



# Woodbrook Vale School



## KS4 Curriculum Options 2022

A subject choice guide for students, parents and carers

Aspire | Enjoy | Succeed



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# Message from Headteacher

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

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

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

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

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

Enjoy the process and choose well!

Rachael Fraser  
Headteacher



## Key Dates

<b>Weds 8 December 2021</b>	Year 9 Options Virtual Assembly available
<b>Thurs 16 December 2021</b>	Year 9 Options booklets issued
<b>Thurs 20 January 2022</b>	Options forms issued
<b>Thurs 20 January 2022</b>	Options Evening (in school) 5.30pm-7.30pm
<b>Weds 26 January 2022</b>	Options form deadline 3pm

# What is in the Core Curriculum?

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

English	2 GCSEs (Language and Literature)	Page 6
Maths	1 GCSE	Page 7
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Science: Combined or Separate	2 or 3 GCSEs	Page 9
Core Physical Education (PE)	Developing personal health and fitness	Page 3
Personal Development (PD)	PSHE, Citizenship and RE	Page 3

## Personal Development (PD)

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

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

## Core Physical Education (PE)

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

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



# Advice and Recommendations

- Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs – Biology, Chemistry and Physics) **does not** appear as a separate option choice as it has done in previous years. This will now be covered in the usual core science hours for students who are motivated to take it. Your science teacher will discuss this with you.
- Computer Science is a very mathematical GCSE and is recommended for students with an interest in coding and an aptitude for mathematics.
- ICT (Creative iMedia), Health & Social Care, Travel & Tourism, Sports Studies and Business Enterprise (to be confirmed) are vocational qualifications and are suitable for students who enjoy a practical way of learning.
- It is not always possible that every subject will run, for example, if very few people show an interest in taking it. Also it may not be possible for every student to be offered their first choice option subjects. If some subjects are oversubscribed we will look at their previous attitude to learning in that subject to help allocate places.
- Examination boards sometimes make changes to the content of courses after we have printed this options booklet.
- It is not possible to study more than one design option (Fine Art, 3D Design and Food Preparation & Nutrition). These can be popular subjects so priority will be given to students that identify the subject as their number one priority. We may also consider a student's attitude to learning before allocating a place on over-subscribed subjects.
- Some subjects may have trips and visits as part of the curriculum. In these cases, the school may ask for a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of the activity.
- Students who have not studied French or Spanish in Years 7-9 do not need to choose one of those subjects as an option.

**Please speak to your tutor if you need any option choice advice or contact Mr Hynes, Deputy Headteacher – [phynes@wbvs.co.uk](mailto:phynes@wbvs.co.uk)**

# The EBacc Combination

## The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) combination

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

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

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

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

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

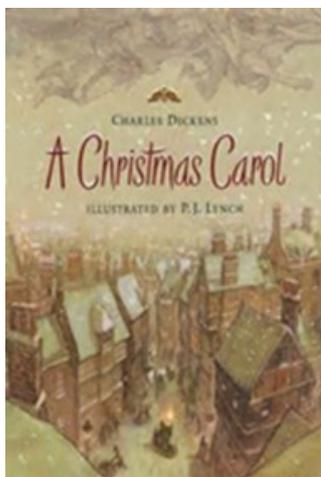
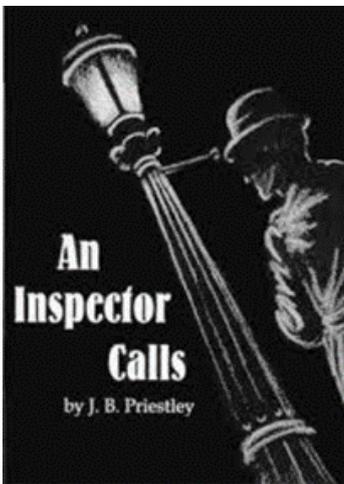
Whilst your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, we believe that the 10 or 11 GCSEs (or equivalents) they will achieve, will give them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and give them the broad knowledge that employers are looking for,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

# English

## Introduction

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

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



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

### Summary of the topics you will cover:

#### English Language

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

#### English Literature

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

## Teaching strategies

You'll be exposed to a range of fiction and non-fiction novels and extracts including poetry, short-stories and speeches. Drama will also be used to embed some themes, certainly when studying Shakespeare. Work is varied and may include theatre visits in order to aid your learning.

