



Heworth Grange  
School

*Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions*



# Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2026

This preferences booklet belongs to: .....

Dear Year 9 student,

You are about to enter the next important stage in your school life. Over the next two academic years you will be following a range of examination courses that will provide you with your first set of school certificates and, hopefully, lead to further successes as you leave Heworth Grange to follow your Post-16 education or training.

Up to now you have been studying a wide range of subjects at Key Stage 3 as part of a balanced curriculum that has provided you with a firm foundation for your next steps. In fact, you have followed a range of subjects that has met all the requirements of the National Curriculum, and more.

In September you will progress to Key Stage 4, where each of the subjects taught have a specification which takes a certain amount of lesson time to get through. This makes it impossible to study an unlimited number of subjects in Years 10 and 11; you need to make some choices. This is what the preferences process is for.

To reach the best possible solution we make sure you follow courses that you have to do to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum, and then we give you a choice of subjects to fill the remainder of your curriculum time in school. Therefore, some of your subjects will be compulsory (we call them the 'core' subjects), and some are optional. The optional subjects may be traditional GCSE and/or vocational qualifications. There is more information about the different types of qualification later in this booklet.

Please read this options booklet carefully. It will give you an overview of the different subjects that you may be able to choose, as well as an overview of each of the core subjects. This is an exciting time in your education where you get to make some choices, please make sure that you consider them carefully, and take note of all the advice and guidance that is given to you.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. B Vause

Associate Assistant Principal



## Key Stage 4 information

Key Stage 4 at Heworth Grange School refers to the curriculum followed by students in Years 10 and 11. In Key Stage 4, students study courses that result in them gaining qualifications at the end of Year 11. Our school's curriculum

The courses that all students at Heworth Grange follow in Years 10 and 11 are:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science
- Core PE\*
- Personal development\*

*\* These courses are non-examined courses that form part of the National Curriculum*

In addition to this, there are several optional subjects available which allow students to follow courses aligned to their interests and aspirations. Each student gets to select **four** additional subjects to study along the core subjects.

In terms of lesson time, within a two-week timetable of 50 hours the subjects will be allocated the following time:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Number of lessons per fortnight</i>
GCSE Mathematics	8
GCSE English Language & Literature	10
GCSE Combined Science	8
Core PE	2
Personal development	2
Optional subject 1	5
Optional subject 2	5
Optional subject 3	5
Optional Subject 4	5

## Types of Qualification – an Overview

### GCSE

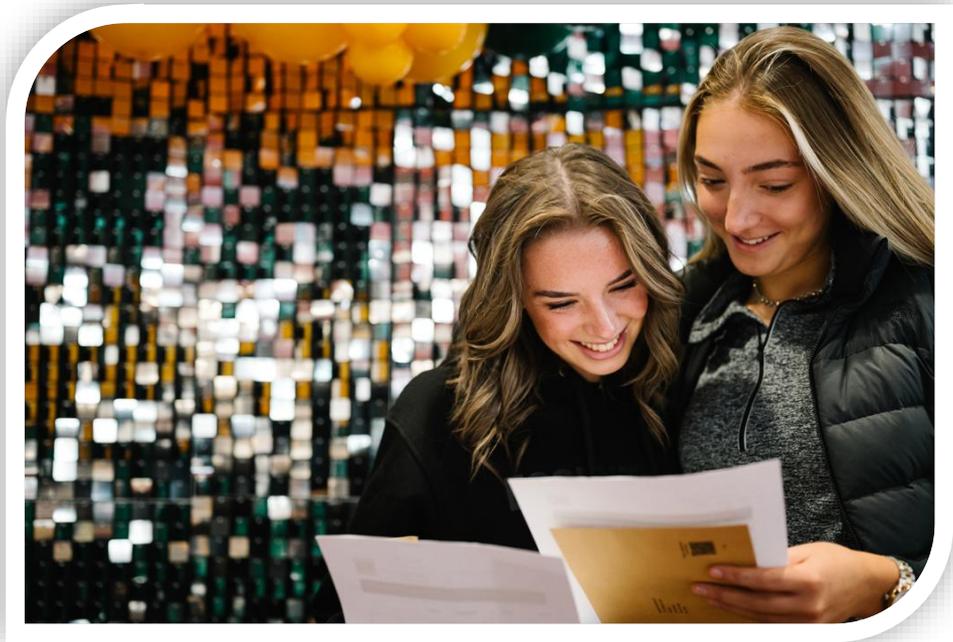
- GCSE qualifications are graded using the 9-1 system.
- Assessment is usually terminal examination papers; this means that you are assessed purely through written examination papers at the end of Year 11.
- In a small minority of subjects, there is a coursework component to the course. This coursework is usually completed under controlled conditions.
- The vast majority of GCSE courses require large bulks of knowledge to be recalled and understood.

### Vocational – BTEC, NCFE, and Cambridge National

- Graded using the Level 1 and Level 2 system, with each level split into Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit, Pass
- One vocational qualification is equivalent to one GCSE qualification.
- Assessment of vocational courses is usually a combination of portfolio work (coursework) and terminal examination papers – this is outlined for each subject later in the booklet.
- Vocational courses are often work-related, and are valued by further education institutions and colleges.

## Life beyond Year 11

The choices you make at this point in your school career will shape your future at Heworth Grange for the next two years. They are also the gateway to education or training beyond Year 11. This may be a sixth form, college, apprenticeship, or another form of employment-based training. This booklet is designed to support you in selecting appropriate courses for study at Key Stage 4 in preparation for your next steps.



*Heworth Grange students celebrating success on receiving their examination results at the end of Year 11.*

## Making the right choices

We are asking you to make choices about which subjects you wish to study in Years 10 and 11. You may not have decided on a career path yet and you are finding your choices difficult. Do not worry about this; you are not alone. Even if you have a good idea now about a future career you may find that you change your mind in the months to come.

