

Key Stage 4 Options Information

January 2026



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Message from the Principal

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 Options Booklet. This is an exciting point in each student's journey, and I am delighted to share it with you. At Brockington College, our Christian ethos underpins our belief that every child is valued, loved and capable of flourishing. As students begin to choose the subjects that will carry them into the next stage of their education, we hope this booklet supports and guides you as a family.

Over recent years, we have given considerable thought to our Key Stage 4 curriculum, particularly in light of the more demanding GCSE and vocational specifications. We continually review our offer to ensure it meets the needs of every learner, and I am pleased to share with you the curriculum that will begin in August 2026.

Our Christian ethos shapes the way we design our curriculum. We believe every student is uniquely gifted and created with the potential to flourish academically, socially and spiritually. Our aim is to help students learn how to live life to the full, and a broad and balanced curriculum is central to this vision. The options chosen in Year 9, alongside the core subjects, provide a strong foundation for future success and help to build the confidence, resilience and character that will serve students well beyond school.

At Brockington College, we are also deeply committed to maintaining high expectations for every student. We believe in the value of scholarship: working hard, taking pride in learning, thinking deeply, and striving for excellence across all subjects. We want students to develop not only strong knowledge and skills, but also intellectual curiosity, independence and a genuine love of learning that will stay with them long after they leave us.

In shaping the Key Stage 4 offer, we have considered the requirements of universities, apprenticeships and post

16 providers, ensuring that students can pursue a wide range of pathways. We want every young person to have the freedom to follow where their interests, passions and talents lead them.

I recognise that the options process can feel significant and sometimes daunting for students and parents and carers. In keeping with our values, we have presented the process as clearly as possible and included guidance to help families make well informed choices. The decisions made now will influence future opportunities, so it is important to seek advice from a range of sources. Every course in this booklet provides a clear and valuable route into the next stage of life long learning.

At Brockington College, all students study a core GCSE curriculum consisting of English, mathematics, science and religious studies, supported by non-examined lessons in PSHCE and PE. Students then select **three option subjects**. While we will make every effort to accommodate preferred choices, this is not always possible, and any issues will always be discussed with students and families.

As you begin this process, I encourage you to read this booklet carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Tilley, Head of Year 9, Mrs Watts, Pastoral Manager, or relevant Heads of Department.

We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout Key Stage 4 and supporting each student to flourish as they grow, learn and step confidently into their future.



Jon Barton
Principal

Introduction

The aims of our Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum are to:

- meet the needs and aspirations of all students
- raise the levels of achievement of all students
- improve motivation and encourage responsibility
- promote life-long learning for all students
- encapsulate, through a broad, balanced offering, our college ethos: *'Learning to Live Life to the Full'*
- incorporate the school's core values of compassion, forgiveness, justice, koinonia, learning, perseverance, respect and wisdom into students' learning experiences
- develop our students as resilient, thoughtful and productive members of society.

Students are at different stages on their pathway of life-long learning and, given the right guidance and support, all can achieve their full potential. Our curriculum is student-focussed and based upon student choice. To help students make informed decisions, subject leaders have produced short introductory videos for each of the options subjects, and you will find more information about career pathways as you read through this booklet.

The options in this booklet will allow students to choose three courses to inspire and motivate them. Whilst we aim to allow every student to study each subject that they have chosen, sometimes this may be difficult, for example, due to low numbers of students selecting certain courses and consequently students are asked to nominate reserve choices, should first choice options be unavailable.

We make only one stipulation on option choices, which is that students **must choose one subject from computer science, geography, history or French**. This is in order to ensure students have a wide range of academic qualifications, as recommended by the government and sought by further and higher education.

This booklet is designed for students and parents/carers and we encourage you to read through the information in it together, discuss the options available and ask questions where you have them. **It is important that all voices are heard in any discussions over options and we want all students to make careful, informed choices for their futures.**

How do I make my options choices?

When making your KS4 options it is important that you take time to consider a range of different factors that might influence your decisions. Firstly, it is very important that you spend time reading through this options booklet and familiarise yourself with all the relevant information.

What subjects do you enjoy?

Remember that you are more likely to do well in an options subject if it is something that you enjoy, but also make sure that you understand exactly what the course is about, including its content, and how it is assessed.

What subjects do you excel in?

Alongside enjoying a subject, you should also think about how well you have been doing in the subject. This isn't the 'be-all and end-all', but you should give your current grades and predictions some thought when making your options. Speak to your teachers about whether they feel that you will be suited to a GCSE or vocational course in their subject.

What skills will be required in each of the subjects I choose?

It's important to think about what skills you will need to succeed in each subject, and we have put together a skills map for each subject to help you make your choice. Remember that all subjects call upon different talents and skills, and some subjects will require significantly different skills to others. For example, GCSE PE requires more physical and practical skills than GCSE geography; whilst GCSE geography has a higher amount of reading and writing as part of the course.

What topics will I learn about in each subject?

You need to read through the subject content of all of the options subjects carefully and make sure that you understand exactly what you will be taught (e.g. don't assume that GCSE history will be all about WWII!)

What ideas have you got for your future career?

At this stage, you might not know what you want to do after school, or you may have a very firm idea. Whatever the case, it's worth giving your future career some thought now and think about whether any qualifications you take now might help you in the future. There is more advice on careers planning later in this booklet.

Do you aspire towards university in the future?

You might be thinking about university education in the next few years, so giving some thought towards possible courses in the future can help.

Other things to remember

You should not make your decision based on who you think (or hope!) might be teaching you – all of your teachers are brilliant, but you should not pick a subject because you get on with a particular member of staff. Your KS4 teachers may be completely new to you. Also, don't choose an option just because your friend is studying the subject. Remember that you should choose a subject based on you.

How do KS4 qualifications work?

There is a lot of jargon around qualifications at Key Stage 4. Students are able to select from a range of GCSE subjects and vocational subjects. Vocational subjects are usually of equivalent value to GCSEs, but are specialist qualifications often focused on a specific trade or vocation.

A national scoring system has been adopted to accommodate these different qualifications and these are split into qualification levels.

At Key Stage 4, we are concerned with Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications, the table below gives you an idea of what qualifications fit into each level. The vast majority of qualifications studied by students at Brockington College during Key Stage 4 are Level 2 (the equivalent to a GCSE pass or higher).

Once a student has completed Key Stage 4, they may move on to Level 3 (A-level equivalent) qualifications at a further education provider; an apprenticeship through an employer; or other alternative qualifications at Level 2 or below. Further information is provided in the section titled careers guidance and support.