## Assessment

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

## English Language

Is 100% examination, organised into two units:

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

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

## English Literature

Is also 100% examination, organised into two units:

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

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

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

# Mathematics

## Introduction

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

## Summary of the topics you will cover: Number

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

## Algebra

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

## Geometry and Measures

- Understand and use properties of shape
- Understand and use properties of position, movement and transformation

## Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

- Change freely between related units
- Use scale factors, scale diagrams
- Understand and use proportion as equality of ratios

## Statistics & Probability

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

## Teaching strategies

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

## Assessment

Edexcel GCSE Mathematics

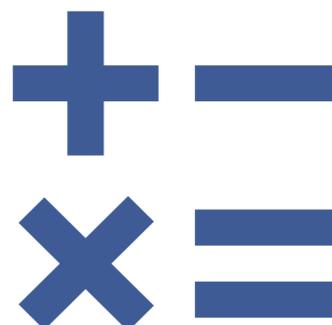
Students will sit 3 exam papers of equal weighting; 1 hour 30 minutes each. (1 Non-calculator and 2 Calculator papers). There will be a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

Your mathematics teacher will be happy to talk to you about the course.



# Statistics

## Introduction

The aim of the Statistics GCSE is to help students acquire knowledge and understanding of statistical techniques and concepts and encourage statistical problem solving. Students will develop an understanding of the importance and limitations of statistics.

## Summary of the topics you will cover

### Foundation Tier

- The collection of data: Planning, types of data, population and sampling, collecting data
- Processing, representing and analysing data: Diagrams and representations, measures of central tendency, further summary statistics, scatter diagrams and correlation, time series, estimation
- Reasoning, interpreting and discussing results: Probability

### Higher Tier

- The collection of data: Planning, types of data, population and sampling, collecting data
- Processing, representing and analysing data: Tabulation, diagrams and representations, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, further summary statistics, scatter diagrams and correlation, time series, quality assurance, estimation
- Reasoning, interpreting and discussing results: Probability

### Teaching strategies

GCSE Statistics is designed to complement the GCSE in Mathematics. It also emphasises the theoretical, practical and applied nature of the subject.

## Assessment

Students will sit two written papers of equal weighting and time. **Students will complete their Statistics GCSE in Year 10.**

### Written Paper

Both papers are 1 hour 30 minutes and cover short, medium and extended response questions in line with the collection of data, processing, representing and analysing data and probability.

### Beyond GCSE

A GCSE in Statistics will help support many degree courses which may have Statistics as a module. It is evidence of a logical mind and the ability to problem solve. A GCSE in Statistics can open doors to careers in Statistical Analysis, Science and Engineering.

### Find out more

Your mathematics teacher will be happy to talk to you about the course.



# Science (Combined or Separate)

## Introduction

Science is the study of the universe and everything in it. The combined science course (2 GCSE equivalent) develops skills needed to examine and evaluate scientific theories. The course is hands-on with experiments being used so that students discover, experience and learn what makes the world tick.

**Students are also given a guided choice to take the 3 separate science GCSEs of chemistry, biology and physics. Both courses are delivered in core science lesson time so are not an option choice.**



## Summary of the topics you will cover:

The combined science course is a double award so students get two GCSEs covering content from Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

### Biology includes:

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

### Chemistry includes:

- Fundamentals in chemistry, atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding and chemical formulae
- The chemistry of construction, metals and the useful products of rocks

- The chemistry of oil, which deals with everything from fuels to plastics
- Environmental chemistry, which looks at the impact of human endeavour
- Analytical chemistry
- Factors which affect the rate of a reaction
- Salts and electrochemistry

### Physics includes:

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

### Do I have to choose science at GCSE?

Science is a core subject so all students will study it. This will be a choice of Separate (triple) science **or** Combined (double) science.

### Teaching strategies

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

### Assessment

For Combined Science (2 GCSEs) or Separate science (3 GCSEs); the exam board is AQA. Assessment is 100% exam based. There will be 2 exams for each area Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will be expected to complete 16 required practicals during the course. They must understand these fully as questions about them will be in the exam.

### Beyond GCSE

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

### Find out more

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

# Business & Enterprise

## Introduction

We will be offering an Enterprise/Business qualification from September 2022. There are a new range of courses due for approval by the government in the coming months. We will confirm the exact course with the students when the courses are finally approved. The courses being considered are:

- GCSE Business Studies
- Cambridge National in Enterprise & Marketing
- BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

Whichever course is chosen, please be assured that it will be industry-relevant, geared to key sector requirements and will suit a broad range of learning styles and abilities.

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

## Summary of the topics you may cover:

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

- Business in the real world
- Enterprise and marketing concepts
- Designing a business proposal
- Human resources
- Marketing and Finance

## Subject content:

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

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

- Use business terminology to identify and explain business activity

## Teaching strategies

All the possible Business and Enterprise courses take an engaging, practical and inspired approach to studying business. Theory, problem solving and working in a team are all important parts of the course.

