

PLUME ACADEMY

KEY STAGE 4

OPTIONS

2025





Letter from the Assistant Vice Principal



Dear Student

YEAR 10 OPTIONS 2025

Having the opportunity to choose the subjects, that will make up your curriculum for Key Stage 4, is a positive experience, but one that could be quite daunting. It is important to make sure you choose subjects that allow you to pursue your interests, post-16 choices and your career aspirations in the future.

I am delighted that Plume, Maldon's Community Academy can offer courses, which are enjoyable and enriching and include GCSEs, BTEC courses and other vocational options.

Please be aware that we will support you in making the right decisions about your options. There will be information shared in form time and assemblies to assist you with the knowledge and understanding of each subject that is available to you for your GCSE studies. Engaging in the information being shared will be paramount to ensuring you make the correct and appropriate decisions for your GCSE / KS4 options.

Your parent/carers involvement in this process is important and at Options Evening on Thursday 9 January you will be able to find out information about the courses and the way they are assessed. On Thursday 6 February at the Parents Consultation Evening, you will be able to discuss potential options with subject specialist teachers, who can give you greater depth in your understanding of these subjects. Using the progress review report you received at the end of the autumn term, you can discuss the progress you are making in each subject and this assist with your selection of KS4 options. Leaders within the academy will also be meeting with a Year 9 students to discuss their option choices with them.

Faculty leaders and subject staff will be happy to provide individual guidance about appropriate choices and your form tutor will also play an important role in supporting your selection of options.

I hope that you enjoy choosing your options and deciding your future KS4 study programme however please do not hesitate to ask for further advice and guidance, if and when required. I look forward to working with you during the KS4 option process.

Yours sincerely

Mr S. Meadows
Assistant Vice Principal – Campus Lead for Fambridge Road

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Introduction to the Options Process

This booklet contains all the information that you need to use to make the important decisions about your KS4 options.

The initial pages are linked to the pathways, the 'traditional' and the 'supportive learning' pathway. Both are unique and you will need to carefully read the guidance enclosed to ensure you are fully informed about the correct KS4 study programme based on your progress, attainment, interests, and long-term aspirations. The online document you are required to complete will depend on which specific pathway you are interested in undertaking, and this will be completed during a professional guidance and support meeting with a member of the Plume Academy staff.

Each pathway is composed of an element of compulsory and optional subjects, as well as differing characteristics that make each study programme bespoke to every student.

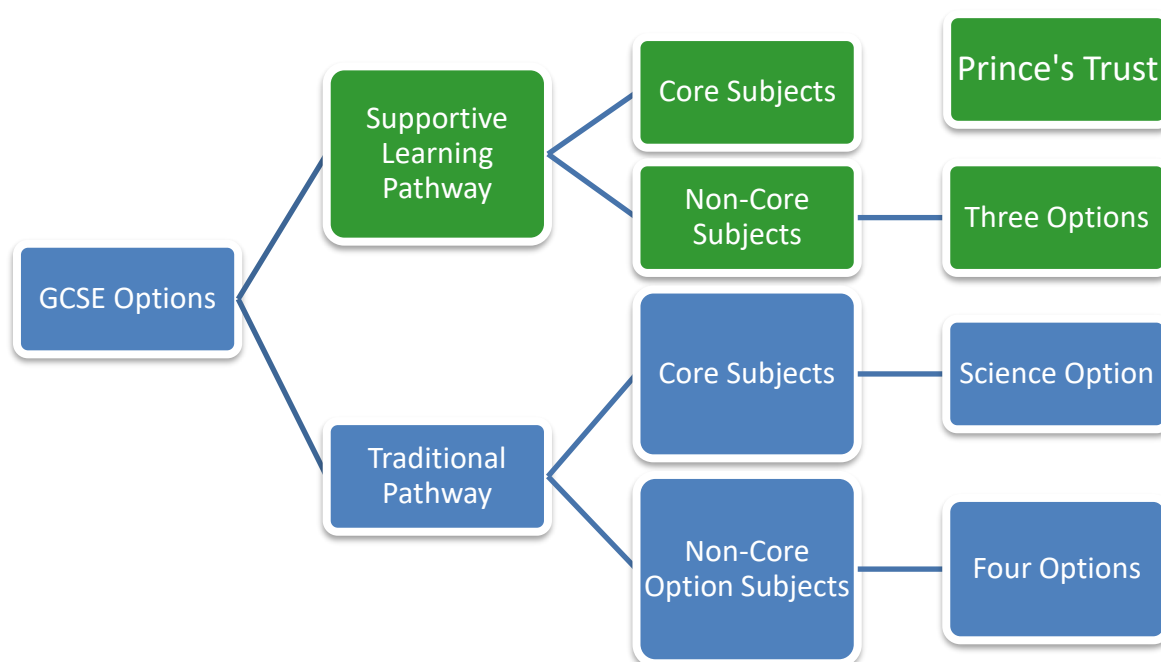
Alongside the support from your pastoral team and form tutors, you will be provided with the opportunity to complete a 'Guidance Discussion Meeting' (GDM) where you can discuss your option choices with a member of staff and feel confident in selecting the correct options for your GCSEs.

Enclosed in this booklet you will find detailed and informative information about each of the subjects available at KS4. You will find a brief summary of each course and the specific assessment requirements. Please also note the short description of the qualities you require to be successful in each subject area. You will, of course, be supported to ensure you can select the correct GCSE options through your 'Guidance Discussion Meeting' (GDM) which will take place in the spring term.

Your subject teachers can also provide you with more information about the courses you can study in Years 10 and 11. Do ensure you ask your teachers to explain any aspect of a course that you are uncertain about. They are happy to help!

We hope that you will find this booklet helpful and informative, and it will complement the extensive videos you have watched during form time in the autumn term.

Pathways



GCSE Options

Traditional Pathway

Core Subjects

In Years 10 and 11, there are a number of compulsory subjects that each student studies which form part of a **traditional pathway**. These are **core subjects**, and you are required to study these options as part of your KS4 study programme.

The **CORE** subjects are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education*
- Personal Development**

**(Core) Physical Education will not provide you with a GCSE unless you select this option as one of your 4 subjects via the online options form. Physical Education is a core lesson and enables students to partake in sport, exercise, health, and fitness lessons throughout their KS4 academic studies.*

Science Options

For Science, students are required to choose between Trilogy Combined Science and Triple Science.

Option: Combined Science Trilogy (AQA)

This course will provide two GCSEs in Combined Science. During the 2 years of study, Year 10 and 11, all three subjects will be studied, and students will take 6 examinations, which are all taken during the summer of Year 11.

Combined Science Trilogy (worth <u>two</u> GCSEs) Total: 6 papers	Physics 2 papers 1 hr 15 minutes	Biology 2 papers 1 hr 15 minutes	Chemistry 2 papers 1 hr 15 minutes
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Option: GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Triple Science) (AQA)

Students that study this course will gain separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will take 6 examinations, which are all taken during the summer of Year 11, and they will be awarded a GCSE qualification for each science discipline.

Triple Science (worth <u>three</u> GCSEs) Total: 6 papers	GCSE Physics 2 papers 1 hr 45 minutes	GCSE Biology 2 papers 1 hr 45 minutes	GCSE Chemistry 2 papers 1 hr 45 minutes
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Future Options

Students will need to carefully consider if they wish to study A level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. If they undertake Triple Science, students will need to achieve at least a '5' grade in the Science subject they are opting for at A Level. Other entry requirements also apply however, Trilogy Science may struggle to access the individual Science A-levels at KS5 therefore undertaking 'Trilogy Science' may hinder progress into A level science at KS5.