Further information about the different level of qualifications can be found through [this link](#).

Level 2	GCSE grades 9-4; BTEC Level 2 qualifications (e.g. BTEC Tech Awards); Level 2 OCR Cambridge National (e.g. OCR Sports Studies); Level 2 NCFE (e.g. NCFE Engineering)
Level 1	GCSE grades 3-1; BTEC Level 1 qualifications; Level 1 OCR Cambridge National
Entry level	Entry level certificates and other work below Level 1

Why study a language?

Studying a modern foreign language at Key Stage 4 provides students with a powerful set of academic, personal and practical skills that support success both in school and beyond. Languages develop clear communication, precise thinking and a deeper understanding of the wider world. Learning a language strengthens memory, problem solving and analytical skills. Students learn to recognise patterns, apply grammatical rules and interpret meaning, all of which support achievement across a wide range of subjects, including English, mathematics and science.

A language qualification also helps to keep future pathways open. Many post 16 providers, universities and employers value the breadth and discipline that studying a language demonstrates. Even where a language is not a formal requirement, it is often seen as evidence of strong study skills, resilience and academic ambition.

Languages also promote cultural understanding and empathy. Through studying French, students explore different cultures, traditions and perspectives, helping them to become confident, respectful and outward looking young people. This aligns closely with our school values and our commitment to helping students learn how to live life to the full.

For some students, a language will be a natural strength and a subject they enjoy. For others, it may feel more challenging, but with commitment and support, it can be one of the most rewarding subjects to study. Choosing a language at Key Stage 4 is not about limiting options, but about expanding them.

Home languages and GCSE recognition

At Brockington College, we value and celebrate the rich linguistic diversity within our school community. Many students speak or study a language other than English at home, often referred to as a home language. These languages represent a significant strength and an important part of students' identity and experience.

In some cases, students who study a home language outside of school, for example through family support, community classes or private tuition, may be working towards, or have already covered, the content of a GCSE qualification in that language. Where appropriate, the school may be able to support students in being entered for a GCSE examination in their home language.

Gaining a GCSE in a home language can provide formal recognition of a student's skills and achievements, support confidence and contribute positively to overall attainment. Families who believe this may apply to their child are encouraged to contact Mrs Warner, Exams Officer, who will be able to provide further information and discuss the process in more detail.

Careers guidance and support

Whilst it may seem daunting to consider career pathways at this stage in a student's school life, when making any decisions about qualifications it is important to consider what avenues may be open to you through the choices you make. Some students may have a clear idea about what careers they are interested in, and others may have little idea at this stage; in either case it is important that students try to keep their options open as opinions over careers often change over time.

It is important to consider where Level 2 qualifications (such as GCSEs) may lead in the future, as all students are expected to stay in education until they are 18 years old, and there are several pathways that students may choose for post-16 education.

A-levels

Students may opt to attend a post-16 college offering A-levels. Students typically study three or four A-level courses at college, some of which may be a continuation of subjects studied at GCSE, or may be completely new. At A-level, students narrow their academic focus and this can lead to more specific career pathways involving further qualifications such as university degrees. It is important to note that any subject that is 'dropped' at GCSE is often considered to be more difficult to opt for at A-level, as GCSE education provides a foundation of knowledge for the qualification (e.g. a student choosing not to study GCSE history may find it harder to then opt for A-level history at a sixth form college). Subjects that are 'new' to a student (e.g. A-level law) will often make allowances for the fact that a GCSE option may not have been available.

Vocational qualifications

Students may opt to study a specific, vocational qualification at a post-16 college at either Level 2 or Level 3. There are a wide range of vocational qualifications including BTECs, OCR Cambridge Nationals and NCFE courses. These courses typically lead to a specific career or job and may involve an element of work placement or practical experience. Students do not necessarily have to

complete a Level 2 vocational qualification at Brockington College to take a Level 3 vocational course at a post-16 college, however specific careers pathways can require this.

Apprenticeships

Students may wish to take a 'work-based' route for their post-16 education and apply for an apprenticeship with an employer. Apprenticeships are varied, but usually pay a basic salary to students for their work, and will then educate the student in that line of work, which can include the passing of specific qualifications for the role.

What qualifications are needed for different careers?

At this stage, it is important that students try to keep their options open as opinions can change over time; however, it is also important for students to explore their options and see what careers might appeal to them at this stage and what qualifications might be required. In some cases, career pathways have specific requirements for Level 2 qualifications (GCSE or equivalent); others are more specific at Level 3 (A-level or vocational equivalent).

There are a number of different ways you can find out more information about qualification requirements and different career pathways. All students will be offered at least one appointment with our careers advisor during their time in years 10 and 11, alongside other planned careers opportunities such as our interview techniques day.

[The National Careers Service](#) provides an online service where you can search for individual jobs and careers and find out their typical qualification requirements alongside other key information.

For students considering university education, the Russell Group of universities has produced [a guide](#) to help students understand what degrees might be open to them based on their Level 3 choices.

The curriculum at KS4

At Key Stage 4, students have a core curriculum of subjects that they must study, and this comprises the majority of a student's timetable. The remainder of the curriculum is comprised of three optional subjects.

The core curriculum is as follows:

- English language
- English literature
- mathematics
- science
- religious studies.

Additionally, all students attend non-examined lessons in:

- physical education
- PSHCE

Both of these subjects are statutory requirements of the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

We make only **one stipulation** on option choices, which is that students **must choose one subject from computer science, geography, history or French**. This is in order to ensure students have a wide range of academic qualifications, as recommended by the government and sought by universities.

In the table below, you can see a summary of the Key Stage 4 curriculum for Brockington College students, including the amount of time that is allocated.

Subject	Qualification	Number of lessons per fortnight
English (core)	1 GCSE in English Language 1 GCSE in English Literature	8
Maths (core)	1 GCSE	8
Science (core)	2 GCSEs (combined science) or 3 GCSEs (triple science)	10
RS (core)	1 GCSE (started in year 9)	3
PSHCE (core)	Not examined	1
PE (core)	Not examined	2
Option subject 1	GCSE/Vocational	6
Option subject 2	GCSE/Vocational	6
Option subject 3	GCSE/Vocational	6
Total number of periods per fortnight		50

Find out more about **core subjects in dark blue** and **option subjects in light blue** over the next few pages.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Reading



Creative writing



Speaking and listening

Where will this subject take me?

English is necessary for virtually everything including...