## Assessment (dependent on course choice)

GCSE Business is assessed through two written exams papers, each one lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. Each paper counts for 50% of the GCSE.

The Cambridge National and BTEC versions have similar structures as they are 40% final exam and two centre-assessed tasks that each contribute 30% to the final grade.

## Beyond GCSE

Studying and succeeding in a Business and Enterprise Key Stage 4 course can lead to students studying the following:

- A-Levels in Business Studies, Economics and Accounting
- Vocational Business and Enterprise courses such as BTECs and T-levels

## Find out more

Further information about the subject and eventual course choice is available from Mr Moore.



# Computer Science

## Introduction



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 ICT/Computing at Key Stage 3 and also their other subjects. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.



## Summary of the topics you will cover:

### Component 01 – Computer Systems

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

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

**Component 03 – Programming Project (non-exam assessment).** This component is the non-exam assessment where candidates will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.

## What will I learn?

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

## Teaching strategies

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

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

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

## Find out more

Further information about the Computer Science course is available from Mr Danby or by visiting the OCR website: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/>

# 3D Design

## Introduction

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

## Summary of the topics you will cover

In Year 10, students will design and make a range of products based on particular themes. They will develop their design skills as well as practical skills, allowing them to bring their ideas into reality.

Shortly after the first term students will begin their coursework which makes up 60% of the course. Students produce a sustained project where they research, produce a range of ideas and models leading onto a final practical piece.

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

- Enjoy making models with a range of different materials such as woods, plastics, card and metals
- Enjoy solving problems and finding solutions
- Can plan and organise your time effectively

## Teaching strategies

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



## Assessment

- Portfolio of design & make tasks worth **60%** of their final mark.
- Externally set task worth **40%** of final mark.

## Beyond GCSE

This subject is useful to those who are:

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

## Should I take 3D Design at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

- Are enthusiastic and enjoy your lessons
- Enjoy developing ideas and coming up with new ones
- Like producing design drawings and sketches of your ideas

## Find out more

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



# Drama

## Introduction

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

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

The course specification is AQA.



## Summary of the topics you will cover:

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

## Should I choose Drama?

Yes if you:

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

## Teaching strategies

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

## Assessment

Drama is assessed in three parts:

### Component 1: Understanding Drama

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

### Component 2: Devising Drama

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

### Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical)

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

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

## Find out more

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

# Fine Art

## Introduction

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

## Summary of the topics you will cover:

You will explore the development of personal ideas through analysis of contextual sources whilst refining your artistic skills. You will learn about the work of other artists and designers who will inspire your ideas.

Project themes are used as starting points to challenge creative thinking and independent research.



## Should I take Fine Art at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

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

## Teaching strategies

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



## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

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

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Introduction

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



The course specification is **AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition**.

### Summary of the topics you will cover:

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

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

## Should I take GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Yes, if you:

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

## Teaching Strategies

Theoretical and scientific knowledge and understanding of the topic areas will be learnt and enhanced through theory lesson notes, completion of homework tasks, video clips, group and individual research from primary and secondary sources. You will develop your food preparation and food handling skills through regular practical sessions which will involve meal production, experimental work, testing and modifying recipes, in preparation for the Food Investigation/Preparation Assessments.

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

This subject is useful to those who are:

- Interested in working within the food industry, health service or care industry
- Considering further education in Food and Nutrition, Food Technology, NVQ Catering, A-level Health and Social Care or A-level Human Biology

## Find out more

Please see Miss Reeves for more details.

# French

## Introduction

You can opt to continue your French studies at Key Stage 4. This GCSE course builds on the skills and understanding you have developed in Years 7 to 9. A variety of topics are covered, some of which will be totally new, and others more familiar, which you will study in greater depth.

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

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

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

## Independent Learning

You must be prepared to work independently and to learn vocabulary regularly. There will be resources in place to support you and a drop in French help clinic at lunchtime designed just for KS4.

## Should I take French at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

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

## Teaching strategies

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

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

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

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

# Geography

## Introduction

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



## Summary of the themes you will cover:

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

## Should I take Geography at GCSE?

Yes, if you want to:

- Improve your understanding of global issues, which will affect our lives now and in the future
- Develop a better understanding of the way the world works
- Enhance your understanding of how physical landscapes (e.g. rivers, coasts) are formed
- Express opinions about people and places

## Teaching strategies

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

## Assessment

It is 100% exam and completed through 3 papers.