Non-Core Subjects

At Plume, Maldon's Community Academy we offer a broad and diverse curriculum. The curriculum will provide you with an opportunity to select GCSEs that are reflective of your future aspirations, career pathways and potential post-16 pathways.

Some students will make their choices from four different curriculum areas. However, alongside the guidance given in your GDMs, you should choose subjects that you feel will benefit your interests, passions and future opportunities as well as being open to the prospect of completing a subject that you may not have studied before at KS3. For students who have a clear career driven aspiration they may choose to focus upon a specialised programme that is based upon certain subjects within a particular curriculum area.

The main curriculum areas within the option subjects are as follows:

- Modern Foreign Languages
- Humanities
- Business, Computer Science, IT and Technology
- Expressive Arts and Physical Education
- Social Sciences

All subjects listed in this booklet are offered on the basis that they will require a certain number of students to select them in order to be viable. If a course does not meet this quota, then please do expect your reserve option to be utilised and allocated in replacement of the course previously selected.

Four Options

Option 1 – Has to be one of the following EBACC subjects - French, Spanish, Geography, History or Computer Science.

Options 2-4 – These can be selected from the following option subjects which give a wide variety of choice due to the diversity of our five main curriculum areas. Students can choose four EBACC subjects however they must choose one in option 1 and then decide from the remaining options for options 2-4.

The option subjects that you can choose from are as follows:

Modern Foreign Languages	Humanities	Business, Computer Science, IT and Technology	Expressive Arts and Physical Education	Social Sciences
French	Geography	Business	Art and Design	Media Studies
Spanish	History	Information Technology	Dance	Sociology
	Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	Computer Science	Drama	Psychology
		Engineering	Creative Media Production	Child Development
		Food Preparation and Nutrition	Music	
		Resistant Materials*	Physical Education*	
		Graphics*	Sport Studies*	
		Textiles*		
		<i>*Only one of these can be selected within this area</i>	<i>*Only one of these can be selected within this area</i>	

Supportive Learning Pathway

Core Subjects

In Years 10 and 11 there are a number of compulsory subjects that **all** supportive learning students' study. These are **core subjects**, and you are required to study those as part of your GCSE studies.

The **CORE** subjects are:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education*
- Personal Development**

**(Core) Physical Education will not provide you with a GCSE unless you select this option as one of your 4 subjects via the online options form. Physical Education is a core lesson and enables students to partake in sport, exercise, health, and fitness lessons throughout their KS4 academic studies.*

***At Key Stage 4, the majority of our Personal Development curriculum is delivered through tutor and assembly time; Personal Development, like Core PE, does not lead to a formal qualification.*

Non-Core Subjects

The options for non-core lessons on the supportive learning pathway will be revealed later in the academic year once numbers have been agreed with the respective stakeholders. The options will be slightly limited in comparison to the traditional pathway and students will be required to select three options from the non-core options. Students who are suited to this pathway will be contacted as will parents before the process of options choices are being made.

Prince's Trust

Details of the course will be found in the booklet. However, students following this route will be supported in smaller classes when completing the coursework-based Prince's Trust course. As this is a non-exam-based subject it will enable more time for students to focus on core subjects of English, Maths and Science. With the support of Mr Baster, Mrs Clark, Mrs Hills and Mrs Bush, students for whom this course is appropriate will be identified and their parents/carers contacted by the academy.

Guidance on the English Baccalaureate

Students aspiring to study A levels at post-16 and beyond are encouraged to consider taking the broad set of academic subjects which constitute the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate is composed of English, Mathematics, the Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language, and a Humanities subject.

Whilst the English Baccalaureate is highly regarded by University and Higher Education Colleges, we would encourage any student that is considering this option to discuss this further with their subject teachers and relevant staff during their GDM in terms of likely workload and relevance to preferred post-16/post-18 pathways.

Guidance Discussion Meetings

A change from previous year is that **ALL STUDENTS** will have to complete a 'Guidance Discussion Meeting'. This will enable students to review their preferred option choices with a relevant member of staff to ensure students are making a logical and informed decision regarding the most appropriate KS4 study programme for each student based on individual needs and aspirations.

Conclusion

I hope that these initial pages have enabled you as stakeholders to have clarity regarding the 2024 KS4 option process available to you. If you need any further advice and guidance, please do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have (s.meadows@plume.essex.sch.uk) as I will be happy to help.

GCSE English Language and Literature (2 GCSEs)

WHAT WILL THESE COURSES ENABLE ME TO DO?

These courses will develop your ability to communicate as effectively as possible in both spoken and written English, matching your style of expression to audience and purpose. You will also develop your ability to read, understand and respond to all types of texts, including texts from different centuries and media texts, recognising and appreciating themes and attitudes and the ways in which writers achieve their effects. They will also enable you to understand the rich heritage of English Literature.



WHAT WILL THE COURSES CONTAIN?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE: The course will develop your ability to read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including fiction and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. You will use the knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve your own writing. Also, the course will help you improve your listening and understanding of spoken language and your use of spoken Standard English.

ENGLISH LITERATURE: You will read and respond to a wide variety of styles of writing from the literary heritage, including: power and conflict poetry; a Dickens novel; a modern play or novel; a Shakespeare play.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN THE SUBJECTS?

GCSE English Literature	GCSE English Language
<p>Paper 1: 19th Century Texts and Shakespeare 1 hour 45mins 40% of Literature GCSE Section A: <i>Macbeth</i> Section B: <i>A Christmas Carol</i></p>	<p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Fiction) 1 hour 45mins 50% of Language GCSE Section A: reading skills (analysis, evaluation) Section B: narrative/descriptive writing skills</p>
<p>Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry 2 hours 15mins 60% of Literature GCSE Section A: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> Section B: <i>Power and Conflict Poetry</i> Section C: Unseen poetry</p>	<p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Non-Fiction) 1 hour 45mins 50% of Language GCSE Section A: reading skills (analysis, inference) Section B: writing to inform/persuade/advise</p>
<p>Spoken Language qualification: Pass, Merit or Distinction – one presentation researched, written, and delivered by student, followed by questions and answers. Stand-alone qualification.</p>	

WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Mrs G. Wills – Faculty Leader, English

G.Wills@plume.essex.sch.uk

GCSE Mathematics

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Traditionally mathematics has involved knowing the rules to deal with numbers, percentages, areas, equations etc. This course will demonstrate that Mathematics can be used to solve practical problems in everyday situations.

An important aim of the course is to help you to talk about Mathematics and use mathematical language correctly. Helping you to read and understand mathematical information given in tables, graphs, and diagrams, building your confidence to enable you to pass on your knowledge to others in a clear, concise, and logical way.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Learners are given the opportunity to study all aspects of Mathematics, developing knowledge skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. Students will study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and Statistics

GCSE Mathematics qualifications have changed to ensure they are rigorous and robust and give students access to high quality qualifications which match the highest expectations of colleges, universities, and employers. Students are encouraged to use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and be able to apply the functional elements of mathematics to solve problems in real-life situations.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE Mathematics consists of 3 externally examined papers, which will be sat in June 2025; two calculator and one non-calculator paper. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes and will have questions to test the full content of the course.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

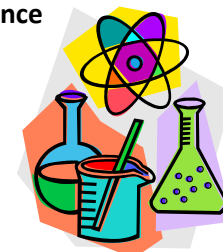
You need to be able to organise your equipment and time effectively, to be prepared to ask questions if you do not understand and complete Sparx homework regularly to the deadlines set. The ability to work independently and revise effectively is essential to the successful completion of the course. Engaging properly with revision and independent learning, websites such as mathsgenie.co.uk corbettmaths.com and using independent learning on Sparx are a great way to improve. Students get better at maths by practising it, seeing if they got it right and making corrections where they got things wrong. They get better by being resilient when things are hard and trying their best.