- advertising
- journalism
- law
- media
- politics
- teaching.

English Language and English Literature

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE English Literature GCSE English Language All students will study both English language and English literature.
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	You will develop all of the skills you have learnt at KS3, including reading, writing, speaking and listening. In your lessons you will study a range of texts and develop a repertoire of skills which you will be able to use across all subjects. You will write in different styles, read a range of texts and work both independently and in groups.
How and when will my work be assessed?	Your work will be internally assessed throughout the GCSE course. The subject is assessed through examinations at the end of the course, with two exams in both English language and English literature. In conjunction with the GCSE grades, students will also receive a separate speaking and listening accreditation.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	There will be homework that needs to be completed and this will be approximately two hours per week. Students are also recommended to read around the subject by reading newspapers and watching news programmes, as well as reading for pleasure.
What will this course lead to post-16?	Courses linked specifically to English include A-levels in English language, English literature and media studies. GCSE English is essential in order to be able to do most A-Levels and many universities require a minimum of grade 6 at GCSE level.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	English GCSE is a benchmark qualification for a whole range of courses and jobs. University courses and careers are wide and varied as English is necessary for virtually everything. Future avenues include law, media, politics, teaching, journalism and advertising.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Learning for English: Mrs Rowntree • Any member of the English department <p>Exam board website:</p> <p>English Literature (Edexcel) https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-literature-2015.html</p> <p>English Language (Edexcel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-language-2021.html

Mathematics

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Mathematics <i>(If you are identified as one of our most able mathematicians, you may also be given the opportunity to study for a further maths qualification should the opportunity arise.)</i>
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	You will study topics in the five major strands of mathematics: number; algebra; shape; space and measure; data handling and probability; and ratio and proportion. You will develop a wide variety of relevant skills related to everyday situations, including the ability to solve problems requiring expertise across multiple areas of maths.
How and when will my work be assessed?	Your work will be internally assessed throughout the GCSE course, culminating in a final examination at the end of year 11. The examination will consist of three papers, one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. Each paper will last for one and a half hours. Depending on your mathematics set, you will be assessed either through the foundation or higher tier set of exams. Each tier leads to a full GCSE qualification; however, the higher tier is limited to grades 3-9 whilst the foundation tier is limited to grades 1-5.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	You will be expected to complete two hours of homework per week, as well as to keep up with revision as you learn new topics.
What will this course lead to post-16?	If you obtain a high grade at GCSE, you will be able to study a range of A-levels including maths, statistics, further maths, physics and engineering. Grade 4 or higher is a requirement for entry to all sixth forms and will also be particularly useful for those wanting to study social sciences and humanities, such as geography, psychology and economics. Many sixth forms require a grade 5 or higher to begin A-level qualifications.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Maths qualifications are essential and highly regarded by employers. If you enjoy maths you may want to choose a career in accountancy, engineering, construction, teaching, science or ICT. A degree in mathematics or a mathematics-based subject will generally make you a strong candidate for graduate training and employment opportunities and will provide you with a wide choice of options for your future career. Most jobs require a maths qualification and an ability to understand maths at varying levels.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Learning for Maths: Mr Killick • Any member of the maths department <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300/specification

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Problem solving



Critical thinking



Logic

Where will this subject take me?

Being numerate is essential for every area of life including...

- accountancy
- architecture
- engineering
- financial advice
- surveying
- tax inspection.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Problem solving



Critical thinking



Logic

Where will this subject take me?

Science is useful in so many careers areas including...

- astronomer
- doctor
- forensic scientist
- meteorologist
- nurse
- vet.

Science (Combined or Triple)

<p>What type of qualification will I achieve?</p>	<p>GCSE Combined Science The combined science course is a double award and will lead to two coordinated GCSE grades in science. Students in sets 2-5 will study the combined science course at GCSE.</p> <p>GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Triple Science) Those students studying triple science will receive three separate GCSE grades in biology, chemistry and physics respectively. Students in set 1 will study the triple science course at GCSE.</p> <p><i>Please be aware that set changes in Year 9 may take place over the coming months</i></p>
<p>What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?</p>	<p>In both combined and triple science, topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biology: cell biology, infection and response, homeostasis, inheritance and ecology • chemistry: atoms and the periodic table, making molecules, energy changes, chemical analysis and chemistry of the atmosphere • physics: energy, forces and waves, magnetism and electricity.
<p>How and when will my work be assessed?</p>	<p>Your work will be internally assessed throughout the GCSE course to allow your teacher to assess your progress and support you in your studies. In addition to this, there are exams at the end of year 11 with higher and foundation tiers available in both combined and triple science.</p> <p>Combined science: The combined science course involves studying for six exams, covering biology, chemistry and physics across years 10 and 11. All modules will be examined by six written papers (two in each science) at the end of year 11.</p> <p>Triple science: The triple science course also involves studying for six exams, covering biology, chemistry and physics across years 10 and 11. Students studying triple science will cover more content in their curriculum time.</p>
<p>How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?</p>	<p>Typically, two hours a week will be required if you want the very best grades; this will not all be written homework, but will also include reading science literature. For triple science, you will need to spend more time, as there will be more content.</p>
<p>What will this course lead to post-16?</p>	<p>Whether you study combined science or triple science, you have the option of taking A-levels in biology, chemistry, physics and applied science, amongst other related subjects and dependent upon GCSE grades.</p>
<p>What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?</p>	<p>There are a wide range of careers in science including anaesthetist, astronomer, climate change analyst, diver, electrician, forensic scientist, meteorologist, nurse, vet.</p>
<p>Where can I get more information about this course?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Miss Clarke • Any member of the science department <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science

Religious Studies (RS)

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Religious Studies (full course)
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	You will study, research and explore a number of thematic studies including relationships, peace and conflict, crime and punishment, life issues and animal rights. You will link your knowledge from these studies to the beliefs, teachings and practices of two world religions, Christianity and Buddhism. In class, lessons will be varied. You will complete tasks using a range of resources from online news sites to original sacred texts such as the Bible. You may complete group, paired and individual projects. You will learn skills in independent enquiry, team-building, evaluative skills, retrieval methods, extended writing, debates and quizzes.
How and when will my work be assessed?	Your work will be internally assessed throughout the GCSE course. Each module is internally assessed using a past paper booklet, completed in class. As you learn more modules, you will also be asked to recall content from previous modules. You will also use a range of self, peer and teacher assessment. At the end of the course, there are two externally assessed exams that form 100% of the grade.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	Out of lessons, you will be expected to complete a number of homework activities each term. Each homework will be based on GCSE style questions, quiz practice or research. This will assist your long-term memory and activities that will be formally marked are used as a guide to assist staff in making informed predictions for your GCSE grades. Homework is extremely important in RS as it is time for you to be able to practise exam questions and work on your long-term memory in preparation for your GCSE exam.
What will this course lead to post-16?	This course could assist you in a number of associated subjects such as religious studies, philosophy, psychology, sociology, law, English, media and the sciences.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	RS is a fundamental subject which can be useful for any career. It will enable students to build strong skills in understanding other people, their cultures and viewpoints. Students will also develop skills in listening to others, debating, supporting arguments with clear reasons, justifying opinions and working with and leading others. All of these skills are needed when applying for jobs, during the interview process and whilst working or leading colleagues.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Wale • Teaching staff: Mrs Lee and Miss Shaikh <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Teamwork



Discussion

Where will this subject take me?