In our school we help you through this time in two ways. Firstly, we have designed the option system in such a way that it will give you a balanced choice of subjects that will let you take different career paths in the future, even if you do change your mind. Secondly, we provide you with ongoing careers education throughout Years 9, 10 and 11.

You should choose a subject because you really want to do it, and not just because your friends have chosen it. Remember, you may not be put in the same class as they are and so you should not let this influence your choices. Also be aware that we cannot guarantee your favourite teacher so do not pick an option because you like your current teacher. It is the subject itself that matters.

Your parents/carers play an important part in giving you support and guidance. They will have read your school reports and followed your progress very closely, so they are in a good position to give you unbiased advice.

## Next steps

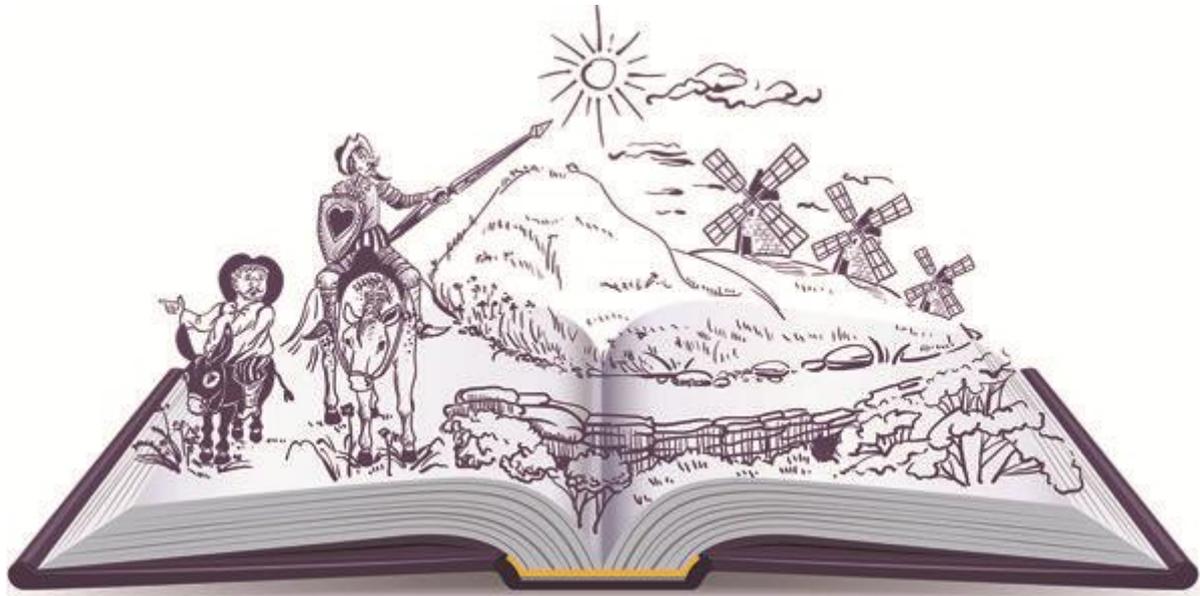
- Read the course information provided in this booklet.
- Discuss your subject choices with parents/carers, your advisory teacher, and your subject teachers.
- Decide which subjects you wish to study, and which courses you will have as 'reserves.'
- Complete your options form electronically by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## Core subject: GCSE English Language

Qualification & exam board: GCSE English Language, Eduqas  
Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

You will learn to write to describe, narrate, entertain, persuade, and argue in an effective way. You will read extracts from fiction and non-fiction and learn how to analyse these to show the writer's intentions and how they affect the reader.



### How will I learn?

The course is essentially classroom based but you will be given the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge through other media, such as the use of the internet. You will develop your understanding of topics covered and share your ideas through regular formal class discussion.

### How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers:

- Component 1: 20th Century Literature & Creative Prose Writing, 1hr 45mins
- Component 2: Non Fiction 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Non-Fiction Reading & Persuasive Writing, 2hrs

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

All pupils have a variety of interests and there is scope within the Literature course for you to write and share these interests with others. A range of texts are included in the course to cater for all tastes. Some texts will be familiar, while others will inspire you as a reader.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The development of the skills of critically analysing texts complement the skills you develop when studying for English Language. Elements studied in this course will have an impact on all subjects, which in turn opens the door to all sorts of opportunities.

## Core subject: GCSE English Literature

Qualification & exam board: GCSE English Literature, Eduqas  
Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

You will study a range of texts including Shakespeare, 19th century novels, Gothic and Dystopian fiction. You will also study poetry, plays and non-fiction texts. These texts give you a broad knowledge of literature through the ages and you will learn to understand, analyse and appreciate the authors and their methods of writing.

### How will I learn?

GCSE English Literature offers the opportunity to explore texts from a personal perspective and offers an experience of Literature today as well as the English Literary Heritage. You will have opportunities to work with your class members to discuss your responses to key themes from the literature you have studied.

### How will I be assessed?

Two examination Papers:

- Component 1: Shakespeare & Poetry, 2hrs
- Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry, 2hrs 30mins

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

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## Core subject: GCSE Mathematics

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Mathematics, Edexcel & OCR

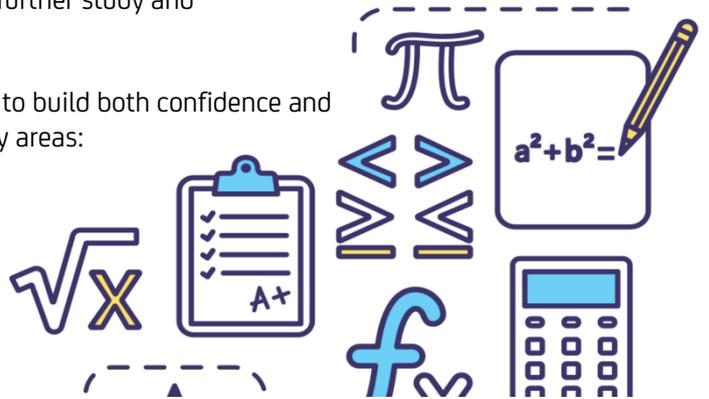
Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

GCSE Mathematics is a gateway qualification that keeps the widest range of future pathways open. It develops logical thinking, problem-solving skills and resilience, all essential for further study and employment.