All students will need their own scientific calculator (we recommend a Casio FX83-gtx) for all Maths lessons.

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (2 GCSEs)

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

By following this course, you will gain a better understanding of the world around you, carry forward your study of science and access jobs and careers that require science as an entrance qualification.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course covers written and practical study of how science directly affects our lives and practical work to develop an investigative approach to scientific problems. You will study life and living processes, materials and their properties and physical processes.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Final examinations in the summer of Year 11 (100% examination).

These exams will comprise a total of six 1 hour and 15-minute papers, with two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics.

The overall grade for this course will be based on the total scores across all six papers. The grade achieved will be expressed as a double grade, for example 5,5, 4,4 or 5,4. 5,4 is a 'half-grade' between grades 4 and 5.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Effective revision for exams
- Be prepared to question ideas, to interpret information and relate this to real world examples
- To recall and apply
- Resilience when learning difficult concepts
- Discuss and use scientific methods
- Work methodically and using own initiative

GCSE Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

By following this course, you will gain a better understanding of the world around you, carry forward your study of science and access jobs and careers that require science as an entry qualification. If you really enjoy all aspects of science, have ambitions to study one or more sciences at 'A' level, then you are recommended to apply for this course of study.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course will contain units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course will result in three Science GCSE qualifications, one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Final exams in summer of year 11 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, 100% Examination.

These exams will comprise two 1 hour and 45-minute papers in each science subject. The final three grades will be based upon the total score across the two papers for each subject. You will then receive three separate grades for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Keep up with classwork and homework tasks
- Effective revision for exams
- Be prepared to question ideas, to interpret information and relate this to real world examples
- To recall and apply
- Resilience when learning difficult concepts
- Discuss and use scientific methods
- Work methodically and on initiative

Physical Education (Non-GCSE)

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The course is organised to encourage you to participate regularly in health-promoting physical activity, while at the same time helping you to understand just what is involved in the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. For example, do you know whether you can continue with your favourite activities upon leaving school, or which training methods are the best for you?



WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?



In Year 10, students will follow a varied and tailored pathway. Each student is required to participate in both indoor and outdoor Activities. Dependent on the pathway chosen, activities can include traditional games e.g., football and netball or alternative activities such as Kinball, indoor curling or health and well-being activities. They will also include athletics, cricket and rounders.

WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT KEY STAGE 4?

For those students who do not opt to take examination PE at KS4 you follow the Core PE course. For this you tackle complex and demanding activities applying your knowledge of skills, techniques, and effective performance. You can decide whether to get involved in physical activity that is mainly focused on competing or performing, promoting health and well-being, or developing personal fitness. You will also experience a variety of roles within each activity including performance, coach, choreographer, leader and official. The view you have of your skilfulness and physical competence will hopefully give you the confidence to get involved in exercise and activity out of school and in later life.

For those students who opt to take examination PE you follow a Core PE curriculum that is designed to support your examination PE studies. You will have the opportunity to undertake the Level 2 Sports Leaders Award.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

This is a non-exam course; however, you will be assessed in line with the National Guidelines of Physical Education. Do you know what grade you are currently working at? If not, ask your teacher.

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

To be successful at this course, you must be prepared to regularly bring the correct kit and participate in all lessons to the best of your ability. Often it is not about the standard that others achieve, but how much progress you as an individual make.

GCSE French

In today's world, speaking a foreign language is an asset for any student. In fact, speaking another language increases your chances of finding a job, whether at home or abroad. More than 270 million people speak French, and, after English, it is the most widely taught language, being taught on all five continents.

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Learning a language opens the door into other cultures, with 75% of the world's population not able to speak English. Furthermore, it increases your problem-solving skills, improves memory, self-discipline, and self-esteem – key attributes that employers look for in the modern world. In addition, languages open doors for opportunities to travel to different countries, experience different cultures and meet new people. Finally, learning another language enriches the mind and opens up new horizons, both personal and professional.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The vocabulary of the course is built around the three main themes of:

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

These three main themes will enhance your grasp of the language and allow you also to gain an in-depth knowledge of the country, their culture, and customs. The study of these themes will be explored through a series of relevant sub-topics, further developing your linguistic skills and a wide range of vocabulary.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

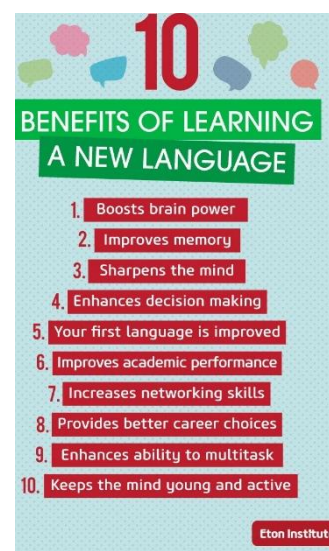
There are four papers in total at the end of the course, testing each of the four skills and covering all three themes:

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%
Examination	Oral Examination conducted by teacher	Examination	Examination

There are two levels of entry: foundation and higher, with the exams at foundation level being easier. Each student will complete all exams at either the foundation tier or the higher tier.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

In order to succeed at GCSE French, students will need to commit to learning and revising vocabulary regularly and consistently, as well as continuing to develop their knowledge of the structure and grammar of the language. Finally, to study a language at GCSE, you should be interested and passionate about continuing with your language studies to a higher level and to developing your overall fluency across each of the language skills.



GCSE Spanish

In today's world, speaking one foreign language is not enough. Students who speak more than one language will increase their chances of finding a job, whether at home or abroad. More than 430 million people speak Spanish, making it the second most spoken language in the World.

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Learning a language opens the door into other cultures, with 75% of the World's population not able to speak English. Furthermore, it increases your problem-solving skills, improves memory, self-discipline, and self-esteem – key attributes that employers look for in the modern world. Languages opens doors for opportunities to travel to different countries, experience different cultures and meet new people. Learning another language enriches the mind and opens up new horizons, both personal and professional.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The vocabulary of the course is built around the three main themes of:

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

These three main themes will enhance your grasp of the language and allow you also to gain an in-depth knowledge of the country, their culture, and customs. The study of these themes will be explored through a series of relevant sub-topics, further developing your linguistic skills and a wide range of vocabulary.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four papers in total at the end of the course, testing each of the four skills and covering all three themes:

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%
Examination	Oral examination conducted by teacher	Examination	Examination

There are two levels of entry: Foundation and Higher, with the exams at Foundation level being easier. Each student will complete all exams at either the Foundation tier or the Higher tier.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

In order to succeed at GCSE Spanish, students will need to commit to learning and revising vocabulary regularly and to study the structure and grammar of the language. You should also be interested and passionate about continuing with your language studies to a higher level and to developing your overall fluency across each of the language skills.