RS is a fundamental subject which can be useful for any career...

- HR manager
- librarian
- museum curator
- police officer
- wedding planner
- youth worker.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



Not formally assessed

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Teamwork



Discussion

Where will this subject take me?

PSHE education gives students the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

What type of qualification will I achieve?	Not assessed
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>PSHCE covers health education, careers education, personal and social development and citizenship. In all areas pupils develop their ability to discuss and form judgements. Pupils develop skills in leading and/or working as part of a team.</p> <p>Topics covered at KS4 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • target setting and time management (including dealing with stress) • options at KS5 and post-16 education • financial management • first aid • community cohesion • sex education including e-safety • mental health and wellbeing • risk – drugs and alcohol • the media and its influence on society today • politics around the world
How and when will my work be assessed?	This subject is not formally assessed but is vital in helping students to understand the world in which they live and become safe and responsible young adults, prepared to discover their place in the world post-16 and post education.
What will this course lead to post-16?	PSHCE studies are a help for general studies, sociology, politics and psychology A-levels.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	PSHCE studies prepare students to cope with all aspects of life.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads of Department: Mrs Thorpe and Ms Broadfield

Physical Education (core)

What type of qualification will I achieve?	No formal qualification is taken, but pupils will participate in a wide range of sporting activities. As well as learning and improving skills and techniques required, pupils will also develop various life skills, leadership qualities and greater knowledge about adopting a healthy lifestyle.
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	A variety of sporting activities will be covered in lessons. Students will also participate in leading warm-ups and officiating matches, alongside participating in a varied programme of physical activities. Students will have the opportunity to choose their sport at regular points during the year. This year students have been able to choose from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badminton • Basketball • Cricket • Dodgeball • Football • Gymnastics • Handball • Netball • Orienteering/Problem Solving • Rounders • Table tennis • Trampolineing • Ultimate frisbee • Volleyball
How and when will my work be assessed?	No formal assessment takes place.
What will this course lead to post-16?	A-level PE, BTEC Level 3 sport and exercise science, personal trainer award, diploma in sport, fitness instructor certificate.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	PE contributes towards students' knowledge and understanding of the need to accept and maintain a physically active and healthy lifestyle, which is looked upon positively by many professions and supports regular attendance at work.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Hill • Any member of the PE Department

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



Not formally assessed

What are the key skills needed?



Teamwork



Participation



Leadership

Where will this subject take me?

Maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle is looked upon positively by many professions, including the sport and fitness industries and the emergency services.

Top tips on choosing your option subjects provided by former year 11 students...

My advice would be to pick subjects that you are interested in and pick the subjects that you think would be useful and potentially beneficial for you in the future. I would also recommend doing some research around the subjects and speaking to the teachers.

Look into courses you are interested in at college and see what qualifications are required.

If you have chosen academic options with lots of exams, then also choosing a more vocational or practical course will be a nice contrast and good balance.

Choose the subjects that interest you most, that way you will be more focused and enthusiastic during lessons.

Make sure you understand what each subject requires because you might overload yourself with coursework if you're not careful.

Please **DO NOT** pick an option just because your friend is doing it, try and follow your own path and do not be embarrassed or persuaded by others in terms of which subjects to do.

I would advise you to pick the subjects you enjoy as well as the subjects that you are good at. Having a wide range of subjects is also important as it opens your options when it comes to choosing A-levels and moving on from Brockington.

How to use this booklet...

How will I be assessed?

Use this section (including the sidebars like this example) to check what the assessment requirements for each subject are. For example, a course might be 40% coursework. Remember, where a subject is more coursework-based, there will still be deadlines to meet and assessments to produce!

What are the key skills needed?

Use this section to check what important skills you will need and learn as part of the course. Remember, in some subjects you will need to work in groups to produce assessments (e.g. drama) and others you might need to work more independently (e.g. art).

Where will this subject take me?

Use this section to look at what career opportunities might be open to you in the future. Remember, you will receive lots of careers guidance during Key Stage 4, but if you need further advice at this stage, please speak to Mr Tilley and Mrs Watts who can help you further.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



What are the key skills needed?



Research



Teamwork



Discussion

Where will this subject take me?

This qualification may open up engineering pathways including...

- automotive
- aerospace
- civil
- electrical
- robotics
- as well as the armed forces.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



40% controlled exam conditions
60% coursework

What are the key skills needed?



Creative thinking



Artistic creativity



Research

Where will this subject take me?

Career opportunities include...

- art therapy
- curator
- fashion design
- florist
- graphic design
- illustrator
- photography.

Art

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art <i>Please note that any student opting for GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art may not opt for GCSE Art and Design: Textiles as they form separate options within the same qualification.</i>
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	Study will be broken down into smaller units of work comprising the following areas of study: printmaking, sculpture, mixed media, painting and mark making.
How and when will my work be assessed?	Your work will be ongoing, and each module will be assessed individually with your final grade being made up of 60% coursework and 40% controlled exam. You will complete two units of work. The first unit will be set by the school and will conclude in a final response created over five hours of controlled exam conditions and another five hours of classroom time. The second unit will be set by the exam board and will conclude in a final response created in controlled exam conditions over 10 hours. In both units, work is assessed using four assessments objectives each accounting for 25% of the unit score.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	You will need to be able to work independently. Work will need to be produced in the classroom and in your own time. Homework will be set every week and you will be expected to spend a minimum of one to two hours on it. You will need to be self-motivated and enjoy art in many aspects, including critical studies.
What will this course lead to post-16?	This course opens doors to study art and design further at A-level. It will also help you when studying other subjects in this field such as graphic design or architecture.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Career opportunities that this GCSE may lead to include art therapy, graphic design, teacher, artist, museum or gallery curator, art restoration work, art historian, fashion designer, photographer, product design, textile design.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mrs Wilson • Teaching staff: Mrs Phipps Exam board website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/