The GCSE Mathematics course is broad, coherent and designed to build both confidence and fluency. Students will deepen their understanding across six key areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio & Proportion
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability
- Statistics



Students will not only learn methods but understand *why* they work. They will apply mathematics to real-life contexts and develop the ability to reason, explain and justify their thinking.

### How will I learn?

In maths, we believe every student can succeed in Mathematics through structured practice, clear explanations and purposeful feedback. Lessons include:

- Clear teacher modelling and demonstration
- Guided practice to build confidence
- Independent problem-solving
- Regular retrieval practice to strengthen memory
- Structured homework through Sparx Mathematics
- Opportunities to explain and discuss mathematical ideas

Students learn through a consistent approach that supports long-term understanding and exam success.

### How will I be assessed?

GCSE assessments are tiered within Mathematics into Foundation and Higher. Foundation grade allows you to achieve grades 1 – 5. Higher grade allows you to achieve grades 3 – 9. There are 3 written papers. Each is worth 33.3% of the final grade. There are two calculator papers and one no calculator paper.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Successful students in Mathematics are willing to practise regularly and learn from their mistakes. They show resilience when tackling unfamiliar problems and are prepared to think carefully before giving up. You will need to communicate your reasoning clearly, both verbally and in writing, and be able to work independently as well as collaboratively. Most importantly, you should come with a positive attitude and a commitment to improving, we will provide the structure, guidance and support to help you succeed.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A strong GCSE in Mathematics is essential for further education, apprenticeships and employment. It is a key requirement for many Sixth Form and college courses and supports progression into A-Level study across a wide range of subjects. Mathematics opens doors to careers such as engineering, medicine, architecture, accountancy, economics, data science, teaching and business, making it one of the most valuable qualifications you will achieve at school.

## Core subject: GCSE Combined Science

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Combined Science (trilogy), AQA  
Assessment: 100% examination



### What will I learn?

#### Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation, and evolution
- Ecology

#### Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

#### Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

### How will I learn?

In science you can expect to learn through a variety of activities, including practical and written work, watching demonstrations, and actively engaging your brain!

### How will I be assessed?

- Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics.
- Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Tiers: Foundation and Higher.
- Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Mathematical and English skills will be utilised throughout the course. Practical skills will be developed.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Science helps you explain the world around you; the skills and knowledge you gain on this course will help you in every stage of your life. Science develops analytical skills which are valuable for an array of careers. Academically it leads into A/S & A2 courses including all three sciences (Physics, Biology and Chemistry), as well as Applied Science.

Science GCSE is also required for a lot of jobs and courses as a 'core' subject (e.g., teaching) even if it is not studied to a further level. Combined Science draws much of its content from the single science qualifications. You'll explore exciting topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and sit six exams – gaining the equivalent of two GCSEs. It's excellent preparation if you want to study science after Key Stage 4.

## Option subject: GCSE Computer Science

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Computer Science, OCR  
Assessment: 100% examination



### What will I learn?

The computer systems unit will teach you the theory about a wide range of topics such as hardware and software, databases, computer communications, networking, ethical, environmental, legal, and moral issues. This will provide the basis of your understanding as to how computer systems function. The programming unit will introduce you to algorithms, programming techniques and how data is represented in a computer. You will learn how to develop solutions in a variety of programming languages including python and JavaScript.

### How will I learn?

This two-unit course is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will learn through a combination of theory and practical tasks in the classroom and at home, with hands on experience of computer systems and network technology.

### How will I be assessed?

Linear assessment is used for this course with 2 exams at the end of Year 11, each exam accounts for 50% of your GCSE.

- Unit 1 - Computer Systems - Written Paper 50% of the qualification
- Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms & programming - Written Paper 50% of the qualification

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You must enjoy solving problems. There will be an expectation that you are willing to undertake tasks independently. You will need to be able to think logically and have a keen interest in computer technology.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

If you take a GCSE in Computer Science, you can go on to study the subject at A Level. The increasing importance of Computing means there is a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field.

## Option subject: Digital Information Technology

Qualification & exam board: BTEC Technical Award, Pearson

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

### What will I learn?

Throughout the course you will learn a wide range of skills in using digital information technology. You will have the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. You will develop key skills in project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards to present and interpret data. You will also learn effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.

### How will I learn?

The three units you will study all have aspects of theory and practical based learning. You will be able to use a range of software applications within lesson to support your learning and prepare you for your written exam and coursework elements of the course.

### How will I be assessed?

There are key assessment points within your course. Meeting deadlines for the 2 coursework units and then sitting your written exam in Year 11. The coursework accounts for 60% of your overall grade and the written exam accounts for 40% of your overall grade.

- Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques– Coursework 30% of the qualification
- Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data– Coursework 30% of the qualification
- Effective Digital Working Practices – Written Paper 40% of the qualification

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You should enjoy using computer technology and have an interest as to how you used a wide range of software packages. You will hopefully be looking to develop your computer proficiency for future use in the workplace. You should be a reflective learner and be able to work independently whilst completing your coursework tasks. An interest in digital technology and games technology will help you progress in this course.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

If you take the Digital Information Technology course you could go on to study A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects. You could study a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.



## Option subject: BTEC Dance

Qualification & exam board: BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts  
Assessment: 40% examination, 60% internal assessment

### What will I learn?

Students will develop knowledge in physical, technical and expressive skills through a range of styles in workshops and practical performances. Students will communicate choreographic intention and develop their individual qualities as performers, choreographers, and designers. Students will develop a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic, and cultural contexts.



### How will I learn?

You will learn through the following 3 components:

#### **Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts.**

In this component you will get a taste of what it's like to be a professional dancer, choreographer, or designer. You will explore contrasting styles of dance including, hip-hop, contemporary, jazz, and musical theatre and learn new techniques and approaches in these specific styles. You will watch a live theatre performance and research how the different roles, responsibilities and skills involved in a performing arts production contribute to the performance, such as costume design, director, choreographer, dancer, actor and more.

