Analyse data mathematically to draw conclusions
- Learn how to apply their knowledge in new areas
- Communicate scientific ideas

What will I gain from GCSE Combined Science?

In 2018 grades A* to G will be replaced by 9–1.

How will I be assessed?

The course is linear and assessed by a total of six examinations taken at the end of year 11. Whilst there is no coursework, students will be required to complete practical activities which will develop their practical skills.

Student Progression

Study of Biology, chemistry and Physics is an ideal preparation for any student considering any or all of the sciences at KS5. It is also a solid foundation for students who wish to pursue a Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths degree at University but also it has broader currency.

Why should I study Science?

The study of GCSE Science will enable students to:
- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in other learning environments
- develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science, through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

* Science is compulsory. Students take GCSE combined Science or GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (overleaf). The Science Department will decide based on pupil performance which science option they will study.
A language GCSE is a qualification highly prized by colleges, universities and employers. As well as being great fun, language learning is a skill for life - one which is increasingly sought after in today's global economy. Knowledge of another language gives you a deeper understanding of the different cultures and communities where the language is spoken.

**Why choose French?**

French is a major language of international communication. It is the second most widely learned language after English and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. More than 200 million people speak French on the five continents and it is the official language of 29 countries including many in Africa, Europe, several Caribbean and Pacific islands and the Quebec region of Canada.

The ability to speak both French and English is an advantage for finding a job with the many multinational companies using French as their working language, in a wide range of sectors (fashion and retail, automotive, luxury goods, aeronautics, etc.). France is the world's fifth biggest economy and also the world's number-one tourist destination. A GCSE qualification in French could provide you with opportunities to work in the UK as well as to travel and work abroad.

**The AQA French GCSE course covers three themes:**

1. **Identity and culture**
   - Me, my family and friends; Technology in everyday life; Free time activities; Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries.
2. **Local, national, international and global areas of interest.**
   - Home town, neighbourhood and region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism.
3. **Current and future study and employment.**
   - My studies; Life at school/college; Education post-16; Jobs, career choices and ambitions.

**How will I be assessed?**

At the end of year 11, students take an exam in each skill. There are two tiers of entry:

- **Foundation** – Grades 1–5.
- **Higher** – Grades 3–9.

**The papers**

- **Paper 1 – Listening.**
  - Foundation 35 minutes.
  - Higher 45 minutes.
- **Paper 2 – Speaking.**
  - Foundation 7–9 minutes.
  - Higher 10–12 minutes.
- **Paper 3 – Reading.**
  - Foundation 45 minutes.
  - Higher 1 hour.
- **Paper 4 – Writing.**
  - Foundation 1 hour.
  - Higher 1 hour 15 minutes.

Each skill carries an equal weighting of 25% of the final grade.
A language GCSE is a qualification highly prized by colleges, universities and employers. As well as being great fun, language learning is a skill for life - one which is increasingly sought after in today's global economy. Knowledge of another language gives you a deeper understanding of the different cultures and communities where the language is spoken.

**Why choose German?**

German is the most spoken language in Europe and is the official language of Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Year after year, business surveys put German at the top of employers’ wish-lists. Germany is the UK’s largest non-English speaking trading partner. The ability to speak both German and English is an advantage for finding a job with the many multinational companies using German as their working language, in a wide range of sectors (automotive, business, scientific research, publishing, hospitality and tourism). Germany is the largest national economy in Europe and the third strongest economy in the world. A GCSE qualification in German could provide you with opportunities to work in the UK as well as to travel and work abroad.

The AQA German GCSE course covers three themes:

1. **Identity and culture**
   - Me, my family and friends; Technology in everyday life; Free time activities; Customs and festivals in German-speaking countries.
2. **Local, national, international and global areas of interest.**
   - Home town, neighbourhood and region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism.
3. **Current and future study and employment.**
   - My studies; Life at school/college; Education post-16; Jobs, career choices and ambitions.

**How will I be assessed?**

At the end of year 11, students take an exam in each skill. There are two tiers of entry:

- **Foundation** – Grades 1–5.
- **Higher** – Grades 3–9.

**The papers**

- **Paper 1** – Listening. Foundation 35 minutes. Higher 45 minutes.
- **Paper 2** – Speaking. Foundation 7–9 minutes. Higher 10–12 minutes.
- **Paper 3** – Reading. Foundation 45 minutes. Higher 1 hour.
- **Paper 4** – Writing. Foundation 1 hour. Higher 1 hour 15 minutes.

Each skill carries an equal weighting of 25% of the final grade.
GCSE Community Languages

EBACC SUBJECT

A language GCSE is a qualification highly prized by colleges, universities and employers. As well as being great fun, language learning is a skill for life – one which is increasingly sought after in today’s global economy. Knowledge of another language gives you a deeper understanding of the different cultures communities where the language is spoken.

What is a community language?
About 30% of our students speak another language at home, in addition to English. There are GCSE courses available in many of these languages, which will give you recognition of your prowess in your first language. Like taught languages, the GCSE courses all include a requirement to be able to speak, listen, read and write in your community language to the same standard as other GCSE languages.

Although we do not deliver teaching of your community language, we are able to support you through the completion of the specification and are able to arrange for you to sit the examination at school.

For further information, please speak to either Ms Morris or Mrs Khan in the EAL Department.