Business Studies

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Business Studies
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn about the qualities of an entrepreneur • learn about how to effectively start up a business and grow a business • learn about customer needs and how they can be met • learn about how to put a business idea into practice • learn about the business decisions that are made (e.g. marketing, operational, financial and human resources) • learn about external influences on business. <p>As part of your studies, you will participate in role-play, discussion, visits to businesses and working in groups.</p>
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>You will study two units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: investigating small business (50%) • Unit 2: building a business (50%) <p>These units will be examined at the end of the course and consist of a combination of calculations, multiple-choice, short and extended answers.</p>
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	You will need to spend between one and two hours per week on business studies outside of the classroom. This includes time for homework and time to go through the work covered in class to ensure that you understand it fully.
What will this course lead to post-16?	<p>A-level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business studies • economics • accountancy <p>BTEC Level 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business • travel and tourism
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Business studies can give you the opportunity to go into management and administration jobs, finance, banking or insurance, charity, social work, consultancy or teaching.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of department: Mr Turner • Teaching staff: Mr Stewardson, Mrs Wilford <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Problem solving



Presentation skills

Where will this subject take me?

Business studies may lead to careers in...

- brand management
- buying
- entrepreneurship
- events
- finance
- sales
- consultancy.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Problem solving



Critical thinking



Writing

Where will this subject take me?

Computers are part of just about everything that touches our lives...

- computer engineer
- engineer
- games developer
- IT technician
- scientist
- web developer.

Computer Science

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Computer Science
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn about how computer systems work • learn about network fundamentals • develop programming skills • learn about computer security • develop logical thinking and problem solving • learn how to solve large problems by breaking them down
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>You will take two exams in year 11 which will test your knowledge on computing theory and ability to analyse problems in computational terms. Each exam is worth 50% of the final marks available. Please remember that there is a significant element of mathematical work needed for this subject.</p> <p>There will also be extended programming projects taught to develop programming skills.</p>
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	One to two hours a week spent on programming activities and revising theory.
What will this course lead to post-16?	<p>A-level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • computer science • physics • mathematics <p>BTEC Level 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT • computing
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there	Computer engineer, software developer, games developer, network technician, website developer, scientist, engineer, IT technician.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Turner • Teaching staff: Mr Turner, Mr Stewardson <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/

CoPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness)

What type of qualification will I achieve?	Level 1 Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) <i>NB: This course is not available for all students. Those eligible for this course will be spoken to either by Ms Mahil, Mr Marsden or Mr Barton.</i>
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	During year 10 and year 11 you will complete a number of modules including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the environment • beliefs and values • work related learning. <p>The course aims to improve the following key skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working with others • improving learning and performance • problem solving • research • discussion • oral presentation.
How and when will my work be assessed?	This course is 100% assignment based. Your folders will be checked and assessed at the end of each module. There is no exam.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Preparation for all college Level 1 and Level 2 courses. CoPE helps to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to prepare them for their next steps.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Ms Mahil • Contact: Mrs Maynard-Reynolds <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.asdan.org.uk/home

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% coursework
0% exam

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Teamwork



Discussion

Where will this subject take me?

CoPE helps to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to prepare them for their next steps.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



40% examination
60% performance
(includes written logs
and essays)

What are the key skills needed?



Performance



Creative thinking



Critical evaluation

Where will this subject take me?

Drama will provide a gateway into...

- acting
- presenting
- public relations
- radio broadcasting
- teaching
- theatre management.

Drama

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Drama
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	This GCSE has both practical and written elements. You will learn to work collaboratively, think analytically and evaluate effectively. Drama provides you with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace. The subject content is divided into three components: devising theatre , performing from a text and interpreting theatre . You will create, perform and respond to drama using your theoretical knowledge of drama and theatre and so must be prepared to perform in front of your peers . You will evaluate live theatre and your own performances through a written log. As well as critically evaluating your own work, you will also learn the skills to comment and advise others upon their work.
How and when will my work be assessed?	Throughout the course, you are assessed on both your performance and written skills. This includes your knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. You will sit a written exam at the end of year 11 (40% of the grade) which will be based on a set text and study of a live performance. Your set text will be from a choice of five provided by the exam board and chosen by the drama department. You will be expected to attend a live theatre performance, as section B of the exam paper will be based on this. Devising theatre will be 40% of the qualification and will be in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. Performing from a text will be externally assessed and set by a visiting practitioner. It will make up 20% of the grade.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	This will vary, but you need to be prepared to dedicate your time to afterschool rehearsals, critical analysis of live theatre and set texts and written evaluations. The demands of the course require you to complete a written log and prepare for the written exam. You will be responsible for planning and completing your written work, as well as organising acting rehearsals.
What will this course lead to post-16?	GCSE drama is excellent preparation for Level 3 creative subjects providing a solid foundation in creative, practical and performance skills. Courses to consider include: A-level drama and theatre studies; BTEC performing arts (Level 2/3) and BTEC acting (Level 3).
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	GCSE drama will provide a gateway into a career in drama and performing arts, such as public relations, public speaker, actor, TV presenter, radio broadcasting, drama teacher, primary teacher, stage manager.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Performing Arts: Mrs Ward • Teaching staff: Miss Juckes and Mrs Williams <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Engineering

What type of qualification will I achieve?	NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understand a range of engineering disciplines • understand how science and mathematics are applied in engineering • learn how to read engineering drawings • understand properties and characteristics of engineering materials and know why specific materials are selected for engineering applications • use a range of engineering tools, equipment and machinery • learn about production planning techniques • learn different processing skills and techniques.
How and when will my work be assessed?	The course is divided into several sections, including a written exam and a synoptic project. The exam will be externally assessed, the synoptic project will be internally assessed.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	The course requires a good level of physics and maths knowledge to help aid practical development and for the written exam. During the course, you will be expected to complete all homework and attend twilight sessions to further develop your engineering skills.
What will this course lead to post-16?	<p>On completion of this course, you can opt for one of the following courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE in engineering (depending on level achieved) • A-level in design technology or physics • Level 2 technical certificate in engineering • Level 3 applied general in engineering • Level 3 technical level in engineering • An apprenticeship in engineering.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Gaining an engineering qualification will open a multitude of possible pathways into a huge range of careers. You could pursue a career within the STEM sector including science, technology, engineering or maths. More specifically, you could venture into the world of automotive, aerospace, civil, electrical, robotics or environmental engineering. You could end up travelling the world by joining one of the armed forces such as the RAF, navy or the army.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mrs Chauhan • Teaching staff: Mrs Troy and Mr Clark <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ncfe.org.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-level-12-technical-award-in-engineering-671

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



40% external assessment
60% internal assessment

What are the key skills needed?