GCSE Geography



“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin

WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Geography uses key skills from English, maths and the sciences and so sits well alongside the core subjects. For these reasons Geography demonstrates to employers that you have a well-rounded education. During your course you will be equipped with a broad range of personal learning and thinking skills such as teamwork, independent enquiry, creative thinking, and analytical skills. All of these are highly valued by employers.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

You will study six units:

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world

You will also need to complete two compulsory days of fieldwork, together with follow up written investigations. This work will then be assessed in an examination.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1 (1hr 30mins) examines Physical Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 2 (1hr 30mins) examines Human Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 3 (1hr 15mins) examines Fieldwork and contains a Decision-Making Exercise

Twelve weeks before the Unit 3 examination, a resources booklet will be released. This booklet will contain information about a current and controversial geographical issue. The Unit 3 examination will be based on this issue.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You should have an interest in current topical issues and want to know how humans interact with the different environments our planet offers. You will need good levels of understanding in English, Maths and Science as well as being a good communicator, a problem solver, and a good team player. This is a very academic specification that has been introduced for first teaching in September 2016. Please consider the challenge of four hours of examinations before applying for this course.

WHAT CAREERS OR FURTHER COURSES OF STUDY COULD THIS LEAD TO?

Students who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad and many more.....

GCSE History

“If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday”.
Pearl Buck, Civil Rights Activist.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Studying GCSE History will further develop your understanding of the world around you as well as your ability to use evidence, think critically, plan and carry out research and communicate your knowledge. We want students to acquire a mental map of the past onto which they can hang future historical learning throughout their lives. History is useful for many careers including law, the police, the armed forces, business, teaching, politics, management, local government and much more. Employers value history.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course is made up of five topics, designed to cover a wide range of historical periods and types of history. Each unit makes up 20% of the GCSE and includes key historical questions:

Migrants to Britain, c.1250 to present	British History Thematic Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why have people migrated to Britain? • What were the migrants' experiences in Britain? • What impact have migrants had on Britain?
The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087	British History Depth Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is 1066 such a big deal? • What was lifelike for Anglo-Saxons and Normans? • Why are there so many different interpretations of Norman England?
Local Historic Site	History Around Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the site fit into wider history? • How useful is the site as evidence about the past? • How do additional historical sources, such as artefacts, images, documents, and oral testimony provide further evidence about the site?
The Making of America, 1789–1900	World History Period Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did a new nation expand to become the world's dominant power? • Why did migrants cross the Plains to Oregon and California? • How did the US Civil War change the life of African Americans? • Why was there so much conflict with the Plains Indians?
Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945	World History Depth Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the Nazi dictatorship impact people's lives both within Germany and across occupied Europe? • How were political, economic, social, racial, and cultural forces at work in these societies?

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This is a non-tiered course; therefore, students have the opportunity to achieve grades 1-9. There are five examinations, one for each of the studies in the table above, all are taken at the end of Year 11.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- An interest in all things historical
- An enquiring mind

GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

“The noblest of all studies is the study of what man is and what life he should live” Plato



WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Studying Religion, Philosophy and Ethics will develop your debating and arguing skills, challenge your ways of seeing the world and open your mind to new perspectives and ways of seeing the world and reality itself. In the philosophy side of the course, we will question whether there is proof God exists, examine different understandings of how the universe started – both religious and scientific – and determine what the meaning of human life is. In the ethical side of the course, we investigate the morality of eating and experimenting on animals, medical ethics such as euthanasia and abortion, whether the death penalty should be made legal, how we should punish crimes, and what rules there should be in modern war. Finally, in the religious side of the course, we investigate Christianity and Islam’s places and challenges in the modern world, their perspectives on the philosophical and ethical problems we study in the course, and how they express their spiritual beliefs through their actions, festivals, and rituals around the world.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is the AQA GCSE “Religious Studies A”

There are two examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Paper One - Christianity and Islam – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 2 – Philosophy and Ethics topics (Crime and Punishment and War and Peace, Religion and Life, Human Rights and Social Justice) – 1 hour 45 minutes long.

The papers are split into 5 questions with 4 parts per paper, ranging in length from multiple choice to an essay question.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You should be interested in developing skills in debating and constructing a strong argument – you do not have to be confident or perfect at these yet, but these valuable life skills will be developed through this course. You should have an interest in asking the big questions in life and exploring perspectives other than your own to expand your view of the world.

WHAT CAREERS OR FURTHER COURSES OF STUDY COULD THIS LEAD TO?

This course provides you with the ability to value and understand worldviews other than your own, so it sets you up perfectly for a career working with a diverse range of people, such as a caring profession like medicine, a customer facing career, a career where you need to build good relationships with clients, and careers where you would like to travel and work internationally. It also builds strong evaluative and essay writing skills, making it perfect for further academic study like A Levels and university.

GCSE Business (9-1)



WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

While studying this course you will build and develop your enterprising mind. You will be introduced to issues concerning the setting up and operation of a business. This course explores the activities of business and the reasons for success or failure. It encourages students to appreciate that businesses must operate within society and rules, and that this involves businesses engaging with a wide range of stakeholders who will hold differing perspectives.

KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS GAINED:

GCSE Business will encourage student to:

- Engage in the study of Business to develop as effective and independent learners
- Develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in local, national, and global contexts
- Appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities
- Consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable
- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts and in planning and carrying out investigations and tasks
- Analyse and evaluate evidence, make reasoned judgements, and present appropriate conclusions

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Spotting business opportunities
- Putting business ideas into practice
- Making marketing decisions
- Making human resource decisions
- Making a business effective
- Understanding external influences on business
- Growing the business
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment for this course is via two examination papers.

Exam	When	Time	Type	% of course
Theme 1: Investigating small business	June Yr11	1 hour 30 mins	Written paper 90 marks	50%
Theme 2: Building a business	June Yr11	1 hour 30 mins	Written paper 90 marks	50%

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You might have an interest in business and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more. The course requires you to be confident in expressing these ideas in writing; therefore, good English skills are needed. There is also a good amount of numeracy involved so ideally you should have good Maths skills.

OCR Cambridge National in Information Technology

WHAT ARE CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS?

While GCSEs are well known qualifications taken in schools, many students choose to take vocational qualifications like IT alongside their other options. Cambridge Nationals are vocational technical qualifications for 14–16-year-olds. They have been created to support students who wish to develop practical skills and knowledge relating to a broad employment area.

WHY TAKE CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY?

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

- using different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products
- creating a data manipulation solution
- creating an augmented reality prototype.



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

- planning and designing IT solutions and products for a given purpose
- selecting the best tools and techniques to solve a problem
- solving problems by exploring different software application tools and techniques
- creating IT solutions and digital products
- use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised and timely way
- finding imaginative ways to solve IT problems.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE CONTAIN AND HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The qualification is made up of three units:

- **R050: IT in the digital world.** This is assessed by taking an exam which is 1 hour 30 minutes long. The topics include:
 - Design Tools
 - Human Computer Interfaces
 - Data and testing
 - Cyber-security and legislation
 - Digital Communications
 - Internet of Everything (IoE).
- **R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets.** This is assessed by completing a set assignment which is marked by your teacher and then moderated by the exam board. You will learn how to plan, design, create, test, and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet client's requirements.
- **R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information.** This is assessed by completing a set assignment which is marked by your teacher and then moderated by the exam board. In this unit you will learn how to design, create, test, and review an Augmented Reality model prototype to meet a client's requirements.

ENTRY CRITERIA

There are no entry requirements for this course.

GCSE Computer Science (9-1)

WHAT IS THIS COURSE DESIGNED TO DO?

The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.



WHAT DOES THE COURSE CONTAIN AND HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Students will study towards two modules, which will be completed over both Years 10 and 11. The modules are as follows:

Computer Systems (50%) – This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems, which is structured as follows:

Topics	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System architecture • Memory and storage • Computer networks, connections and protocols • Network security • System software • Ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental impacts of digital technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes • 50% of total GCSE • 80 marks • Non-calculator paper. • This paper consists of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50%) – This unit covers learning how to program using Python, using searching and sorting algorithms and computation.