Languages Available?
Unfortunately, not all community languages have GCSEs available, but if you are proficient in any of the languages listed, we can help you sit your GCSE. All these languages count in the EBacc element.
- Arabic
- Bengali
- Chinese (Mandarin)
- Dutch
- Greek (Classical or Modern)
- Gujarati
- Hebrew (Biblical or Modern)
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- Modern Hebrew
- Panjabi
- Persian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish
- Turkish

Why should I study a community language?
A language GCSE is a qualification highly prized by colleges, universities and employers. As well as being great fun, language learning is a skill for life – one which is increasingly sought after in today’s global economy. Knowledge of another language gives you a deeper understanding of the different cultures communities where the language is spoken.
How will I be assessed?
At GCSE there are 3 Key Geographical Themes. These are:

• **Global Geographical Issues** (Hazardous Earth: Development dynamics; Challenges of an urbanising world)

• **UK Geographical Issues** (The UK’s evolving physical landscape – including sub-Coastal change River processes and pressures. The UK’s evolving human landscape – including a Case Study - Dynamic UK cities. Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation)

• **People and Environmental Issues** (People and the Biosphere, Forests Under Threat, Consuming energy resources).

What will I gain from studying Geography?
Geography is a demanding but very rewarding GCSE. Students need to be prepared to work hard and put three years’ worth of effort into the course. Geography is a solid academic subject, well respected by universities and potential employers. It is one of the five subjects which form the English Baccalaureate qualification.

There is one exam per theme:
- Global Geographical issues – 1hr 30 mins – 37.5%
- UK Geographical Issues – 1hr 30 mins – 37.5%
- People and Environmental Geographical Issues – 1hr 15 mins – 25%

What transferable skills will I develop?
Geography is unique as it offers opportunities to conduct fieldwork investigations in and around the local area. This will develop skills in areas such as:

- Data Collection, presentation and analysis
- Research • Statistical analysis • Group work skills
- Evaluation • Map reading.

In addition to this, the course will also develop the following skills:

- Thinking skills • Extended writing
- Information Communication Technology • Decision making
- Global perspectives.

At Key Stage 4 you will study a variety of different topic areas in depth. You will develop skills in research, debate and engaging with ideas and arguments critically. You will learn how to become an independent learner who can produce extended pieces of writing, and speak about a range of different topics, both accurately and confidently.
The GCSE History course gives you the opportunity to learn about real people: you understand what motivates people and what they think and feel. If you like people, you should like history. History has made our world what it is and is also part of your future.

“The study of History is the beginning of wisdom.”
Jean Bodin 1530–1596, French Economist

**How will I be assessed?**

History GCSE will assessed with 3 exams together worth 100% of your GCSE final grade.

- **Paper 1 – 30% – Thematic Study and Historical environment**
  For this paper you will study the history of medicine in Britain from 1250 to the present day and the British sector of the Western Front 1914–1918. You will look at the main changes in medicine from the Middles Ages to today and the reasons for this change including church, government, individual genius and war.

- **Paper 2 – 40% – Period Study and British Depth study**
  You will study Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, including both the Battles of Stamford Bridge and Hastings as well as the rebellions against William, the Domesday book and the feudal system.

You will also study a second unit for this paper: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–1991. You will look at ideological differences between Stalin, Truman and Churchill, The Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis amongst other events.

- **Paper 3 – 30% – Modern Depth study – Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939**
  You will study the problems Germany faced after World War I, the development of the Nazi party, Hitler’s rise to power as well as investigations into life in Nazi Germany from different perspectives.

**What are the important deadlines?**

You will sit all the exams at the end of Year 11.

**Student Progression**

Students can go on to take History at A Level.

**Why should I study History?**

History will enable you to develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions properly and to express your own opinions. Studying History helps you make sense of most other subjects, and understand the origins of modern political and social problems as well as the world in which we live.

**What will I gain from studying History?**

Students will develop the ability to analyse and evaluate historical problems as well as interpret many different types of data: written, pictorial, graphical and numerical. Students will also learn to consider two sides of an argument and reach a substantiated judgement.
If you like painting, illustrating, taking photographs, visiting galleries, experimenting with 3D materials and textiles and want to develop or learn new and similar skills then this is the course for you.

**What will I do in GCSE Art and Design?**
The GCSE in Art and Design is designed to be a general course encompassing art, craft and design. Work produced for this qualification will demonstrate the use of the Art and Design formal elements and creative skills. The disciplines associated with the GCSE Art and Design are painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture, alternative media and constructed textiles.

**How will I be assessed in Art and Design?**
60% of your grade will be assessed through your coursework and 40% through an external examination. The overall grade awarded will be in the new 9–1 format. Coursework includes all class work and homework tasks completed throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. Students produce a quantity of work providing substantial evidence of studies undertaken during the course. Externally Set Assignment (Examination). The examination is a timed test paper lasting 10 hours, students are given approximately two months’ preparation time in which to create a supporting portfolio.

**Why should I study Art and Design?**
This course will allow you to gain an insight into lots of different aspects of Art and Design, including: painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture and alternative media. Students who have a particular interest in textiles can, to some extent, specialise in this aspect.

**What will I gain from studying Art and Design?**
Students will gain a GCSE in a creative subject. The course encourages students to develop important skills in working independently and problem solving, as well as learning a broad variety of Art and Design skills.
What will I do in GCSE Art Photography?

You will receive 7 hours of lessons per fortnight. Everything you do from the start of the course contributes to your final GCSE grade.