Problem solving



Critical thinking



Practical skills

Where will this subject take me?

This qualification may open up engineering pathways including...

- automotive
- aerospace
- civil
- electrical
- robotics
- as well as the armed forces.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



50% controlled exam
50% NEA

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Practical skills



Creative thinking

Where will this subject take me?

This qualification will help towards a career in the following areas...

- catering
- environmental health
- food production
- food photography
- nutrition/diet
- retail.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	The course will involve students carrying out scientific investigations into the functions of ingredients and developing their practical skills with both savoury and sweet dishes. Students will also study nutrition, safety, dietary choices and food science.
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>The course is split into two parts, a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) and a two-hour examination. Both parts are worth 50% of the overall GCSE grade.</p> <p>The NEA will involve investigating, designing, making, analysing and evaluating. The examination will cover core, technical and design and make principles. The first part of the course, in year 10, will involve developing skills and experimenting with ingredients. The NEA will begin in September of year 11.</p>
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	The course requires a good level of organisation to prepare and bring ingredients for dishes or experiments on a weekly or fortnightly basis. A good level of science knowledge is required to help with the completion of coursework and exam content. Students should be spending 1 – 2 hours per week on homework, as well as being involved in cooking at home to build skills and confidence. In year 11 revision and NEA booster sessions will be weekly.
What will this course lead to post-16?	On completion of a successful GCSE you can then go on to study a Level 3 in food science and nutrition or product design.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	<p>Gaining a qualification in food, preparation and nutrition will help towards a career in any of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • catering industry (chef etc.) • food industry (product development/technical manager) • environmental health officer • retail industry • dietetic/nutritionist (NHS/sports field) • home economist • teacher • cookery writer • food stylist • food photographer.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mrs Chauhan • Teaching staff: Miss Leedham <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-and-nutrition/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585/specification

French

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE French
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>You will follow on from the work you have completed in Years 7-9 and broaden the knowledge of the language and culture of the French speaking world. You will develop your ability to communicate in written and spoken language whilst gaining a further understanding using your listening and reading skills.</p> <p>We will cover the topic areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme 1: People and lifestyle • Theme 2: Popular culture • Theme 3: Communication and the world around us
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>Your work will be assessed throughout the course and you will practice your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills regularly. The qualification is made up of four equally-weighted exams, which are sat at the end of year 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening exam (25%) • reading exam (25%) • speaking exam (25%) • writing exam (25%)
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	One to two hours a week minimum; vocabulary learning and revision for reading and listening exams and in preparation for speaking exams.
What will this course lead to post-16?	You can continue with your language studies and take an A-level in French, or you could decide to transfer the skills you have learned and study another European language. Alternatively you could combine French with another subject such as BTEC travel and tourism (Level 2 or 3), business studies or hospitality management.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	A qualification in a modern foreign language is known to enhance your opportunities in careers including, travel and tourism, law, medicine, international business, teaching, social work, interpreting and the armed forces. It also shows that you can think on your feet and that you are a great communicator with great listening and speaking skills.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Pickering • Teaching staff: Mr Pickering, Miss Smales, Mrs Barnes, Ms Mabrouk <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Reading



Presentation skills



Speaking and listening

Where will this subject take me?

A modern foreign language qualification can lead to careers in...

- business
- the Civil Service
- charity work
- engineering
- media
- museums/libraries
- teaching
- tourism

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Problem solving



Critical thinking



Logic

Where will this subject take me?

Geography is relevant for careers in...

- cartography
- conservation
- journalism
- local government
- politics.

Geography

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Geography
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	It could be argued that geography is among the most relevant and significant subjects within the school curriculum. We study the natural environment and examine the processes and features that make our world so spectacular. We examine human behaviour and activity and how quality of life and the lived experience of humans differs across the planet. We also seek to understand how human activity and the natural environment interact, including the possibilities, potential problems and realistic solutions that we need to safeguard our planet. There will be at least two fieldwork opportunities, and these will be assessed in the final examination. As such, all students selecting GCSE geography must be prepared to take part in at least two fieldwork visits – this is a requirement of the course.
How and when will my work be assessed?	At the end of year 11 you will sit three written examinations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1: Investigating geographical issues (40%) • Component 2: Problem solving geography (30%) • Component 3: Applied fieldwork enquiry (30%)
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	You should spend a minimum of one to two hours per week on the course outside of lessons. This will involve regular practice questions to be sat under timed conditions, alongside research and preparation. You should also have a keen interest in the world around you and be prepared to keep yourself informed of global issues in the news.
What will this course lead to post-16?	The GCSE geography course supports A-level geography and BTEC Level 3 travel and tourism, A-level economics, business studies, history, RS/philosophy, government and politics and supports A-level mathematics and statistics. Geography is very versatile subject to study, as it can lead in a number of different career directions.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Geography combines well with careers in both the arts and science. You could work in journalism and the media, politics, local government, marketing, the leisure and tourism industry, conservation, planning, agriculture and forestry, meteorology, surveying, research, landscape architecture, climatology and cartography (creating maps and mapping software). The skills gained in understanding and using GIS (Geographical Information Systems) software are used in a wide range of industries.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Molloy • Any member of the geography department <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-b/

Health and Social Care

What type of qualification will I achieve?	OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>This course is a broad-based introduction to the sector and provides a good introduction to health and social care for learners in post-16 education.</p> <p>Students will be asked to complete a combination of both practical and theoretical work to provide an understanding of why health and social care professionals work in the way they do.</p> <p>The course develops your understanding of the human body and how changes within the body, as well as lifestyle choices, can impact upon lives, especially as people age.</p> <p>As your understanding and experience develops over the course, so will your confidence and ability to communicate and work effectively with a range of people, especially older adults and children.</p>
How and when will my work be assessed?	You will complete three units with either qualification. Two units will be assessed internally, with a number of written assignments and practical tasks completed. One exam will also be completed with both qualifications.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	We would expect you to spend between two to three hours a week on your assignments outside of class time.
What will this course lead to post-16?	BTEC Level 3 Nationals or OCR Level 3 in health and social care or A-levels when accompanied with English and maths GCSE at grades 9-4.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Possible careers include care assistant, special needs assistant, nursing, paramedic, midwifery and social work.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching staff: Miss Frazer and Mrs Wheeler <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



40% external assessment
60% internal assessment

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Time-management



Independent working

Where will this subject take me?