Topics	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algorithms • Programming fundamentals • Producing robust programs • Boolean logic • Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes • 50% of total GCSE • 80 marks • Non-calculator paper. • This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. In Section B, questions assess students' ability to write or refine algorithms.

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS COURSE?

Students should have excellent literacy and numeracy skills. A keen interest in programming would be beneficial. This course is relevant for students who wish to achieve a GCSE to provide them with a springboard to A-Level Computer Science or Level 3 IT courses.

ENTRY CRITERIA

There are no entry requirements for this course but an interest in programming is desirable.

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 in Engineering Manufacture

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The qualification will prepare candidates for employment, including work-based training, progression to level 3 qualifications and provide an insight into engineering for candidates pursuing other career pathways. The qualification will introduce the skills, knowledge and understanding needed in engineering.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

R014: Principles of Engineering Manufacture (Externally assessed by a one-hour fifteen-minute exam)

In this unit you will learn about the different types of manufacturing processes, the materials that can be used to manufacture products using these processes, and the factors to be considered when determining the manufacturing requirements of an engineered product. You will consider the different types of manufacturing process that are typically used in engineering, using specific examples of each process type. The engineering materials include ferrous and non-ferrous metals, polymers, ceramics, composites, and smart materials. You will understand how the properties of these materials relate to their manufacturing characteristics. In addition, you will also develop an understanding of some of the current developments in engineering manufacture.

R015: Manufacturing a One-off Product

In this unit you will learn to identify the information required to make a product, plan the production of a product, and carry out risk assessments for the processes, tools and equipment needed to produce a product in small quantities. You will also learn how to select and safely use the equipment, processes and tools required to mark out, measure and manufacture a product in small quantities, using a range of hand-held equipment and conventional (non-Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining methods.

R016: Manufacturing in Quantity

In this unit you will learn how to manufacture and use simple jigs and templates to support manufacturing in volume. By using CAD software, you will learn about the information needed to facilitate manufacture and apply this in order to program Computer Numerical Control (CNC) equipment. In addition, you will learn how to set up and operate the CNC equipment and monitor the quality of the manufactured products.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture is 60% coursework and 40% externally tested.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You will need to be able to build on previous experience and knowledge gained at KS3 · Have a willingness to meet homework and coursework deadlines

Further details are available at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-j823>

EDUQAS Level ½ Vocational Award in Construction and the Built Environment (Technical Award)

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Would you love the opportunity to transform the world around you? Are you looking to learn about new technologies, materials and processes that are involved in construction projects? Do you want to develop a good foundation for a successful career in construction?



WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment

You will be introduced to the principles of the built environment and have the opportunity to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding in identifying, explaining and evaluating different ideas and concepts of the built environment.

Explore a range of professional and trade roles.

Explore some of the different structures and buildings of the built environment.

Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment

You will study three construction trade areas of the built environment, including planning, undertaking and evaluating construction tasks.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will have one exam for Unit 1 which will be worth 40% of your qualification. The exam will last 1 hour and 30 minutes, it will be made up of short and extended response questions.

Unit 3 will be assessed via project work (no exam), which is worth 60% of your qualification. Here you will be asked to prepare and complete three trade-based tasks e.g. creating a simple lighting circuit, building a brick structure and making a wooden planter.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You will need to be able to build on previous experience and knowledge gained at KS3 · Have a willingness to meet homework and coursework deadlines

Further details are available at: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-construction-and-the-built-environment/#tab_keydocuments

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This new qualification in Food Preparation and Nutrition enables you to explore how foods work and interact together; making connections between theory and practice so you can apply your understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking.



This course will build on subject content taught in Years 7, 8 and 9. You will be equipped with the practical skills needed to understand how foods work together enabling you to be a confident cook, as well as adapting and creating your own recipes, which, is a useful life skill. The course will also provide a suitable foundation for further studies at either Level 3, AS or A Level Food related courses.

There are a wide range of careers available in the food industry from working in restaurants as a chef, becoming a nutritionist or dietician and advising people on healthy diet and lifestyles, to becoming a new product developer for a major retailer and seeing products through from ideas to being on the supermarket shelf.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course is made up of both theory and practical work, which will teach a wide range of cookery and food preparation and presentation skills. These include knife skills, sauce making, baking, and using raising agents, preparing, and cooking a wide range of fruits and vegetables and meat and fish preparation and cookery, such as jointing a chicken. Through this, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding on microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking, and serving food.

The course has 6 main areas of study:

1. Food, Nutrition and Health
2. Function of Ingredients
3. Food Safety
4. Food Choice
5. Food Provenance

Across these areas students will learn and understand about the functional and chemical properties of food; the relationship between diet, nutrition, and health; and how economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural factors influence food availability, production processes and diet and health choices.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **50% Written examination of 1 hour 45 minutes worth 100 marks.**
- **50% Non- Examination Assessment worth 100 marks.** Composed of two assessments, one Food Investigation and one Food Preparation assessment. The tasks are chosen from a bank set by the examination board
- Assessment 1 is to be completed in approximately 8 hours and is worth 15% of the total qualification
- Assessment 2 is to be completed in approximately 12 hours (including a 3-hour practical session) and is worth 35% of the total qualification

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- An interest in food, nutrition, and cooking
- A willingness to ask questions and work hard
- Hardworking, creative, and enthusiastic
- Must bring ingredients to all food practical lessons

GCSE Design and Technology

Choose your specialised area from **RESISTANT MATERIALS OR GRAPHIC PRODUCTS OR TEXTILES**

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Through a series of mini projects during Year 10 you will improve your designing and making skills. You will learn to use a variety of tools, materials, and machines and how they can be used to create a range of different products. You will also learn about various designers. This knowledge will help you for your exam and coursework.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The GCSE qualification is made up of an exam which is worth 50% and the coursework which is worth 50%. It is a 2-hour exam taken at the end of Year 11 and tests your knowledge and understanding of what you have learnt throughout the course. The exam is split into 3 sections:

Section A – Core knowledge of all areas of Design Technology (20 marks)

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Section C - Designing and making principles (50 marks)

Sections B and C are where you can choose the questions specialised to your chosen area, **Resistant Materials OR Graphic Products OR Textiles**.

AQA give a brief for the coursework in September at the start of Year 11. Coursework is made up of 5 sections including completing research relevant to the given brief. A range of design ideas are to be created against a specification. These designs then need to be developed into your final idea. This then leads on to you making, testing and the evaluation of your final piece.

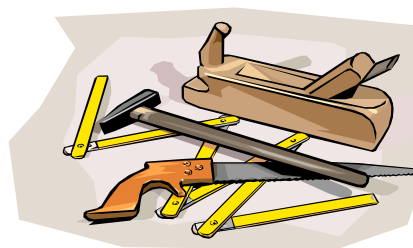
QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- You should enjoy designing, making and be creative
- You will need to be well organised
- You should be confident using a computer in order to develop your designing skills
- You will work independently to complete your coursework

Design and Technology continued

Choose ONE specialised area from:

GCSE Resistant Materials



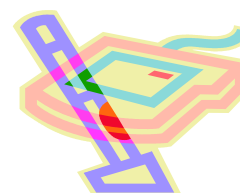
WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Through a series of mini projects during Year 10 you will improve your designing and making skills. Alongside this you will also learn about and use a variety of tools, materials, and machines and how they can be used to create a range of different products. You will also learn about various designers and creations. You will gain experience and knowledge in using CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Manufacture). All this knowledge will help you for your exam and coursework.