Students can take complete ownership for how they produce their findings of professional set works and will create a portfolio which may include, a written report (digital or paper based), a scrapbook (digital or paper based) a video of a presentation with accompanying slides or an audio podcast recording/ blog/vlog. This is completely catered to you as a learner.

#### **Component 2 - Developing skills and techniques.**

You will develop skills and techniques in a range of dance styles including hip hop, contemporary, jazz, and musical theatre. You will gain physical, interpretative, and rehearsal skills during workshops led by Mrs Gatenby and other practitioners from professional dance schools in the North East. You will apply technical, stylistic, and interpretative skills in a range of performances and reflect on your progress by a written, audio or video commentary.

#### **Component 3 - Performing to a brief.**

In this unit you will consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts and put this into practice in a performance. You will work as part of a group and use the skills you have learnt from component 1 and 2 to come up with ideas for a performance of your choice. You will take full ownership for this performance, taking on the role as dancer, choreographer, and designer. You will decide the costume choice, lighting, set and use of props and what style of dance music you want to perform to. It will be performed to an audience in the theatre, and you will evaluate your choreographic process, skills you've used and the live performance.

The performance will be recorded and sent to external moderation to the exam board. Students will sit a controlled assessment and complete 3 written activities where they discuss their role in the performance and how they contributed and responded to the brief.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You need to be able to work as part of a team, communicating effectively and listening to others. You need to have excellent time management and commitment to meet deadlines and use rehearsal time effectively, both in class time and as part of extra-curricular. You need to be enthusiastic and resilient in workshops exploring practical elements of dance and always give every task 100% effort.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This is a foundation for college and university progression into performing arts, a physical education degree or any other course where interpersonal skills such as communication, leadership, resilience, and commitment is needed. You could work as part of an occupational health team within the NHS or other health services, using Dance as the foundation for occupational health, including Dance therapy and play therapy, working with vulnerable people in the community to either encourage physical movement or to improve emotional and mental well-being.

## Option subject: GCSE Drama



Qualification & exam board: GCSE Drama, AQA

Assessment: 40% written examination, 60% practical examination

### What will I learn?

GCSE Drama helps you develop new and existing skills in drama. This specification offers you the opportunity to specialise either as a performer or a technician. The course is an appropriate foundation for progression in Drama and Theatre Studies.

To complete the course, you can either work as a **Performer (Actor)** or in a technical role in one of the following disciplines:

- Lighting design
- Sound design
- Set design
- Costume design

You will also develop a thorough knowledge and comprehension of a set text: *Blood Brothers*. Within this study, you will get the opportunity to perform various roles from the play as well as analysing characterisation and design elements. You will have the opportunity to watch a Live Performance which will aid your Live Theatre analysis in the written exam.

### How will I learn?

There is a balance between practical and written work. Students do need to be committed to this subject and may need to spend time after school rehearsing. Students will learn by performing and studying the performances of others. Students will be expected to work with one another throughout this course.

For students who choose a design specialism, we have the facilities – a working theatre with lights, a very full costume store and a recording studio – to enhance your learning.

### How will I be assessed?

Component	What is assessed?	How is it assessed?
1: Understanding Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre</li><li>• Study of one set play from a choice of six</li><li>• Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes (Open book 80 marks)</li><li>• <b>40% of GCSE</b></li></ul>
2: Devising Drama (Practical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Process of creating devised drama</li><li>• Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)</li><li>• Analysis and evaluation of own work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Devising log (60 marks)</li><li>• Devised performance (20 marks)</li><li>• <b>80 marks in total</b></li><li>• <b>40% of GCSE</b></li></ul>
3: Texts in practice (Practical)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)</li><li>• Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks)</li><li>• <b>40 marks in total</b></li><li>• <b>20% of GCSE</b></li></ul>



### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You should have a passion for the arts and be able to work as part of a team. You will need to be creative, innovative, and reflective. An interest in performing and designing is imperative.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A GCSE in Drama can be beneficial for absolutely any career path, due to the transferable skills you acquire. Ultimately, Drama can give you confidence and strong interpersonal skills.

Ex-students have gone on to do well in the film/television business, successful students have worked on TV shows like *Vera*, *Casualty* and *Coronation Street*. One ex-student runs his own theatre production company, putting on shows in professional theatres and running workshops in schools.

## Option subject: NCFE Creative Design & Production

Qualification & exam board: NCFE Technical Award

Assessment: 40% written examination, 60% non-exam assessment

### What will I learn?

As part of the course you will learn:

- Design and production in context: including design movements and design principles.
- Design materials and processes: including investigating materials, the design process and digital design and manufacture opportunities
- Design brief and production processes: including interpreting a design brief and communication skills
- Presentation of a design solution: including purposes and methods of presentation and presentation skills
- Review of processes and solution: including review of the process and summative review
- Working in the design production sector: including employment and career opportunities, product promotion and self-promotion



### How will I learn?

Students will be encouraged to build a variety of skills through creative experimentation. It incorporates practical skills through hands-on experiences, alongside a wider understanding of employment/career opportunities and promotion skills that develops the learner's understanding of the design and production sector more widely.

### How will I be assessed?

Non exam assessment (60%): Learners will respond to a brief set by the exam board. This will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational areas. It is an internally assessed piece of work where learners create a portfolio of evidence based in a response to a real-life situation that they may face when in employment.

Examined assessment (40%): Learners will complete an exam set and marked by the exam board. A variety of assessment questions will be used, including multiple choice, short answer, and extended response.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production is designed for learners who want an introduction to design and production that includes a vocational and project-based element, approached from a creative perspective with regular opportunities to experiment and create. This qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the design and production sector or progress to further study. Although this is a practical course, learners are required to study the key components in theory lessons and apply their knowledge to written tasks.