Possible career paths include..

- care assistant
- midwifery
- nursing
- paramedic
- special needs care
- social work.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



100% examination

What are the key skills needed?



Reading



Writing



Critical evaluation

Where will this subject take me?

A history qualification can lead to career opportunities in ...

- archaeology
- journalism
- law
- teaching.

History

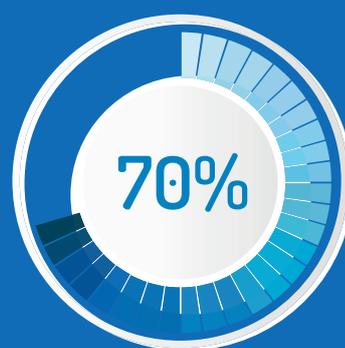
What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE History
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>GCSE history is broken down into the following studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic studies - This unit requires you to understand change and continuity across a long sweep of history. Brockington historians will be studying Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present including an historic environment study of The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918. • British depth studies - Depth studies focus on a shorter period of time and require you to understand the complexity of the situation. Studies at Brockington will be focused on Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88. • Period studies - Period studies focus on a medium time span, of at least 50 years, and require you to understand the developments and issues associated with the period. Studies at Brockington will be focussed on Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91. • Modern depth study - Like the British depth study, this focuses on a short time span, but focuses on modern topics. Brockington students will study Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>At the end of year 11, you will sit three written examinations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 will examine the thematic study (30% of the qualification). • Paper 2 will examine the British depth and period study (40% of the qualification). • Paper 3 will examine the modern depth study (30% of the qualification).
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	You should spend a minimum of one to two hours per week on the course outside of lessons. This will involve regular practice questions to be sat under timed conditions.
What will this course lead to post-16?	GCSE history can lead to a range of KS5 qualifications including A-level history and A-level politics, but it also gives many skills that are valued in English language and/ or literature, geography and modern foreign languages.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Studying history can lead to a number of diverse careers. Those with good qualifications in history often pursue careers in journalism, law, archaeology and teaching, but also any career where you are required to be critical and analytical thinkers.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Wilson • Teaching staff: Mr Barton, Mr Gubbins, Mr Harrison or Mrs Smith <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html

Media Studies

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Media Studies
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>Students will study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework, which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.</p> <p>As well as studying a range of media forms, students will also complete three components, which are:</p> <p>Component 1 - exploring the media: an introduction to a range of industry areas to explore how different forms of media shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer.</p> <p>Component 2 - understanding media forms and products: builds on the theoretical framework provided in Component 1. Students will gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of media language and representation, as well as extending their appreciation of these areas through the study of media industries and audiences.</p> <p>Component 3 - creating media products: students will individually complete a practical production piece.</p>
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>The majority of this course is assessed through written examination at the end of the course in year 11.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 (40% of qualification) • Component 2 (30% of qualification) • Component 3 is a non-exam assessment (completed over 12 weeks of lessons worth 30% of qualification). It is internally assessed and externally moderated by the exam board. Students will be presented with a production brief supplied by the exam board in the summer term of year 10 and will produce their own individual production pieces that respond to the brief. The production work will require students to use their own photography and the application of ICT design skills, which will be taught in lessons.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	We would expect you to spend between two to three hours a week on your study and project preparation outside of class time.
What will this course lead to post-16?	A-level or Level 3 BTEC in media when accompanied with English and maths GCSE at grades 9-5.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Possible careers include working within television, film, radio, publishing and advertising.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching staff: Mr Campbell, Mrs Bradbury <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



70% examination
30% NEA

What are the key skills needed?



Research



Critical thinking



Creative thinking

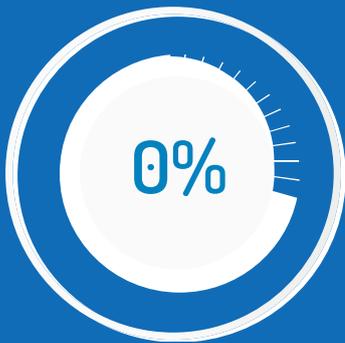
Where will this subject take me?

Possible careers include working within...

- advertising
- film
- publishing
- radio
- television.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



0% exam
100% coursework

What are the key skills needed?



Performance



Creative thinking



Critical evaluation

Where will this subject take me?

Careers in music and performing arts including...

- composer
- musician
- producer
- roadie
- singer
- studio engineer.

Music Practice

What type of qualification will I achieve?	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	<p>Whilst this is not a GCSE course, it has been planned to cover the same content and breadth of musical styles with the addition of production skills for those that select to specialise in this area. The course is open to everyone. Though having prior instrumental and music theory experience is an advantage, it is not essential if you are willing to develop skills over the course.</p> <p>This is a practical course based on making and understanding music. Students will develop skills in the three disciplines of composition, performance and production through workshop-based lessons and individual projects. They will learn how to arrange and compose music on both their own and other instruments using notation and DAW software in a range of musical styles and for industry purposes. The course is divided into three components for assessment. For component 1, they experience all three disciplines. In components 2 and 3, students study composition and specialise in either production or performance.</p>
How and when will my work be assessed?	<p>The majority of this course is assessed through practical coursework produced during lessons.</p> <p>Component 1: exploring music – internally assessed coursework.</p> <p>Component 2: developing music – internally assessed coursework.</p> <p>Component 3: responding to a music brief – externally assessed coursework.</p>
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	Students will be expected to undertake regular instrumental practice between lessons. It is recommended, though not a requirement, that students have regular peripatetic lessons on their main instrument to help them to progress. Homework will mostly be practically based, relating to developing composition and performance skills.
What will this course lead to post-16?	This course provides a good foundation for performing and composing and will lead directly into BTEC Nationals (Level 3) in music and performing arts as well as A-level music and music technology.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	This course will provide a foundation for most careers in music and many in performing arts. For example: musician, singer, session musician, composer, roadie, music teacher, peripatetic instrumental teacher, studio engineer and producer.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Performing Arts: Mrs Ward <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html