During the course you will complete four main projects and a mock exam, all of which will be marked as a final body of coursework at the end of year 11. In year 9 you will be taught basic photographic techniques. Projects in year 9 are very much teacher led and guide you through the GCSE assessment criteria. In year 10 and 11 you will develop your strengths and explore ideas in a more personal way to create your own themed projects and photographic responses.

The Art Photography course teaches you technical photographic skills covering the formal elements and how to digitally and physically manipulate photographs in an artistic and creative way.

You will be required to take photographs in your own time, and the majority of lessons will be on laptops editing photographs, physically creating mixed media pieces of art work or analysing photography.

You will be supported in lesson time and we offer a wide range of catch up and support sessions after school.

How will I be assessed?

60% of your grade will be assessed through your coursework and 40% through an external examination. The overall grade awarded will be in the new 9-1 format.

There are four assessment objectives, each contributing 25% of the overall mark. These consist of photographic research, developing and experimenting with ideas, recording ideas and producing a final piece of work.

Your work will be marked regularly by your teacher and you will have opportunities to refine and improve it before the final submission in year 11.

The controlled test is assessed in the same way as coursework. The exam theme is set by the exam board and students are given 8 weeks to complete preparatory work, before sitting a 10 hour exam at the end. This takes place in the art room and takes place over two days, usually towards the end of March.

Why should I study Art Photography?

In many careers it is necessary that you show originality and the ability to develop your own ideas, and show ‘creative flair’.

Many employers also value students who understand the design process and can follow an idea to an inventive conclusion.

Art Photography will help you interpret images.

More specifically, if you are considering a career in any of the following areas you might need to do an Art photography course followed by Further Education courses: Travel Photography, Photojournalism, Picture Editing, Commercial Photography or Fine Art Photography.
GCSE Drama

SPECIALIST SUBJECT: ARTS

Taking Drama for GCSE enables you to continue to develop your creating, performing and responding skills and explore a wide range of styles, themes and techniques.

What will I do in Drama?

You will study a wide variety of different topics, theatre techniques and skills while devising improvisations from stimuli and using scripts to create theatre. You will learn how to develop characters and study a play from the point of view of an actor, designer, technician and director.

How will I be assessed?

40% of your grade comes from a written exam in which you will write about a set play you have studied during the course and live theatre that you have seen.

40% of your grade will come from coursework that your teacher will mark. You are asked to create a Devised Performance based on a given stimulus and also create a Devising Log.

20% of your grade comes from your practical exams. You are required to perform two different extracts from the same play in order to show the development of the characters. An external examiner will mark your performances.

What are the important deadlines?

Your coursework should be completed by December of Year 11. In March of Year 11 you will perform to an external examiner. You will regularly have to write evaluations and notes on your class work to help you with the final 40% written examination.

Student Progression

Further Study at KS5: Students may decide to continue their Drama studies at A Level

Why should I study Drama?

Do you enjoy working with enthusiastic people and creating excellent theatre in lots of different ways? Can you see yourself getting up in front of an audience and showing stunning, moving, hilarious or educational pieces of drama in our Drama Centre? Do you want to go and see lots of different plays and take part in workshops with professional actors? Are you prepared to work hard and play hard? Then this course is for you!
Music – BTEC Level 2

SPECIALIST SUBJECT: ARTS

This course is suited to aspiring musicians and vocalists. The majority of this course is music performance based so you will need to be a confident performer. You will be expected to regularly practice your instrument/voice outside of structured lessons. You will also gain experience in music technology and recording techniques used in industry.

What will I do in Music?

- **Unit 1 – The Music Industry**
  This unit will allow you to gain a good understanding of the scope of the music industry with a view to getting work in and using the organisations that exist. You will investigate music organisations to find out about the work they do and how they relate to and rely on one another. You will also be given the opportunity to find out about the people who work in these organisations, from performers to people who work in technical, production and administrative roles.

- **Unit 2 – Managing a Music Product**
  This unit will enable you to manage the planning, delivery and promotion of a live concert, CD, or other music product. The success of your music product will rely heavily on the planning and development process. It is important that different types of audience are understood and successful promotion is able to effectively engage these audiences. Your research should introduce you to elements of industry practice.

- **Unit 3 – Introducing Music Performance**
  You will explore and develop your performance skills to help you adapt to different styles of music, developing the essential vocal/instrumental techniques you should use regardless of the style of music. As you progress, through reflection, you will identify your strengths and areas of development. The course culminates with a performance where you apply the performance skills you have developed.

- **Unit 3 – Introducing Music Composition**
  This unit will require you to develop a portfolio of ideas, some of which will be developed, and one of which will be completed. You will discover a range of compositional techniques and produce contrasting musical ideas to develop your compositional expertise. An idea might take the form of a short melodic motif, a chord progression or a rhythmic idea. Ideas can be short or long – you will consider the different ways in which these ideas could form the basis for a complete piece of music.

How is it studied?

- Practical group work
- Independent practice and reflection
- Visiting speakers
- Visits to employers in the music industry
- Classroom based teacher led activities

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: The Music Industry (External Exam) 25%
Unit 2: Managing a Music Product (Internal Coursework-based) 25%

Preference subjects – Specialist subject
If you like practical work and believe that a career in the construction and painting and decorating industry would appeal, then this is the course for you.

**What will I do in WJEC Level 1/2 Certificate in Construction?**
This is a practical, skills-based course delivering training in construction and building services to young people. The course covers joinery, carpentry, brickwork, painting and decorating, plumbing and electrical installation. You will learn practical skills which will enrich your opportunities for employment in the building, construction and painting and decorating industries. You will learn to work in a team, respond to instructions and work to deadlines.