Students will need to be able to:

- Develop their own ideas and adapt them in response to feedback
- Evaluate their own work
- Work independently
- Work to deadlines
- Demonstrate entrepreneurial skills, including self-promotion
- Demonstrate effective communication skills

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

- A Level Design and Technology (this will support progression to higher education)
- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Art and Design
- Level 3 Technical Level in Engineering: Design (this will support progression to higher education)
- Level 3 Technical Level in Art and Design (this will support progression to higher education)
- T Level in Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing

Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the industry through a variety of occupations that are available within the industry, such as interior designer, design studio assistant or furniture maker.

## Option subject: BTEC Enterprise

Qualification & exam board: BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, Pearson

Assessment: 40% written examination, 60% internal controlled assessments

### What will I learn?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills, such as problem solving, research, decision making, innovation, project management, planning and communication. Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- Exploring enterprises, including understanding of enterprise and entrepreneurs, how market research helps enterprises to meet customer needs and understand competitors, and how internal and external factors affect decisions made by enterprises.
- Planning and pitching a micro-enterprise, including generating ideas, creating a business plan and culminating in a business pitch and review.
- Understanding and application of knowledge of how SMEs promote and finance their business.



### How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of teaching methods; theory lessons using teacher led presentations, business case studies, knowledge quizzes, guest speakers and practical activities such as team problem solving and peer presentations.

### How will I be assessed?

Using various types of assessment, including controlled assessments where learners are expected to produce mini reports and business plans. Presentations where learners are required to produce a 'Dragons Den' style enterprise pitch. As well as traditional exams to assess finance and marketing knowledge.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- Organisation and time management skills are essential to meet coursework deadlines.
- You need to be quietly confident and not afraid to present in front of the class.
- Excellent IT skills as most of the course is delivered using computers.
- A keen interest in business and the UK economy.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the enterprise sector. You will have built useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses. If

you decide to go on to further study of enterprise, you could progress to a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC National. Various apprenticeships are also available in the business sector.

## Option subject: GCSE Film Studies

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Film Studies, Eduqas  
Assessment: 70% examination, 30% coursework

### What will I learn?

The WJEC Eduqas specification in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology.

Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from Europe, including the UK, South Africa, and Australia.

Production is an important part of this specification and is integral to learners' study of film. Studying a diverse range of films from several different contexts is designed to give learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to their own filmmaking and screenwriting. This is intended to support learners in producing creative films and screenplays as well as enable their production work to provide an informed filmmaker's perspective on their own study of film.

### How will I learn?

- Component 1 – Key Developments in U.S Film (Assessment - Exam)
- Component 2- Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style (Assessment - Exam)
- Component 3- Production (Coursework - either film making or screenwriting)

Throughout the course, learners will study:

- how films are constructed – through cinematography (camerawork and lighting), mise-en-scène (how sets, locations, props and costume are used in film), editing and sound
- how films are organised into structures – genre (the different kinds of film) and narrative (how films tell their stories)
- how films can be used – artistically (the aesthetic qualities of film) and as a way of communicating ideas and issues (representation)
- how to make sense of film through exploring a film's relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional), through an awareness of key aspects of the history of film and through specialist writing on film.

### How will I be assessed?

- Component 1 - Examination (35%)
- Component 2 - Examination (35%)
- Component 2 - Coursework (30%)

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

This qualification will be right for you if:

- You enjoy watching TV and movies.
- You are good at literacy & have strong ICT skills.



- You want to be able to create an imaginative film extract which engages an audience.
- You are looking to gain critical analytical skills in preparation for entering the workplace.

Studying Film enables you to see the world in a completely different light and develop a wide range of transferable skills for further education, work, and life:

- Creative Thinking
- Critical Thinking
- Emotional Intelligence
- Film Analysis
- Textual Analysis
- Communication
- Research skills
- Literacy
- Technical competencies (i.e., filming and editing)

Students of Film Studies are the students of the future, gaining the skills needed to develop healthy careers and great academic minds.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The development of deeper critical and creative thinking gained by studying film can enhance many different career paths and is a much sought after transferable skill in both employment and further study.

Further education – go on to study filmmaking or film criticism at college or university.

Production work – ex-students have gone on to do well in the film/television business, successful students have worked on TV shows like *Vera*, *Casualty* and *Coronation Street*.

Film Studies can also lead into careers in Psychology, Fashion, Textiles, English Literature, English Language, Drama, Dance, Sociology and Media Studies.



## Option subject: GCSE Fine Art

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Fine Art, Eduqas

Assessment: 40% externally-set examination, 60% coursework project

### What will I learn?

You will learn how to research the work of others, and how their work can influence and develop your creative thinking. You will experiment and record with a range of materials, exploring mediums such as drawing, paint, graphic art, clay and print. You will present your journey within a sketchbook showing your critical understanding of skills, techniques, and processes.

### How will I learn?

Fine art is an independent subject where students gain the opportunity to develop their own projects through one-to-one tutorials with their teacher. You have the chance to control your project, making personal artist choices, medium choices, and themes. You will have a range of personalised tasks to complete within your lesson, which are set within your tutorial. Students can be guided to help with creative thinking if needed.

### How will I be assessed?

- 25% Artist research – looking at the work of other artists and cultures.
- 25% Experimentation – working with a variety of mediums, critically evaluating your success.
- 25% Recording – creating art, annotation, and photography.
- 25% Presentation – the story of your project summarised within an outcome.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Students should be technically good at art and ready to take creative risks. You need to have a good imagination and be able to work and think creatively. You must be able to work independently, following a planned project.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Further studies of art, for example, art, photography, games design, graphic design, fashion, and interior design.