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

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

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

## Fieldwork

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

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

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-b/>

# Health and Social Care

## Introduction

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

## Summary of the topics you will cover:

### Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

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

### Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

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

### Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

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

## Should I take Health and Social Care?

Yes if you:

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

## Teaching Strategies

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

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

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



## Assessment

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

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

**Component 3:** External exam (40% of total)

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

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

# History

## Introduction

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



## Summary of the topics you will cover:

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

## Should I take history at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

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

## Teaching strategies

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

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

Your History teacher will be happy to talk to you about the course so please see Mrs Burgess, Mr Thornton or Mr Grundy for more details.

# ICT (Creative iMedia)

## Cambridge National Creative iMedia

**[This course is being updated and is currently awaiting government approval]**

### Why Take This Course?

The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is a media sector-focused qualification that includes film, television, web development, gaming and animation. The course provides knowledge in a number of key areas in this field, from pre-production skills to digital animation. With an exciting selection of units to achieve the certificate, students have the freedom to explore the areas of creative media that interest them.



This vocationally-related ICT qualification takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. It will equip students with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The hands on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

### Summary of possible topics covered:

#### Unit R081: Pre-production skills

Planning is an essential part of working in the creative and digital media sector. This unit will enable students to understand pre-production skills and techniques used in the sector, as well as gain the knowledge and skills to create digital media products and explore their application.

It will also develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.

#### Unit R082: Creating Digital Graphics

Digital graphics feature in many areas of our lives, and play a very important part in today's world. The digital media sector relies heavily on these visual stimulants within products to communicate messages effectively. The aim of this unit is for students to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector. This unit builds on Unit R081.

#### Unit R084: Storytelling with comic strips

Comic strips are as popular today as ever. They have evolved from their origins in the early part of the 20th century as simple story strips, to become whole genres of interest that span the entire world. Through this unit, students will explore different genres of comic strip and the basics of comic strip creation. This unit builds on Units R081 and R082.

#### Unit R085: Creating a website

Multipage websites are the basis of internet content and are therefore used extensively in the creative digital media sector, whether for mobile phones or computers in all their forms. This unit will enable students to understand the basics of creating multipage websites. It will enable students to demonstrate their creativity by combining components to create functional and intuitive websites.

### Assessment

Students will need to complete all 4 units to gain the Certificate Award. Unit R081 contains a written paper which is set and assessed by OCR. The remaining units will be moderated by OCR. Unit and qualification results are awarded on a 7 grade scale with: Pass, Merit and Distinction at both Levels 1 and 2, and with a new grading of Distinction\* at Level 2 to further inspire students. Students' performance on the units will determine their overall grade and level.

**Find out more** – please see Mr Danby



# Music

## Introduction

The Music course builds on the skills and understanding you have developed in Years 7 to 9. It involves three sections:

Performing, Composing and Listening/ Appraising. The course specification is AQA GCSE Music. The course is suitable for students who play a musical instrument or students who have a keen interest in music.



## Summary of topics you will cover:

### Component 1: Performing Music

Solo Performance- Practice a performance piece on your main instrument or using ICT (GarageBand/Logic).

Ensemble Performance- Practice a performance piece on any instrument or using ICT with at least one other performer.

### Component 2: Composing Music

Composition 1- Compose a piece of music to a set brief provided by AQA out of a choice of four.

Composition 2- Free Composition which can be any style on any instrument.

### Component 3: Listening and Appraising

Exam paper where students listen to pieces and answer questions based on these following styles

*AOS1 Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910* - Coronation Anthems, Concerto, Romantic Piano Music, Romantic Requiem  
*AOS2 Popular Music* - Rock and Pop from 1960's- Present Day, Music from Broadway, Film and Computer Game Music  
*AOS3- Traditional Music* - Blues, Fusion (incl. Reggae), Latin, Contemporary Folk

*AOS4 Western Classical Tradition 1910-Present Day* - Aaron Copland, British Composers, Orchestral Music Kodaly and Bartok, Minimalism

## Should I take Music at GCSE?

Yes, if you enjoy:

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

## Teaching strategies

You will learn about the music in the Areas of Study and go on to compose music that is related to those areas. You will also perform a solo piece and take part in an ensemble performance. Most of the course is based on practical lessons using instruments, with theory being used to develop your musicianship further.

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

**Find out more** - Mr Parsons will be happy to talk to you about the course.

# PE/Sports Studies

## Introduction

There are two different sports qualifications available. **Students who choose PE/Sports Studies as an option will all complete up to 6 weeks as an introduction to the two courses.** At this point they will then decide whether to follow GCSE PE or the Cambridge National in Sports Studies (currently being updated for and awaiting government approval)



The GCSE PE course requires students to have a strong understanding of the theoretical side of sport whereas the Sports Studies qualification focuses on the practical side of sport.