**What will I gain from studying for a Certificate in Construction?**
You will improve your confidence, particularly in functional Maths and English. You will learn practical skills to help you prepare for the world of work, as well as acquire a recognised qualification.

**How will I be assessed?**
Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass an internally assessed unit, learners must meet all the assessment criteria.

**What are the important deadlines?**
Deadlines will be set by teachers who deliver the course.

**Why should I study for a certificate in Construction?**
You will benefit by being taught a range of skills which will be continuously assessed throughout the course.

**Student Progression**
Students may wish to further develop their skills at a Higher Education Institution or through applying for an Apprenticeship.
**WJEC Hospitality and Catering Technical Award Level 1/2**

**SPECIALIST SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY**

This Hospitality and Catering Technical Award Level 1/2 course builds on skills gained introduced in Years 7 and 8. The course involves the following industry based key principles: food hygiene and safety; cooking techniques and methods; professional food presentation and storage; different commodities; nutrition; dietary requirements; hospitality career roles.

**What will I do in Hospitality and Catering?**

The theory side to the subject will be based on the key principles of Food and Cookery. A lot of the content is learnt through practical lessons. Students will need to provide their own ingredients and will be cooking regularly.

For the controlled assessment tasks, students will be given a design brief from their teacher. Firstly students will be designing four dishes for a catering establishment. Students will plan the production of two dishes to be included on the menu with links to research of customer needs, environmental issues, cooking methods and nutrients. Students will then prepare, cook and present the two dishes.

There will also be revision for a written 90 minute exam during the course.

**What will I gain from studying Hospitality and Catering?**

This course develops learners catering practical skills and knowledge of the structure of hospitality and catering industry. Learners gain transferable business and employment knowledge associated with detailed planning of a new hospitality and catering provision in a specified locations. It may appeal to those who are interested in employment in the catering and hospitality industry. It may also appeal to those interested in careers in business, food and nutrition, food science, sports nutrition or health-related jobs.

**How will I be assessed?**

The controlled assessment task is worth 60% of the final grade.

The written exam is worth 40% of the final grade. It is a 1 hour and 30 minutes exam.

The course is graded Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction and Level 2 Distinction*.

**Why should I study Hospitality and Catering?**

This course gives you the opportunity to prepare, cook and taste different ingredients and builds your cooking skills to industry standard ready to progress to Level 3 Hospitality and Catering Course at college. It will teach you life skills of how to prepare and cook healthy nutritious meals for different specific diets or life stages.

**What are the important deadlines?**

All controlled assessment tasks must be completed by December of Year 11 allowing students time to prepare for the written examination.

**Student Progression**

Students may wish to consider A Level Food Technology or a college-based vocational course.
VCERT Graphic Design Level 1/2
SPECIALIST SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY

Graphic Design is a creative and fun course which enables students to design and make graphical products using their design skills either by drawing by hand or by using (CAD) Computer Aided Design. During the course they will make two professional design portfolios; physical and digital.

What will I do in Graphic Design?
Students study the creative depths of graphic design components:
- Colour theory, Colour Association, Use of Tones, Use of Lines, Composition, Typography, Use of Imagery.
They will research the work of many famous graphic designers for inspiration. They will look in detail to see how the designers have applied different graphic design components in their work.

Students will create their own inspired graphic design experimentations of the components and form final ideas for their design portfolios. This may be done by hand or on design software on the computer.

Additionally you will study a choice of different disciplines of graphic designs e.g. packaging, branding, logo design, advertising, illustration, web design, and other digital design where the graphic design components are applied.

You will learn about different technical skills, processes, how to use different pieces of equipment, application of different materials and compositions of design work.

By the end of the course will be able to confidently respond to a design brief using your gained graphic design component skills. You will have created a physical and digital CAD portfolio which can be taken to college or employment interviews in the creative sector.

How will I be assessed?
Unit 1,2,3 and 4 are coursework based which account for 50% of your final grade.

The exam is a practical design exam. It will account for 50% of your final grade.

What are the important deadlines?
All coursework Units must be completed by December of Year 11 allowing students to prepare for the examination.

Student Progression
Students can progress onto A Level Art and Design or Level 3 Graphic Design Course at college. This is also an excellent qualification to assist the application of a design based apprenticeship.

Why should I study Graphic Design?
If you have a creative mind, you like hands on activities and you would like to learn how to develop your design skills then this is the course for you.

Graphic Design is a creative and fun course which enables students to design and make graphical products using their design skills either by drawing by hand or by using (CAD) Computer Aided Design. During the course they will make two professional design portfolios; physical and digital. 

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The exam is a practical design exam. It will account for 50% of your final grade.

What are the important deadlines?
All coursework Units must be completed by December of Year 11 allowing students to prepare for the examination.

Student Progression
Students can progress onto A Level Art and Design or Level 3 Graphic Design Course at college. This is also an excellent qualification to assist the application of a design based apprenticeship.

Why should I study Graphic Design?
If you have a creative mind, you like hands on activities and you would like to learn how to develop your design skills then this is the course for you.
Design and Technology is an exciting subject which enables students to express their creativity through design. Students will submit a number of designs and make projects in year 9 in order to build the necessary experience before working on their final controlled assessment tasks in Year 10 and 11. It will develop and improve your design and practical skills and can lead to further studies in design and technology or directly into jobs and apprenticeships.