PE

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE PE <i>Please note that any student opting for GCSE PE may not also opt for Sports Studies.</i>
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	You will take part in a range of individual and team sports in practical lessons and you will learn about the following topics: applied anatomy and physiology; physical training; socio-cultural influences; sports psychology; and health, fitness and wellbeing. You will develop greater competence in developing and applying practical skills and have a secure knowledge of the topics outlined above.
How and when will my work be assessed?	The course is 60% theory, 10% coursework and 30% practical. There will be two written exams at the end of year 11. The coursework task will be completed at different stages in year 10 and 11. Students will be assessed in all practical activities, but their best three activities will count towards their final practical mark. Students must have at least one team and one individual sport, and might be selected to take part in a practical moderation at the end of the course.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	We would expect you to spend between one to two hours a week on homework and research outside of class time. End of topic tests will take place after each topic and there will be revision classes run at key points during the course outside of lesson time in the lead up to the exam; students will be encouraged to attend these.
What will this course lead to post-16?	A-level physical education; a variety of Level 3 vocational sport qualifications, such as BTEC Level 3.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Sports coaching, leisure industry, sports instructor, personal trainer, PE teacher.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Hill • Teaching staff: Mr Hill or Mr Tilley <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



60% examination
10% coursework
30% practical assessment

What are the key skills needed?



Teamwork



Participation



Leadership

Where will this subject take me?

Possible careers include...

- leisure industry
- PE teacher
- personal trainer
- sports coaching
- sports instructor.

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



40% examination
60% internal assessment

What are the key skills needed?



Teamwork



Participation



Leadership

Where will this subject take me?

Possible careers include...

- leisure industry
- PE teacher
- personal trainer
- sports coaching
- sports instructor.

Sports Studies

What type of qualification will I achieve?	OCR Cambridge National Level 1/2 Certificate in Sport Studies <i>Please note that any student opting for Sports Studies may not also opt for GCSE PE.</i>
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	You will learn about the major issues that affect sport and the way that sport is organised and run. You will also develop a range of sport skills and evaluate your own ability in sport. This qualification also focuses on sport leadership and the sport industry/media. You will develop your leadership skills and communication, as well as your team and individual practical skills.
How and when will my work be assessed?	The course is a blend of theory and practical study. You will study a topic for four to five weeks and then complete a written assignment. In the sport leadership unit, you will be expected to create a session plan for a chosen sport, deliver and evaluate it. 40% of the overall grade is based on a one-hour examination based on contemporary issues. The remaining 60% of the course is based around practical and theory based coursework completed by students and internally assessed.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	We would expect you to spend between one and two hours a week on your assignments outside of class time, and it is vital that all students keep to deadlines. There will be revision classes run at key points during the course, outside of lesson time, in the lead-up to the exam and near assignment deadlines.
What will this course lead to post-16?	A-level physical education; a variety of Level 3 vocational sport qualifications, such as BTEC Level 3, sport coaching qualifications.
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Sports coaching, leisure industry, sports instructor, personal trainer, PE teacher (after A-levels or vocational Level 3 and a degree course in physical education).
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of Department: Mr Hill • Teaching staff: Miss Frazer, Miss Heggs, Mr Marsden, Mr Tilley or Mrs Wheeler <p>Exam board website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-j829/

Textiles Design

What type of qualification will I achieve?	GCSE Art and Design: Textiles Design <i>Please note that any student opting for GCSE Art and Design: Textiles Design may not opt for GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art as they form separate options within the same qualification.</i>
What will I be doing in my lessons and what skills will I gain?	Students develop skills in textile design under the art and design specification, which includes fashion design, textile art or interior design. The course gives you a variety of new skills and techniques such as: fabric manipulation, heating and burning, felt making, printing, embroidery and garment construction.
How and when will my work be assessed?	Your work will be ongoing, and each module will be assessed individually with your final grade being made up of 60% coursework and 40% controlled exam. You will complete two units of work. The first unit will be set by the school and will conclude in a final response created over five hours of controlled exam conditions and another five hours of classroom time. The second unit will be set by the exam board and will conclude in a final response created in controlled exam conditions over 10 hours. In both units, work is assessed using four assessments objectives each accounting for 25% of the unit score.
How much time will I need to work on this subject out of lesson time?	Work will need to be produced in the classroom and in your own time. Access to the use of a sewing machine outside of the allocated classroom hours is crucial for development and is a necessity. This could be at home or using the school equipment after school. Homework will be set every week, and you will be expected to spend a minimum of 1-2 hours on it. You will need to be self-motivated and enjoy experimentation, sketching, research and planning.
What will this course lead to post-16?	This course opens doors to study fashion and design at A-level and other Level 3 courses
What possible careers and work related opportunities are there?	Career opportunities that this GCSE may lead to include fashion designer, print designer, graphic CAD design, teacher, photographer, product design, textile design and interior design.
Where can I get more information about this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head of department: Mrs Chauhan Exam board website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/

Quick facts...

How will I be assessed?



40% examination
60% internal assessment

What are the key skills needed?



Creative thinking



Artistic creativity



Research

Where will this subject take me?

Career opportunities include...

- fashion design
- interior design
- print design
- product design
- textile design.

Next steps...

You now have a few weeks to consider all of your options, find out all the information you need and seek advice where you need to. Please email your teachers if you want any more information about your subject choices.

Completing the options form

To make your option choices, you will need to complete the [options form online here](#). The form must be accessed using your student e-mail address and password. **Please note that the form will not be accessible until Friday 30 January 2026 following our Options Information Evening.**

In order to complete your options, you will need to make a selection of:

- **three** options subjects
- **two** reserve choices.

We will try to let you do every subject you want, but we may have to discuss with some of you if this is not possible. Possible reasons for not being able to choose a subject, include where options numbers make a course unviable to run (i.e. not enough students have picked a particular subject).

You will therefore have to choose two reserve subjects on your option choice form, so that we can discuss changes with you if we need to.

If you need any help or advice when choosing your options, you can talk to your form tutor, Mrs Watts (Pastoral Manager), Mr Tilley (Head of Year), Ms Mahil (SENCo) and Mr Barton (Principal).

What happens after I have completed my options form?

Stage 1

Initial option forms to be returned by **Monday 2 March 2026**.

Stage 2

Option requests will be collated and the first draft of a timetable constructed to ensure all requests can be accommodated. Any changes will be negotiated in consultation with parents/carers and students.

Stage 3

We aim to let all students know their final options selection by **May half-term 2026**.

The online Options Information Evening will take place on Thursday 29 January.

**The options form will open on Friday 30 January;
please complete by Monday 2 March.**