## Summary of the topics you will cover:

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

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training and the use of data
- Health, fitness and well being
- Sport psychology
- Social-cultural influences

## Should I take PE/Sport Studies as an option?

These courses are best for students who want to learn more about the theory of sport with a focus on how the body works, how this enables people to perform at the highest level and the barriers to people participating in sport.

## Teaching strategies

Both courses have a theoretical element, putting into use the theory which is studied in the classroom. Students will analyse their own and others' performance in order to understand and improve their own grades.

## Assessment

The GCSE PE course has two examinations that make up 60% of the final grade. Marks for the final examination are also awarded for practical performance in three different activities, these must be from a specified list including an individual event, a team event and a third activity that can be either individual or team.

The Sports Studies course is assessed through a one hour written examination paper, which equates to 25% of the course. The other 75% is assessed through assignments and coursework tasks which students will have to complete both inside and outside lesson time.

## Beyond GCSE?

There is a very wide choice of courses suitable for progression from both qualifications, including various vocational Sports courses and A-level PE.



## Find out more

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

# Sociology

## Introduction

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



## Summary of the topics you will cover:

### Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

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

Sociological theory and its relevance in contemporary society also permeates the course.

### Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

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

understanding of the research process by considering the stages in carrying out research and in interpreting data. This will assist you in your assessment of the evidence used to support or challenging theories in both components.

## Should I take Sociology at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

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

## Teaching strategies

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

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

For additional information, please see Miss Vaughan.

# Spanish

## Introduction

You can opt to continue learning Spanish at Key Stage 4. The transferable language-learning skills you have been developing in Key Stage 3 will stand you in good stead.



## Summary of the topics you will cover:

Topics covered during the 2-year course will include:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

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

## Independent Learning

You must be prepared to work independently and learn vocabulary regularly. There will be resources in place and intervention sessions to support you.

## Should I take Spanish at GCSE?

Yes, if you:

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

## Teaching strategies

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

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

## Assessment

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

## Beyond GCSE

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

## Find out more

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

# Travel & Tourism

## Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Travel & Tourism

### Introduction

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

### Summary of the topics you will cover:

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

Some are mandatory and externally assessed through a short examination paper. As the qualification is a vocational qualification, these examinations can be sat twice to help improve a student's mark.



### This Qualification aims to:

Develop students understanding and skills related to a range of different types of tourism and tourism organisations. The qualification has been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding is developed through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in tourism.

The course is also devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning where students are introduced to a context for learning, review previous learning to plan activities, carry out activities and review outcomes and learning. This approach mirrors many work related activities in tourism and also provides for learning in a range of contexts.

### Teaching strategies

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

### Assessment

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

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

### Beyond GCSE

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

- A-level in Travel and Tourism
- Level 3 Vocational qualifications in travel and tourism (BTECs for example)
- Apprenticeships in travel services, cabin crew or aviation operations on the ground

**For further information** see Mr Moore or visit [qualifications.pearson.com](http://qualifications.pearson.com)



# Woodbrook Vale School

## KS4 Option Form 2021

Name: *Example Student* Tutor group: *9EG*

You will need to identify **5 possible subjects** on this form – your 4 preferred choices plus your 5<sup>th</sup> as a reserve choice. Woodbrook Vale students usually take a language and either geography or history.

Mark your choices below. We cannot guarantee you will be able to study all your choices. You must be prepared to do any of the subjects you choose.

### Option 1: Your preferred choice of History or Geography (please tick)

Geography	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		History	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### Option 2: Your preferred choice of French or Spanish (please tick)

French	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spanish	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not done language	<input type="checkbox"/>
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### Options 3, 4 and your reserve choice - Other option choices (two plus one reserve)

Choose any remaining options from the following subjects in order of preference – 1 is your first choice, 2 is your second choice and 3 being your reserve choice.

Fine Art		French*		Music	
Business Studies	1	Geography*		PE/Sports Studies	
Computer Science		Health and Social Care		Sociology	3
3D Design		History*	2	Spanish*	
Drama		ICT		Travel & Tourism	
Food Prep and Nutrition		Media Studies			

\*Only select these if you want to do both Geography and History or French and Spanish.

Student signature <i>...Example Student...</i>	Parent/Carer signature <i>...Example Parent...</i>	Tutor signature <i>...Example Tutor...</i>
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