**What will I do in Design and Technology?**

Students will be studying a core topic that will include the fundamentals of design, materials and their properties, drawing and presentation techniques, new technologies, design trends and movements, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM), accurate use of workshop tools, equipment and specialist machinery. There is also the option of six specialist subjects: Metals, Papers and Boards, polymers, Systems, Textiles and Timbers where students can explore in detail that subject area.

In year 9, students will be building up their skill level by completing mini-design tasks and projects in each of the specialist areas to prepare them for the controlled assessment folder in Year 11. In Year 10 students will focus on the core and their chosen specialist subject so that they have a strong foundation of knowledge for the exam. There is also the option of 3 specialists: Engineering Design, Fashion and Textiles, Product Design where students can explore in detail that subject area.

**What will I gain from studying Design and Technology?**

You will improve your confidence, particularly in functional Maths and English. You will learn practical skills to help you prepare for the world of work, as well as acquire a recognised qualification.

**How will I be assessed?**

There will be one design and make controlled assessment project which will account for 50% of your final grade. The other 50% will be a core knowledge written examination (2 hours) which will include the students chosen specialism.

**What are the important deadlines?**

All controlled assessment projects must be completed by the December of Year 11 allowing students time to prepare for the written examination.

**Why should I study Design and Technology?**

If you have a creative and innovative mind, enjoy working methodically and enjoy practical activities, then this is the course for you. This is a very solid introduction to the world of Product Design, allowing you to specialize in an area of interest or keep your learning broad. Any student considering a career in any sector of the design industry will be suited to this course.

**Student Progression**

Students can progress onto A-Level Product Design, which is offered in our 6th Form or the qualification is seen as an excellent pathway into practical apprenticeships.
Computer science is a practical subject where learners apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. The qualification will value computational thinking, helping learners to develop skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

What will I do in Computer Science?

**Component 1 – Computer systems**
This unit focuses on the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory: System architecture; memory; storage; wired and wireless networks; network topologies, protocols and layers; network security; system software; moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

**Component 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**
This unit is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of its principles: Translators and facilities of language; algorithms; high and low level programming; computational logic; data representation.

**Component 3 – Programming Project**
This unit is a non-examined assessment where candidates are challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: 80 marks, 1 hour 30 minute written exam worth 40% of final grade.
Component 2: 80 marks, 1 hour 30 minute written exam worth 40% of final grade.
Component 3: 40 marks, 20 hours in class assessment worth 20% of final grade.

Why should I study Computer Science?

There has recently been a renewed focus on the study of computation from the IT industry. Companies such as Google, Microsoft and Apple have stated that not enough young people in the UK are being taught essential computational skills to prepare them for the high tech industries of the future. Computer Science will give you a grounding in how computers work and how to program them.

What will I gain from studying Computer Science?

- Students will develop an in-depth understanding of how computers work.
- The course has a key focus on programming. Students will learn how to develop programs using a range of languages.
- Through studying Computer Science students will develop their analytical and problem solving skills.
What will I do for the BTEC Award in Digital Technology?

This qualification has been designed to be a new, exciting and forward-thinking qualification that will prepare students for the modern digital world where they will live and work. To maximise opportunities available, students would benefit from being able to draw on their experiences of using different technologies. This is because students often use and are aware of different types of technologies and what they do; however, they may struggle to understand how they work, how they interconnect and the implications of using them. Drawing on students’ past experiences allows their knowledge to be developed further and for their misconceptions to be addressed.

Who is the qualification for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts. This is achieved through studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. This builds on the learning that has already taken place at Key Stage 3. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners’ experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

What does the qualification cover?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment including:

- Development of key skills that prove their aptitude in digital information technology such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, crating dashboards to present and interpret data
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams and legal and ethical codes of conduct
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet used needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions and virtual workplaces

The Award compliments learning in GCSE programmes such as the GCSE in Computer Science by broadening experience and skills participation in a different type of activities. It gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills practically through project work such as planning and designing a user interface and developing a dashboard to interpret trends in data.

How will I be assessed?


What can I do at the end of the course?

Study of the qualification as part of KS4 learning will help learners to make informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of vocational qualification at Level 3, such as BTEC Nationals in ICT which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- Study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 3. For these learners, the attitudes and the reflective and communication skills covered in the qualification will help them achieve
- Study of a technical Certificate in IT Support or Digital Technology post-16. Learners who perform well in this qualification compared to their overall performance should strongly consider this progression route which can lead to employment in the digital sector.
GCSE Media Studies

SPECIALIST SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY

What will I do in Media Studies?
Students will follow a course that will require the study and exploration of various media industries and media texts. Students will also be required to use their analytical, creative and practical skills to create media texts of their own. Students who make good progress and who meet all the course requirements will gain a GCSE in Media Studies.

Course summary
Media involves practical and creative elements, with an external examination. Students will study the main media industries including, amongst others, news, print, film, radio, computer/video games, music, and television.

How is the course structured?
GCSE Media builds on all the skills developed in Key Stage 3 and is a good subject to study alongside the English GCSE courses. In Media, students will use their analytical and creative skills to study a range of Media forms such as Websites, the Promotion of Music, and Magazine Production.
Students will also study key industry issues and media concepts which will be used in support of both the practical tasks and the examination. Students will be guided on how to produce professional quality media products using industry standard programmes such as Photoshop and Premier Pro.