OR GCSE Graphics

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

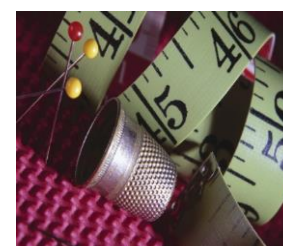
Through a series of mini-Graphics projects during Year 10, you will learn sketching and presentation skills. Alongside this you will also learn and produce a range of technical drawings such as scale drawings and point perspective drawing. Modelling skills will be built upon by working to different briefs and producing Architectural models and designer influenced products. You will also build upon your theory knowledge of materials and processes as we as learn about various designers and their products. You will gain experience and knowledge in using CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Manufacture). All this knowledge will help you for your exam and coursework.



OR GCSE Textiles

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course will allow you to develop textile knowledge and hone practical skills. We look at famous designers, existing products, and the fascinating history of textiles. Practical skills include dyeing, printing, and decorative enhancement. (You are expected to provide your own material for your controlled assessment).



NB: IF YOU DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT USING A SEWING MACHINE, DON'T WORRY! YOU WILL HAVE EXPERT TRAINING – BASIC SKILLS WILL QUICKLY BE LEARNED.

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art (1-9)

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This course could be the first step towards an A Level or simply a way of nurturing your creativity and independence. This could lead to a degree in a number of Art and Design courses or help you to be creative in another course you choose. The range of possible careers you could pursue is enormous; you could become an illustrator, games designer, architect, interior designer, art therapist, arts manager, graphic designer, set designer, fashion designer, costume designer, web designer, car designer etc.



On a practical level, taking this course will help you to improve your technical and aesthetic skills. You will explore a wide range of artists and cultures, as well as social issues in today's ever-changing world. You will learn how to solve problems, and also develop self-set briefs in a practical context while being even more creative.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?



It will begin with a foundation module that includes the basic skills of Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Digital Photography and Alternative media. Students will then explore more independent modules that will cover a broad range of personal themes & explore the visual formal elements of colour, line, form, tone, & texture. All projects will contribute towards the final coursework grade. Students will also be asked to complete an independent sketchbook which will inform them of ideas and starting points throughout the course. The sketchbook phase will begin at the end of Year 9 and be a combination of set activities and personal investigations. Students will also be expected to study artists and link them to their work.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students are assessed on their ability to record ideas and observations in drawings and photographs, research the work of other artists, experiment with materials and how they bring all of this research together into a personal final piece.

The coursework (Unit 1) is completed during year 10 and 11 and counts for 60% of the final grade. The exam project (Unit 2) completed in year 11 is worth 40% of the final grade. Coursework is continually assessed, and work completed throughout both years.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

We are looking for students who have a real interest in art and design, who have engaged with the Year 9 art projects and enjoy the subject so much that they often do art in their spare time. You need to be creative, keen to explore new ideas and techniques, work well in a practical environment and above all, willing to learn to be independent.



You will be highly successful in this subject if you listen to advice, read and respond to feedback from your teacher, attend every lesson and put 100% effort into each and every lesson. It also helps if you can work more independently and are willing to join us, at times, at lunch and after school in the many enrichment sessions we offer. We are looking for **positive** and **creative** students. You do not have to be amazing at drawing or painting but be willing to explore and try hard. If this sounds good, and you enjoy art, then come and join us.

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This course will develop your practical skills as a dancer and choreographer as well as developing your theoretical knowledge and understanding of professional dance works. You will develop a whole host of other transferable skills which will support you in your other studies and future employment including leadership skills, communication, analytical skills, creativity, discipline, commitment, time management and problem solving.



All BTEC Dance students are asked to attend an additional extra-curricular session throughout the two-year programme. This is currently run on Thursdays in Year 10 and Tuesdays in Year 11; the session runs from 3.30-5pm, students opting for Dance are expected to attend these sessions.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Students study three components:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts	Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in Performing Art	Component 3: Responding to a brief
(30% Final Grade)	(30% Final Grade)	(40% Final Grade)
Internal – externally moderated	Internal – externally moderated	External synoptic
You will develop your understanding of Dance by examining the work of Dance professionals and the processes used to create Dance performances	You will develop your Dance skills and techniques through the reproduction of dance repertoire as performers.	You will work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance in response to a brief and stimulus.
<p>Assessment Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8–12 pages of A4 (or equivalent slides for electronic evidence) ● 4–6 minutes of video/digital footage showing your understanding of the professional work explored. 	<p>Assessment Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● video recordings of milestone rehearsals ● milestone reviews ● Video recording of the performance ● written/audio commentary ● annotated photographs 	<p><u>Assessment Evidence:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● an ideas log (up to 800 words) ● a skills log (up to 800 words) ● a performance to an audience (7–15 minutes per group performance) ● an evaluation report completed and saved as a PDF (up to 800 words)

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

We are looking for students who have a love of dance and genuine interest in developing and progressing dance technique and choreographic ability.

- Previous dance experience through extra-curricular dance in or out of school
- Creativity
- Excellent attendance
- Good organisation
- Enthusiasm



GCSE Drama (Eduqas)



WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

You will study a variety of performance styles, theatre practitioners and texts. You will have the opportunity to see and perform live theatre as well as analyse and evaluate it.

This course will also help you to develop key skills that are required for many subjects and future careers that you may wish to pursue. These skills include the ability to work as part of a team; communicate effectively with others; build resilience; lead a group and develop your confidence.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components.

1. Devising Theatre
2. Performing from a Text
3. Interpreting Theatre

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 – Devising Theatre – 40% of the qualification

Learners participate in the creation, development, and performance of a piece of devised theatre, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. Learners will be assessed on either acting or design and must produce:

- A realisation of their piece of devised theatre
- A portfolio of supporting evidence
- An evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text – 20% of the qualification

Learner's study two extracts from the same performance text and will participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts. They will perform this to a visiting examiner. Learners will be assessed on either acting or design.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre – 40% of the qualification

Written exam: 1 Hour 30 Minutes.

- Section A: Students will answer a series of questions on their set text, totalling 45 marks.
- Section B: Live Theatre Review

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

To be successful in GCSE Drama you will need creativity, the ability to work as part of a team, excellent attendance, and willingness to commit to extra rehearsals outside of lesson time.

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production is a practical introduction to life and work in the Creative Media industry, which includes **audio/moving image** (TV programmes, films, animations, radio broadcasts), **publishing** (newspapers, magazines, books, e-magazines, comics) and **interactive** (websites, mobile applications, and games). Students can explore the sector while developing technical skills and techniques, producing digital media products in response to set briefs and reviewing and reflecting on the process and outcome.

During the course, students will discover whether this industry is one they want to be part of, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps.

Successful completion of this course will enable students to continue to further vocational and academic study at Level 3, such as BTEC National Diplomas and/or A Levels.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?



The course is made up of **three** components.

Component 1

Exploring media products in which students explore:

- Content and purpose of digital media products
- Style and the use of digital design principles
- Idea generation and the production process
- Industry regulations and professional practices

Component 2

Developing digital media production skills in which students:

- **Experiment** with a variety of media production skills and techniques
- **Apply** the technical skills that they learn
- **Reflect** on their progress and use of skills, as well as how they could improve

Component 3

Create a media product in response to a brief in which students:

- **Learn** how to respond to a media brief
- **Plan** their response to the brief
- **Apply** skills and techniques to a production
- **Justify** the process and outcome that they have developed
- **Reflect** on their skills & time management

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Following a foundation learning program where students will be introduced to the sectors and skills associated with them, students will complete 3 components, delivered in the format of assignment briefs. Two of these components will be internally assessed and externally verified, while the third is externally set and assessed. Pass, Merit and Distinction grades will be awarded to Level 2 students, however those who do not meet these requirements could be awarded a level 1 qualification.



QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

We are looking for enthusiastic students who are interested in exploring and developing their own creativity, through digital media. Good attendance is essential, along with the ability to work independently as well as collaboratively.

OCR GCSE Music

This is a single option course where you will develop your performing, composing and appraising skills. If you are enthusiastic about music, willing to try new and different styles of music, can work as a team and independently, this is the course for you!



WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

You will develop an interest and enjoyment of music that will be sustained in later life, so that you are inspired, moved, and changed by studying a broad, satisfying, and worthwhile course of study. Your own musical interests and skills including an understanding of how to make music individually and in groups will be developed. You will evaluate your own and others' music and develop understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music. You will develop broader life-skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence, and self-motivation.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

You will develop your ability in performing and composing and develop your listening and appraising skills. Over the two years you will look at the following areas of study:

- The concerto through time
- Rhythms of the world
- Film and game music
- Conventions of pop

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will do a mixture of controlled assessment and some tests:

- Controlled Assessments:
 - Integrated Tasks: a performance on your main instrument; and a composition for your main instrument = 30% of final grade
 - Practical Portfolio: a group performance; a composition based on a set brief = 30% of final grade
- Exams:
 - Listening Exam: you listen to music from the areas of study and answer questions on it = 40% of final grade

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Imagination
- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Have the ability to work in a team
- Perseverance and an ability to take/act on advice
- Join extra-curricular activities to extend and support your musical progression
- Students **must** have instrumental lessons at school or at home to succeed in this course

Successful students will practice their instrument regularly, perform at concerts and events and attend extra tutorials such as Music Theory Club to develop their musical skills.

GCSE Physical Education FULL COURSE

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This course is for students who have an interest in sport and who have actively participated in Physical Education over the last three years. A good grade at GCSE PE will help you:

- Move onto any advanced subsidiary and advanced course including Physical Education
- Move onto any vocational related course such as Leisure and Recreation
- Pursue employment opportunities where your skills will be particularly valued, for example the sport and leisure industry, travel, tourism, and teaching

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

AQA GCSE Full Course Physical Education is a subject that contains both **theoretical** and **practical** elements. You will participate in a range of practical activities including football, basketball, badminton, netball, hockey, circuit training, rounders, and trampolining. During theory lessons you will learn about the skeleton, muscles, joints, the circulatory and respiratory system, sports psychology, how we can improve performance, training methods, diet, and sports injuries.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Practical Component

Your final practical grade is worth 40% of your final grade and includes the following:

A practical examination mark for **three** final practical activities – **Controlled Assessment** (30% of final grade. One must be a **team** activity; the second must be an **individual** activity and the third is a choice of a **further team or individual** activity.

An externally moderated mark for a Performance Analysis and Evaluation (PAE) (10% of final grade).

Theoretical Component

There are 2 exams worth 60% of your final grade:

- Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport
1 hour 15 minutes (30% final grade)
- Social and Cultural Wellbeing and Influences in Physical Activity and Sport
1 hour 15 minutes (30% final grade)

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

To take this course, it is necessary that you:

Complete a three-part **GCSE PE Practical Assessment**, which will entail:

- Multistage Fitness Test
- Sporting Profile Questionnaire
- GCSE Practical Skills Assessment

You should also:

- Regularly participate in all practical Physical Education lessons in Year 9
- Achieve a strong science **and** English grade at the end of Year 9
- Participate in extra-curricular sporting clubs inside and outside school
- Are willing and motivated to improve your sporting performance
- Compete in one sport at a very good level



OCR Cambridge National Level 1/2 in Sports Studies

WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE in both size and rigour. It is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in sport. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications.

Cambridge Nationals have clear progression routes to A Levels, Apprenticeships, or further advanced vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as BTEC Sport.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development, and sports leadership to their own practical performance in a range of sports.

They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies consists of 3 units over 2 years. There are **TWO mandatory units and ONE optional unit.**

Mandatory Units: – both required

- R184: **Contemporary issues in sport** - External Exam (40% of Final Grade)

The exam must be taken in the final assessment series of Year 11. The result from the exam taken in the final series will be the one that counts towards a student's overall grade.

- R052: **Performance & Leadership in Sports Activities** – Centre Assessed – NEA (30% of Final Grade)

Optional Unit:

- R186: **Sport & the Media** – Centre Assessed - NEA (30% of Final Grade)

Centre Assessed Non-Examined Assessment units (NEA) are moderated by the OCR exam board and allow all students two opportunities to achieve the best mark in these units. Only the highest scoring entry will be used towards the final grade.

Cambridge National courses are graded like the following: L1 Pass, L1 Merit, L1 Distinction, L2 Pass, L2 Merit, L2 Distinction & L2 Distinction *

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Interested in studying sport and taking part in sporting activities
- Motivated to work independently to meet assignment deadlines
- Regularly participate in all practical Physical Education lessons in Year 9
- Willing to coach and organise sporting activities for younger students and motivated to improve your own performance

OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 in Child Development

WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE in both size and rigour. It is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Child Development. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Sociology and Biology. Researching, planning, observing, and evaluating skills are developed, which are transferable skills and would be of use in further studies in a number of areas.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

All students will study three mandatory units:

- **Health and Well-being for Child Development:**

Students will develop the essential knowledge and understanding in child development, covering Factors affecting pre-conception health, types of contraception methods, the structure and function of the reproductive systems, both male and female, conception, signs and symptoms of pregnancy, antenatal care including screening and diagnostic tests, choices for delivery, pain relief, labour and birth, postnatal checks and care for the pregnant mother and baby, childhood illnesses and safe environment.

Assessment: OCR exam paper - 1hr and 15 min. (40% of the final grade)

- **Create a Safe Environment and the Nutritional Needs of Children from Birth to Five years:**

Students will gain knowledge on how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings. Students will investigate and choose equipment that is both suitable and safe for use and will learn about their nutrition and dietary needs of children.

Assessment: NEA (Non-Examination Assessment), centre assessed/OCR moderated task (30% of the final grade)

- **The Development of a Child from One to Five Years:**

Students will learn the expected developmental norms for children from one to five years. You will use observation and research techniques and skills to investigate these development norms and explore your findings. Students will also learn the importance of creating plans and providing different play activities to support children in their development. Students will be required to observe a child between the ages of 2 and 5 years of age, and best practice suggests that students should find their own. However, if this is not possible, arrangements can be made.

Assessment: NEA (Non-Examination Assessment), centre assessed/OCR moderated task (30% of the final grade)

Students will also have the opportunity to hire a 'RealCare' baby simulator and gain a unique experience in looking after a baby. (This is a voluntary activity and students will receive a report and a certificate of completion).