## Option subject: NCFE Food and Cookery

Qualification & exam board: NCFE Tech Award in Food and Cookery

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework project

### What will I learn?

- An understanding of health and safety in a cooking environment and how to prepare and cook food safely.
- The importance of legislation that governs the food industry.
- Where food is sourced, seasonality and food production processes.
- Food groups and the role of key nutrients to maintain a healthy, balanced diet.
- Factors that impact on food choice (to include health conditions, allergies and intolerances) and how dishes can be adapted.
- Developing, honing, and applying food preparation skills and techniques to achieve a consistent standard of the product over time.
- Recipe development and amendment.
- An understanding of the importance of planning and sequencing when cooking dishes.
- An understanding of how to present, decorate, garnish, evaluate and improve dishes.

### How will I learn?

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in food and cookery with a vocational and project-based element. It has a strong focus on developing skills required for food preparation and cooking, this will ensure learners have time to develop, practise and perfect a tangible skill set and be able to apply these to a range of contexts. The skills will be underpinned by teaching of key content and knowledge. Although this is a practical course, learners are required to study the key components in theory lessons and apply their knowledge to written tasks.

### How will I be assessed?

**Non exam assessment (60%):** Learners will respond to a brief set by the exam board. This will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational areas. It is an internally assessed piece of work where learners create a portfolio of evidence based in a response to a real-life situation that they may face when in employment.

**Examined assessment (40%):** Learners will complete an exam set and marked by the exam board. A variety of assessment questions will be used, including multiple choice, short answer, and extended response.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- Decision making
- Resourcefulness
- Communication (verbal and written)
- Independence
- The ability to work within a team or group situation.
- Problem solving
- Good time management
- Planning
- Evaluating work
- Reflection on successes and errors
- Professional and safe behaviour

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Students who achieve a level 1 might consider progression to level 2 qualifications at post 16:

- GCSE Food preparation and nutrition
- Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering
- Certificate/diploma in Culinary Skills
- NVQ Diploma in Food Production and cooking

Students who achieve a level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications at post 16:

- Level 3 applied certificate/diploma in professional cookery
- T Level in catering (this will support progression to higher education)



## Option subject: GCSE Geography

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Geography, AQA

Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

A diverse and dynamic mix of human and physical geography covering topics ranging from tectonics and earth's formation, all the way through to modern megacities such as NEOM's new project 'The Line'. Units studied are:

- Weather Hazards
- The Urban World
- Resource Management
- Climate Change
- UK Urban Change
- The Development Gap
- Rivers and Coastal Landscapes
- NEEs and Development: Nigeria
- The Changing UK Economy
- Living World and Ecosystems

### How will I learn?

In GCSE Geography you will learn through mix of theory, practical investigations, and field trips. You will have the chance to get hands on with Geography alongside classroom learning. Learning will be focused on the development of case study knowledge, practical and problem- solving skills, as well as a solid comprehension of statistics and related skills.

### How will I be assessed?

Three 90-minute examinations at the end of the course, assessing a range of knowledge, understanding, comprehension and evaluation skills across the curriculum.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- An enthusiasm for learning about the natural world
- Problem solving and communication skills
- Graphical and cartographical skills
- Technological skills, ICT and GIS
- A keen desire to discuss concepts and challenges to human development
- An interest in the future of the human race!

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Geography is useful not only for future A-Level studies, but the geographical applications unit studied can help with apprenticeships and work due to the skills element of the course, for example map skills, fieldwork and data analysis. Geography qualifications are the second most asked for behind Modern Foreign Languages by Universities and Colleges due to the breadth of skills and knowledge they cover. The skills you learn during the GCSE course are transferrable into many different professions and can lead to a wide range of careers such as Environmental Scientist, Town Planner, Water Conservation Officer, Emergency Management Specialist and many more!



## Option subject: BTEC Health and Social Care

Qualification & exam board: BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care, Pearson

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% internal controlled assessment

### What will I learn?

Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas: Human Lifespan and Development gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age. You will also look at the factors that may affect growth and development throughout the lifespan, such as lifechanging events like marriage or death of a partner. You will explore how individuals cope with these changes, as well as investigate the types of support available to help them.

Health and Social Care Services; you will investigate common services as well as those for specific needs, and consider how they may work together to meet individual's needs. You will examine the barriers to individuals accessing services and how they may be overcome. You will explore the skills, attributes and values that are required in health and social care, and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need.

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



### How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of teaching methods; theory lessons using teacher led presentations, health case studies, knowledge quizzes, guest speakers and practical activities such as role plays.

### How will I be assessed?

Using various types of assessment, including controlled assessments where learners are expected to produce health care plans. More practical based assessments where learners will be given a health care situation and roleplays would need to be produced. As well as traditional exams to assess influences effecting society's health and well-being.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- Organisation and time management skills are essential to meet coursework deadlines.
- You need to be quietly confident and not afraid to present in front of the class.
- Excellent IT skills as most of the course is delivered using computers.
- A keen interest in the health care sector.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the health and social care sector. You will have built useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses. If you decide to go on to further study of health and social care, you could progress to a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC National. Various apprenticeships are also available in the health care sector.

## Option subject: GCSE History

Qualification & exam board: GCSE History, Edexcel

Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

#### Paper 1 – A thematic study and historic environment

- Medicine Through Time (C1250 – Present)
- Historic Environment – The British Sector of the Western Front 1914-1918

#### Paper 2 – Period Study and British Depth Study

- The American West (1835 - 1895)
- Anglo Saxon and Norman England (1060 – 1088)

#### Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany (1918 – 1939)



### How will I learn?

We believe in the ability of history to develop the critical thinking skills that students need to tackle adult life. That is why we deliver a GCSE curriculum that examines the causes and effect of conflict and colonialism and that analyses the forces of change.

You will learn by building knowledge at the same as developing your critical thinking and analytical skills to enable you to successfully tackle exam questions. You will use a variety of contemporary sources and modern interpretations to understand the people and places you learn about.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment will take lots of forms. From book work we will develop your oracy skills, your ability to answer questions and take part in discussions. We will assess the knowledge you have and how you use that knowledge to show a deep understanding of the topic. Written assessments will be built up to in class and there will be lots of opportunities to show us how you are progressing.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills, and interests will I need?