What can I do at the end of the course?
Media Studies students will develop good analytical and critical skills that will be valued by a wide range of employers. Through the study of Media, students will be able to demonstrate they are critical and creative thinkers which many post-16 college and university courses will consider to be important.
What will I do in Business Studies?
This course in GCSE Business Studies allows students to actively engage in the study of business and economics in order to develop as effective and independent reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. The course explores issues in a range of local, national and global contexts and encourages students to appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities.

How is the course assessed?
**Theme 1: Investigating small business**
This unit focuses on investigating small business, enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective and understanding external influences on business.
You will also learn about the importance of social media and reliability in market research.

**Theme 2: Building a business**
This unit explores the concepts of growing the business and making decisions for marketing, financial, operational and human resources reasons. Students will also study the role and importance of a business plan, technology and business growth, the impact of globalisation and how businesses compete internationally.

What career opportunities are available at end of the course?
Business Studies qualifications can lead to many roles including Human resources manager, accounting, Law, Retailing and Wholesale, finance and marketing.

What can I do at the end of the course?
Business Studies is ideal for students wishing to learn how a business works and is developed.
It opens numerous pathways for further studies and employment opportunities.
On the academic path, learners can further pursue their interest by studying A Level Business or BTEC National Business.
It can also lead to more specific business orientated courses such as Human resource manager, Law, Retailing and Wholesale, finance, economics, purchasing, public relations and many more.
**Vcert Health and Fitness**

**SPECIALIST SUBJECT: WORK-RELATED**

**What will you study as part of this qualification?**

This qualification shows learners how:
- fitness is beneficial
- the main components of fitness measure an individual’s level of physical fitness
- to prepare, plan and develop a personal health and fitness programme
- a healthy, balanced diet affects lifestyles.

**Learners will know about:**
- the functions of the main body systems
- using different training techniques and methods, the importance of diet and nutrition.

**They will develop skills:**
- in preparing and planning a health and fitness plan
- in carrying out fitness tests
- in evaluating a health and fitness plan
- that are essential for the modern workplace, such as team working; presentation skills; independent working; working to deadlines; efficient use of resources.

**How will I be assessed?**

You will study 4 units:
- Principles of health and fitness
- Healthy lifestyles
- Preparing and planning for health and fitness
- Develop a personal health and fitness programme.

3 units are completed though internally assessed portfolio assignments and 1 unit through an externally assessed written exam.

Students can achieve a level 2 qualification and obtain either a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction *

**Why should I study Health and Fitness?**

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in any of the health and fitness contexts such as exercise, lifestyles and diet. Level 2 is appropriate for learners who are looking to develop a significant core of knowledge and understanding, and want to apply that knowledge in preparing, planning and developing a health and fitness programme.

**Student Progression**

Successful completion of this qualification will enable learners to progress to Level 3 qualifications in related subject.
What will I do in Physical Education?
Three of your lessons will be in a classroom studying the theoretical aspects of Physical Education which include: Health and Fitness, Training, Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural Influences, Health and Safety and the body systems. During your other lessons you will get the chance to participate in a number of sports, three of which you will be assessed in during a final moderation.

Why should I study Physical Education?
GCSE PE is for you if:
• You have a love of all things sporting
• You always have your PE kit.
• You regularly attend extra-curricular sporting activities.
• You play sport for a club(s) outside of school.
• You want to learn about the theoretical aspects of PE.

How is the course assessed?
You will sit two 1hr exam papers at the end of Year 11 which will assess all of the theoretical aspects of the course. This counts towards 60% of your final grade. During year 10 you will complete a written/verbal analysis and evaluation of your own performance in a sport. You will be assessed on your practical ability in three different sports by an external moderator. This makes up 40% of your final grade.

What are the important deadlines?
Throughout the course you will need to organise your time effectively, incorporating your own training outside of school as well as the theoretical aspects of the course. There is regular home learning as in all GCSE subjects! You will be expected to represent school teams at after school fixtures and to attend training. You will be expected to be taking part in a number of competitive activities and sports outside of school.

What will I gain from studying Physical Education?
You will learn:
• How your body works and responds to exercise.
• The importance of a healthy active lifestyle.
• How to train and improve your fitness.
• Develop skills including team work, cooperation, leadership, communication and organisation.

Student Progression
Students may wish to consider studying A Level Physical Education.
What will I do in Health and Social Care?
This course is vocational, which means that knowledge learned in the classroom can be applied at work. Students will develop excellent independent research skills as they complete their assignments.
There are 2 mandatory units covered in this course which are:
Unit R021: **Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings** (external exam).
Unit R022: **Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings**.
Students will also complete 2 other optional units which require a practical element.
This course is a vocationally related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.

The Level 1 / 2 Health and Social Care course students to:
- Develop as effective independent learners.
- Apply knowledge and understanding to some practical tasks.
- Communicate effectively in different health, social care and early years settings.
- Understand essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings.

How will I be assessed?
Unit R021 is an externally assessed exam.
The other 3 units are centre assessed tasks, moderated by OCR.
All units are marked out of 60, carrying 25% of the total marks.
Once all 4 units have been completed, students will get an overall mark which will then give them the grade at either L1 or L2.

What can I do at the end of the Health and Social Care Course?
Examples of employment with this qualification:
- Nursery Nurse
- Health and Social Care Assistant
- Child Minder
- Pre-School / Nursery School Assistant
It could also contribute towards entry requirements for further studies into Health and Social Care Apprenticeships, Cambridge Technicals H&SC, GCE Health and Social Care and Home Economics Level 3, Vocational qualifications working with Adult Social Care, Child development courses or food and nutrition courses.
Level 2 Technical Award in Hair & Beauty Studies

SPECIALIST SUBJECT: WORK-RELATED

This course is a combination of theory and practical which aims to give you an understanding of the business side of the hair and beauty industry, as well as the skills to do a mixture of practical beauty treatments to a professional level.