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Hardworking and organised
- Enjoy research and coursework
- Be able to engage with children
- Ability to work with others in pairs or groups
- Ability to meet regular deadlines

GCSE Media Studies



WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The media plays a central role in our world. Films, TV programmes, websites, radio broadcasts, adverts, newspapers, music videos, video games; they all shape our view of the world through the representations, viewpoints, and messages they offer. To study media is to understand the processes that go in to creating your favourite television show or computer game. It investigates how producers express certain ideas and how audiences might respond to these. It is important to study the media as it helps us to understand the world we live in, one where audiences are increasingly interacting with media and becoming producers of media texts themselves. In addition, you will develop practical and creative skills through coursework. The media has real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, express ourselves and the ability to participate in society; just think about the last # movement you took part in or saw on your online feed. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate on a global scale and this course will prepare you for studying at A Level and be a stepping stone into employment into the creative industries.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

In Year 10 you will develop the ability to analyse a wide range of media, this includes studying a number of set products such as specific adverts, film posters, magazines, newspapers, computer games and radio. Students will develop media language to analyse these media and engage with key issues and debates, including stereotyping of groups, and the effects media may have on people. Towards the end of Year 10 you will complete your practical controlled assessment, which will develop your graphic design and/or video production skills. In Year 11 you will also study television, music artists and their videos as well as their associated websites in more depth.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two written exams with a combined worth of 70% of the GCSE course and both will be sat in the summer of Year 11. In addition, students will work independently on practical coursework (Non-Exam Assessment) which will require them to research, plan and produce their own media texts. This is based on a set brief provided by the exam board which changes yearly. However, examples may include making a music video or website for a new band, print or online magazine pages, television sequences or film marketing. The coursework portfolio is worth 30% of the GCSE course.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- A genuine enthusiasm for a broad range of media texts such as television, newspapers, film
- An ability and willingness to share views on texts that you have studied
- You will need to be willing to analyse texts and your analysis should reveal a confident knowledge of audience, genre, and narrative
- You will need to be organised and be able to meet deadlines
- The creative work will demand a high level of commitment and students will need to be confident and informed to produce original texts of their own

Students do not need to have any prior experience with Photoshop or film editing software to succeed in the practical aspects of the course.

GCSE Psychology



WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. The course will develop your understanding of how we think and how we behave. The course looks at the role of biological, social, developmental, and cognitive factors in explaining why we respond to things around us in certain ways. You will also learn about the mental health conditions and the treatments and therapies available. You can continue studying Psychology in more depth at A Level at Plume College.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course will involve studying theories and explanations of behaviour, understanding research which has been conducted and making conclusions about them. You will be using a lot of information to make informed conclusions and debate the credibility of the evidence we use. You will also carry out your own scientific investigations of psychological processes.

You will be studying the following topics on the course:

Year 1: Cognition and Behaviour

- **Memory** – How we store memories and how we forget things
- **Perception** – How we see the world we live in and how illusions trick us
- **Development** – How we develop our thought processes and understanding
- **Research methods** – How Psychologists test theories

Year 2: Social Context and Behaviour

- **Social influence** – The influence of other people on our behaviour
- **Language, thought and communication** – Theories of development of language and thoughts
- **Brain and neuropsychology** – The structure of the brain and how it works
- **Psychological problems** – Psychopathology; the study of mental health issues

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will complete 2 written papers, each lasting an hour and forty-five minutes. These include multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions. There is no coursework element. The course is graded Level 9-1.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You should have a genuine interest in scientific explanations of behaviour, and an interest in learning new and alternative theories. You should also have the ability to consider the strengths and weaknesses of these explanations. This will involve written work, using statistical methods, working independently to produce your own research and meet the deadlines given throughout the course. Enjoying reading and writing is a must.

GCSE Sociology



WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Sociology helps students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society and the world around us. You learn about what sociologists' study and understand society's structures, processes and issues. Sociology is exciting, interesting, and relevant to students' lives!

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour and considers the role of different institutions such as the school, the family, and the criminal justice system. It will develop skills such as debating, evaluating, and constructing an argument which will prepare you well for progressing to A Levels at Plume College as well as in employment and careers such as teaching, law, police work, social work.

WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Sociology is the study of society and the many things that we have experience of. This course encourages students to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing their critical, evaluative skills. It often requires discussion and debate. However, you will need to be able to construct an argument to support your point of view as well as be able to listen to and appreciate other people's points of view. It encourages you to think about things in a different way and not necessarily take for granted the ideas you may have. You will engage with a range of sociological questions by applying theories and research from a selection of key texts.

In Unit 1 you will focus on:

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

In Unit 2 you will study:

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

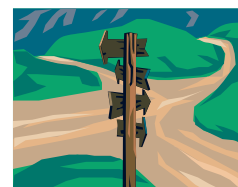
HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will complete 2 exam papers at the end of Year 11 each lasting one hour and forty-five minutes. There is no coursework. The course is graded Level 9-1.

QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

Students should have an interest in the world around them and in explaining and questioning why things happen. They should enjoy discussing academic arguments and social issues but also be prepared to support their arguments through research and clearly structured written work. Enjoying reading and writing is a must.

Princes Trust Key Stage 4 Pathway



For some students a programme based exclusively on GCSE and BTEC courses may not be the most appropriate preparation for future employment. If you like learning practical skills and have a real interest in a particular vocational area, then you should consider The Prince's Trust Personal Development and Employability Programme. Plume Academy has developed strong links with external stakeholders to provide a well-rounded vocational qualification to enhance and empower the individual for their next steps:

Units We Offer (subject to change)

Presentation Skills - students are encouraged to build their confidence and self-esteem through a series of activities resulting in the student presenting information to their group in a professional manner.

Career Planning - a unit dedicated to helping students understand their potential and research opportunities and career ideas and full guidance of staff, student will produce and practice paperwork ready to apply for courses and paid employment for the future.

Digital Skills - to learn the importance of being responsible online and having a safe platform to use as well as having a professional online brand.

Managing Money - students will learn how to manage money through working out needs and wants, and the essential payments that have to be made, staff engage students to learn about debt management, interest rates, saving, borrowing and decision-making.

Preparing for the world of work - students will work on this unit to help them find an extended placement of work experience, they will be encouraged to research and learn about their chosen vocation and how to get the best out of their placement.

Experiencing the world of work- this unit runs in line with an extended work placement at the end of Year 10

Year 11

Personal project - students are encouraged to plan, research and prepare a project that could be implemented at the academy.

Customer experience - student will learn what a customer is and how business use customers to generate revenue, the importance of service impact. Students are encouraged to take part in customer activities.

Teamwork - students will be encouraged to take part in activities as a team to learn the importance of working with others to achieve goals. Trips are encouraged for students to take part in outdoor activities.

Wellbeing - this unit concentrates on self-management through healthy eating to mental awareness and dealing with stresses and pressures for their age group.

Prince's Trust Key Stage 4 Pathway continued...

WHAT WILL I DO IF I CHOOSE A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COURSE?

You will attend school as normal, Prince's Trust lessons will be integrated into your timetable

THE PRINCE'S TRUST AT KEY STAGE 4

The programme has been designed as a two-year programme which is run throughout Year 10 and Year 11. Units are specially selected to cater for the needs of the cohort and to help them develop the skills needed to be successful at Key Stage 4 and beyond. Students will also have the benefit of an extended work experience placement at the end of Year 10. We encourage students to choose a vocationally relevant placement to assist them in their next steps.

WHAT QUALITIES DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THS PROGRAMME?

- The ability to adapt your learning from theoretical lesson-based qualifications in school and a more practical holistic style of learning when gathering evidence for your vocational qualifications.
- organisational skills to ensure you bring the right equipment on the days as well as being able to be punctual to your lessons and adhere to transport times.

CAN ANYONE TAKE THE PRINCES TRUST QUALIFICATION?

Any student who would like to follow this pathway is carefully mentored throughout the whole process, to ensure that the choices and decisions they make are right for them.

If you are interested in this pathway, you will have an initial meeting with a member of the learning team, to discuss the different options and look at how suitable the course is to the individual. Staff will then guide and help you in making the right choice for you.