Firstly, we need you to be willing to take on a challenge. To be able to speak to other students and staff when you have something to say, and when you have questions. Be willing to challenge the ideas of others and have them challenge yours. The ability to communicate your ideas in several ways will help you.

Come to us with a willingness to try and to learn. We will help you develop everything else you need.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

History skills will be of benefit in any walk of life you decide to take. It will help you understand your community, your country, and your world better. History can help with A Levels in English, Sociology, Psychology, Law, Geography, Economics, and others. History contains skills needed in journalism, law and order, government roles as well as many others. They work in marketing, advertising, and public relations, and inevitably, historians make excellent managers, securing successful careers in businesses of all kinds from finance to retail.

## Option subject: GCSE Music

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Music, Eduqas

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% non-examined assessment (30% performance & 30% composition)

### What will I learn?

You will develop knowledge and understanding of music through four linked areas of study:

1. Musical Forms and Devices
2. Music for Ensemble
3. Film Music
4. Popular Music.

There are three components based on the three skills of performing, composing and appraising. Knowledge and understanding of each area of study is assessed in Component 3.

### How will I learn?

- **Performing** – You will be given the opportunity to attend lessons on your chosen instruments and will be required to perform a minimum of two pieces. You will learn the skills of performing in front of others and show your progress in a recording each term.
- **Composing** – You will be given many opportunities to understand the areas of study through composing your own music. You will be taught the skills of composition and use them to complete two pieces.
- **Appraising** – You will develop knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language by listening to a range of music from different times and places.



### How will I be assessed?

- Component 1 30%: Performing (Total duration of performances 4-6 minutes. Non-exam assessment)
- Component 2 30%: Composing (Total duration of compositions 3-6 minutes. Non-exam assessment)
- Component 3 40%: Appraising (Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes)

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You should enjoy at least one of playing, creating, or listening to music, and be open to a wide range of musical styles – even when they stretch you out of your comfort zone.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Music provides a range of transferable skills that will provide a good foundation. You learn to work as a team as well as building resilience when working on your own. Students from Heworth have gone on to many varied pathways following GCSE music, ranging from primary school teacher to sound engineer, army musician and dentist!

## Option subject: NCFE Music Technology

Qualification & exam board: NCFE Tech Award in Music Technology

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% non-exam assessment

### What will I learn?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology is designed for learners who want an introduction to music technology that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the music industry or progress onto further study. Learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 5 mandatory content areas:

- CA1: Introduction to Music Technology and the Music Business
- CA2: The Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)
- CA3: Musical Elements, Musical Style and Music Technology
- CA4: Sound Creation
- CA5: Multitrack Recording

### How will I learn?

The department offers you the use of unrivalled resources, including: a Mac suite comprising of 30 Apple Mac Mini computers all with a MIDI controller keyboard and GarageBand software; an industry-standard recording studio which houses an array of professional microphones and 3 live rooms all patched into the studio so that multi-track recordings can take place. The course is taught by specialist staff who will help you acquire and apply technology skills through the study of the latest music software and equipment.

### How will I be assessed?

The qualification has 2 assessments externally set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment (17 hours) and one written examined assessment (1 hour 30 minutes).

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

There are no specific prior skills/knowledge but during the course, you will develop:

- adapting ideas and responding to feedback
- evaluating your own work
- analysing data and making decisions
- planning
- practical application of hardware and software for creative purposes
- team working, presentation skills, independent working, working to deadlines, and efficient use of resources

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

If you achieve at level 2, you might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- A Level Music
- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology
- Level 3 Certificate in Music Technology

You could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the industry through a variety of occupations that are available within the industry such as producer, technician, and arranger.



## Option subject: GCSE Photography

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Photography, Eduqas

Assessment: 40% externally-set examination, 60% coursework project

### What will I learn?

You will learn how to research the work of others, and how their work can influence and develop your creative thinking. You will develop an understanding of the DSLR cameras, and Photoshop. You will present your journey within a PowerPoint showing your critical understanding of skills, techniques, and processes.

### How will I learn?

Photography is an independent subject where students gain the opportunity to develop their own projects through one-to-one tutorials with their teacher. You have the chance to control your project, making personal artist choices, technical choices, and themes. You will have a range of personalised tasks to complete within your lesson, which are set within your tutorial. Students can be guided to help with creative thinking if needed.

### How will I be assessed?

- 25% Artist research – looking at the work of other artists and cultures.
- 25% Experimentation – working with a variety of mediums, critically evaluating your success.
- 25% Recording – drawing for purpose, annotation, and photography.
- 25% Presentation – the story of your project summarised within an outcome.



### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Students don't need to be technically good at art, but you must have an interest in taking photographs outside of school. You must be ready to take creative risks. You need to be confident using computers and will gain experience in specific programmes such as Photoshop. You need to have a good imagination and be able to work and think creatively. You must be able to work independently, following a planned project.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Further studies of art, for example, art, photography, games design, graphic design, fashion, and interior design.

## Option subject: GCSE Religious Studies

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Religious studies,  
AQA  
Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

Paper 1 - The study of religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices

- Christianity
- Islam

Paper 2 - Thematic studies

- Religion and Life
- Religion, peace, and conflict
- Religion, crime, and punishment
- Religion, human rights, and social justice

### How will I learn?

- You will learn through questioning and discussion of your own and other beliefs; exploring the reasons why people hold the beliefs that they do and how this impacts their lives.
- The exam is essay based, so while a lot of lessons will involve debates and discussions, this will then be applied into extended writing.

### How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is 100% exam based. There are two exams, lasting 1 hour 45 minutes each.

- Paper 1: Written paper 1hr 45min- 102 marks (51 marks for Christianity and 51 marks for Islam including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, and grammar (SPaG)- 50% of GCSE.
- Paper 2: Written paper 1hr 45min- 102 marks (27 marks for each theme, including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, and grammar (SPaG)- 50% of GCSE.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Most importantly, you will need to have an interest in the world around you: Why are there different religions? Why is there good and evil in the world? Why do people commit crimes? How did the world begin? Is killing ever right? Why is there inequality in the world? Why do people around the world have such different worldviews?