**Brief course description?**

Understanding the hair and beauty sector (Exam worth 25% of final mark) This unit will help you understand the business side of hair and beauty as well as the products, services and treatments offered. You will understand the beauty sector and its importance to individuals, businesses and the UK economy. You will learn about the trade and professional association; exploring career opportunities and the skills needed to be successful in this industry.

Hair and beauty research project (Project worth 25% of final mark) For this unit you will produce a proposal for research into an area in the hair and beauty sector and will use this to carry out a research project. For example, your research may be into the growth of cosmetic surgery in beauty salons or 1950s Hollywood hairstyles. To complete this unit, you will need to carry out your research using various methods and present your findings.

Marketing hair and beauty products and services (Project worth 25% of final mark) This unit will teach you the background of marketing and the factors that influence marketing in the hair and beauty sector. You will explore products and services available and find ways to successfully promote and sell these. You will learn how to carry out market research, plan promotional activities and develop promotional materials. This is a great opportunity to get really creative. Think Alan Sugar’s Junior apprentice!

Responding to a hair and beauty brief (Project worth 25% of final mark) For this unit, you will need to understand and respond to a hair and beauty design brief. For example, your brief could be to plan a catwalk show themed around 1950s Hollywood hair and make-up. You will be able to respond to the brief by gathering information using a range of sources, analysing information and developing design ideas. You will be able to present your design ideas using a range of materials, media and accessories. You will also be able to create a look based around this design brief. For example, create the make-up and hair on a model for 1950s Hollywood.

Practical - hairdressing & Beauty Treatments A mixture will be run alongside the above theory units. For each of these units, you will first work on each other to learn how to do the treatment. Once confident, you will then be assessed carrying out a treatment (to professional industry standards and timings) on a client. Don’t be scared, you will have lots of practice first!

Why should I study Hair & Beauty Studies?

The course is ideal for any student that has an interest in hair or beauty, it is also a very useful course for any students looking at a career linked to marketing, business or sales as many of the units are based on hair and beauty projects within these areas.

**Qualification Level**

Level 2 Certificate in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy.
Exam Board: City & Guilds
BTEC First Award in Hospitality Level 1/2

SPECIALIST SUBJECT: WORK-RELATED

This qualification is equivalent in size to one GCSE. It is a Technical Award designed for pre-16 students working at level 2 who want to include a study of the hospitality industry in their Key Stage 4 curriculum. Students will engage with hospitality as a business, rather than as a customer.

Introduction

This qualification provides students with the opportunity to explore a large and diverse industry which is responsive to change and which provides a range of products and services in a wide variety of settings.

What will I do in Hospitality?

The BTEC First qualifications have 3 mandatory and optional specialist units.

Mandatory units

Unit 1: Introducing the Hospitality Industry – provides an overview of the industry; the range of products and services offered, and the processes involved in operating a hospitality business.

Unit 2: Working in the Hospitality Industry – introduces students to effective working skills in the hospitality industry and provides them with opportunities to use these skills in context.

Unit 3: Food Safety and Health and Safety in Hospitality – enables students to discover aspects of health and safety, and food safety law in relation to those working in the hospitality industry.

The optional unit is:

Unit 7: Food and Beverage Service in the Hospitality Industry – where students will explore the understanding and skills required to deliver food and beverage service in the hospitality industry.

How will I be assessed?

All units are equally weighted at 25%

Unit 1: Introducing the Hospitality Industry is an external exam

Unit 2: Working in the Hospitality Industry is an internal assessment

Unit 3: Food Safety and Health and Safety in Hospitality is an internal assessment

Unit 7: Food and Beverage Service in the Hospitality Industry is an internal assessment

What knowledge and skills will I develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

This qualification provides students with the opportunity to learn about one of the largest, most diverse and most important sectors of the UK economy. Students will develop broad knowledge and skills about the hospitality industry and apply their knowledge and skills in practical, hospitality-related contexts. The sector-specific knowledge and skills will provide a strong basis for progression to a level 3 vocational qualification in hospitality or an apprenticeship.

Students will develop a valuable range of study and employability skills including self-management, team working, business and customer awareness, problem solving, communication (through presentations and discussions), and enhancing their skills in literacy (through drafting reports), numeracy (through studying finance) and applying their skills in naturally occurring and relevant contexts. These broader skills are important for progression to a wide range of academic and vocational level 3 programmes.
What will I do in Religious Studies?

Do you want to understand the world around you? Where do we come from? Why are we here? How do we solve the problems of society? All these questions and many more are considered throughout the GCSE RS course.

We provide an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meeting purposes and truth. Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt. There will be a range of relevant and contemporary themes to study that will promote awareness of modern-world issues and engagement within the classroom.

How is the course structured?

1. The study of religion
   * Beliefs
   * Teachings
   * Practices
2. Thematic studies
   * Human Rights and Social Justice
   * Crime and Punishment
   * Peace and Conflict
   * Attitudes to world poverty

You will identify social issues and problems that affect Britain and the rest of the world and look at different solutions both religious and non-religious. You will understand the similarities and differences between 6 world religions and what they teach. The religions studied are Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Sikhism and we will choose 2 to study in more detail. You will be able to analyse the different problems and solutions and give your informed opinions.