You will need to be able to explore these philosophical and religious beliefs from different perspectives, evaluating different worldviews.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Religious Studies is an excellent foundation for going onto study A levels in Religious Studies, Sociology and Criminology. It also links well with subjects such as History and Politics. Religious Studies can open doors for possible careers such as teaching, the police, counselling, law, nursing, social work and many more. It is a highly regarded subject as it helps you become culturally aware, shaping you into a well-rounded and respectful individual.





## Option subject: Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Qualification & exam board: Cambridge National in Sports Studies, OCR

Assessment: 40% examination, 60% coursework

### What will I learn?

R185: Performance and leadership in sport (80 marks /40% of the course)

- TA1 - Key components of performance.
- TA2 - Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity.
- TA3 - Organising and planning a sports activity session.
- TA4 – Leading a sports activity session.
- TA5 – Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session.

Assessment: This unit is assessed by an externally moderated assignment. **You will be required to participate in two different sports where you will be observed and marked on your practical ability. You will also be required to plan and deliver a sporting activity to a group of other students.** This will again be observed and marked on the quality of your practical delivery.

R186: Sport and Media (40 marks / 20% of the course)

- TA1 – The different sources of media that cover sport.
- TA2 – Positive effects of the media in sport.
- TA2 – Negative effects of the media in sport.

Assessment: This unit is assessed by an externally moderated assignment.

R184: Contemporary issues in sport (80 marks / 40% of the course)

- TA1 – Issues which affect participation in sport.
- TA2 – The role of sport in promoting values.
- TA3 – The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country.
- TA4 – The role National Governing Bodies play in the development of their sport.
- TA5 – The use of technology in sport.

Assessment: This unit is assessed by an external exam. The exam will be 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration and will be completed as a terminal exam at the end of the two-year course.

### How will I learn?

Teaching will be delivered in both a practical and classroom setting - participation in both is essential. You will learn how to analyse your performance and use this to improve your techniques and tactics. You will learn how to conduct research and use your findings to improve your personal performance or complete assignment tasks. You will work independently as well as in groups; an ability to do this effectively is essential as your overall outcome, especially in unit R185, will be significantly affected by how well you can apply your knowledge in a practical setting.

### How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through an exam, practical performances, and the completion of written assignments. These are designed to address the following objectives:

- Recall knowledge and show understanding of Sports Studies concepts.
- Apply knowledge and understanding of Sports Studies concepts.
- Analyse and evaluate knowledge, understanding and performance.
- Demonstrate and apply sporting skills and processes.

### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

It is essential that you have a strong interest in sport. Being physically active and participating in sports clubs or teams outside of school is an advantage, but not essential. A willingness to participate in extra-curricular clubs, especially those in which you will be assessed for your practical performance, is also beneficial. As practical assessments are ongoing, it is essential that you regularly participate in lessons, bringing the correct kit and equipment. As a significant proportion of the course is related to sport and the media, it would also be useful for you to follow current affairs in sport.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course can be a starting point for a career in the sport and leisure industry as well as a prerequisite for further education sporting opportunities, such as Level 3 BTEC courses or A-level P.E. Sport studies can open doors for possible careers such as P.E teaching, coaching, data analysis, sports management, sports promotion and sports journalism.



## Option subject: GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Qualification & exam board: GCSE Biology (trilogy), GCSE Chemistry (trilogy), GCSE Physics (trilogy), AQA  
Assessment: 100% examination

### What will I learn?

#### Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation, and evolution
- Ecology

#### Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry

#### Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space

### How will I learn?

In science you can expect to learn through a variety of activities, including practical and written work, watching demonstrations, and actively engaging your brain!

### How will I be assessed?

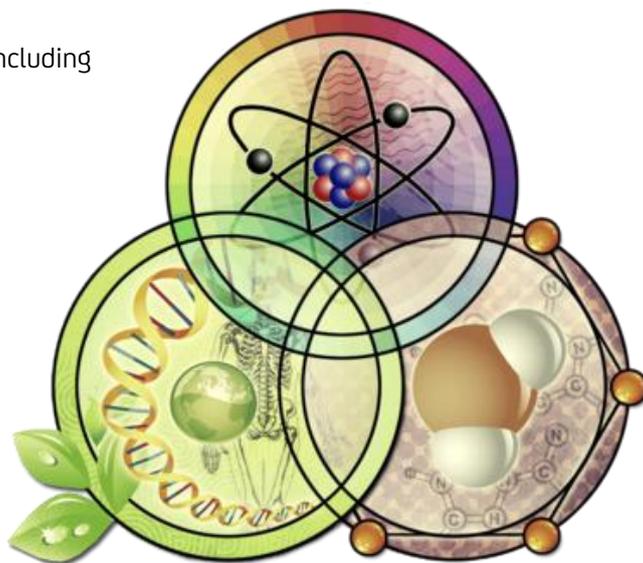
Two papers per subject (six in total)

Duration: each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes

Tiers: Foundation and Higher (Tiers can be different for each subject. For example, higher biology but foundation chemistry)

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted

By electing to choose Triple Science, students will gain separate qualifications in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics rather than the Combined Science qualification worth two GCSEs



### What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

A good level of interest and ability in science. Mathematical and English skills will be utilised throughout the course. Practical skills will be developed from laboratory investigations to carrying out fieldwork.

Studying sciences involves developing specialist vocabulary, interpreting and presenting data, making links between concepts, designing investigations to test hypotheses and critical thinking to evaluate evidence and form conclusions.

### What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course is intended for students who have a keen interest in scientific study. You will therefore have an excellent basis from which to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A Level as well as other popular courses such as Psychology. From there the sky is the limit!

Past pupils have gone into apprentices or college and university. Science university courses include areas such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, engineering (e.g. chemical, mechanical, electronic and electrical), forensics and environmental science, to name a few.