Student Progression?

Students may wish to consider studying an A Level in Philosophy and Ethics.

Who is suitable for this course?

All students will be given the opportunity to take this qualification. We wish to maximise individual potential in a caring environment and to develop a sense of responsibility for others, irrespective of race, religion or gender.

How is the course assessed?

Two written examinations will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Learning about and respecting values, and one another’s beliefs, is hugely important in our growing multicultural society. The RS GCSE allows students to identify their own beliefs and culture whilst recognising the importance of respecting the beliefs of those around them in local as well as global communities. Employers who see that you have a qualification know certain things about you. They know that: you can understand how people tick, what motivates them, what they think and feel; you are able to gather and read different kinds of information; you are able to look carefully at this information and can check it for bias or propaganda; you are able to communicate clearly and have learned to express yourself verbally and on paper. You will also be able to understand people of different faiths, cultures and beliefs which is very important to employers in 21st century Britain.

Students of all abilities will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills sought after by higher education and employers. GCSE RS can help with A level History, Sociology, Geography and many others.
Wider Key Skills takes up two of your subject preferences as it is a large suite of qualifications.

**What will I do in Wider Key Skills?**
The ‘Wider Key Skills’ course at Prospect School includes the Prince’s Trust x1 Club, Certificate of Personal Effectiveness and awards through the Duke of Edinburgh. The courses are based upon the wider key skills of:
- Working with others;
- Problem solving;
- Improving own learning and performance.

The whole subject offers valuable skills in preparation for the working life. It is tailor made to our students. It may be used to demonstrate to an employer competence in the use of ICT and you could work in a related industry; or you could use it to continue your education and undertake a level 3 course.

This course also involves different aspects of voluntary work and involves students undertaking a programme of study and volunteering at Rushall Farm which they visit as regularly as possible.

**What is the subject worth?**
The course value depends upon the level at which students are entered. Students may be entered at Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 according to their ability.

The Prince’s Trust x1 Club is worth 6 credits at Award Level and 21 credits at Certificate Level. All other courses are awarded by ASDAN. Certificate of Personal Experience at Level 2 is worth 46 points – the equivalent of a ‘B’ at GCSE.

**How is the course structured?**
In Year 9, students undertake short courses through ASDAN, which allows students to gain 6 credits towards Level 2 Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) which are carried over into Year 11. Students participate in a series of challenges including an expedition. There is also an opportunity to participate with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Students are required to be physically fit and active to participate.

In Year 10 the course proves that they have the skills to work independently, within a team and solve problems as part of the Prince’s Trust “Achieve” program of study.

In Year 11 students complete Level 2 CoPE drawing on skills through First Aid, presentations, problem solving, discussion and research. These are the assessed areas that are required for moderation and key skills that employers are seeking to ensure that future employees are effective in the work place.
Choosing your GCSE subjects? How do you decide?

It can be good to start thinking now about job areas that interest you and work backwards.

At least some of your GCSEs are compulsory – English, Maths, Science. This is usually because schools, employers and universities think these subjects are particularly important to know about. GCSEs are a key part of your progression through education – in order to study A-Levels, for example, you need certain GCSEs, and you need to form a foundation to build on. You might be really interested in the subject – and the knowledge you learn might be useful in your life.

There are skills that you pick up through studying for GCSEs, and those skills are different for each subject. For example, English Language can help you communicate and express yourself in written and spoken forms. Maths gives you important numeracy skills. But there’re skills in other subjects you might not think of – Technology GCSEs, for example, involve a lot of long term project work that helps with organisation and time management. History involves assessing and critically analysing different sources. Your GCSEs aren’t just about learning a list of facts.

It’s important to take subjects that you enjoy – but you’ll find it more interesting and will find it a little easier, even if you don’t consider naturally talented at it.

Find out what qualifications at which level you need to end up where you want to be.

When you are thinking about your options – it is important you speak to the teacher and ask questions about the subject in order to find out if this is an area you would enjoy and be able to study.

So it’s worth bearing in mind that Universities and employers are going to be looking at your GCSE grades. Most people apply to University in year 13, before they have their A-Level results, and GCSE grades will be the only externally examined grades admissions tutors will have to look for. So think about the subjects you’re particularly good at now.

Take:

- Subjects you enjoy
- Subjects you wish to pursue in the future
- Subjects that you’re likely to do well in.
- Subjects that teach you skills

And do your research!

Talk to subject leaders.
Talk to your parents.
Talk to anyone you know who has a job you think you might like.

Talk to me: Siobhan Gallivan Room D4.
Email: sgallivan@prospect.reading.sch.uk
A large amount of careers and course information is available on the internet. The following links can be accessed via Prospect School Home Page or clicking below.

**www.careerpilot.org.uk**
Set up an account to book mark your choices. Has lots of information about careers and videos to spark interest.

**University**
www.ucas.ac.uk
www.studentroom.co.uk
www.bestcourse4me.com
www.whattuni.com
www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14/choosing-gcse-compulsory-and-optional

**Apprenticeships/trainees**
www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
Worth looking now at the requirements.
www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

**For careers ideas**
www.icould.com
www.careersbox.uk
www.nationalcareersservice
www.icould.com/buzz
a quick fun personality test that will give me some ideas of what sort of careers might suit my personality. This also has a huge resource of job descriptions

**Student Finance**
www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview
www.scholarshiphub.org.uk – also covers sponsored degrees