



STOUR VALLEY

— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

'Brighter Futures'

Stour Valley Community School

Options Brochure 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Guide to Key Stage 4 Courses 2021 booklet. We hope it provides you with the necessary information to help you guide your child in making the right choices for them. This is an exciting time in any young person's life, when they are given some choice for the first time about which subjects they will study.

In Key Stage 4, it is important to ensure that education is broad, balanced and relevant. Our curriculum has compulsory and chosen subjects that will enable your child to follow courses appropriate to their interests and abilities. We offer a broad range of GCSEs and the option for the English Baccalaureate. You may be aware that the government is pushing for students to take EBacc subjects. Whilst the suite of subjects that comprise the EBacc all are worthy of study, and the Department for Education will report annually on how many of our students have been entered for and passed them, we do not insist on students taking this particular set of subjects. It is important, however, that you are aware of the following; firstly, our ambition is for all students to achieve to the maximum of their potential. Secondly, this means that many of them will choose to go on to study at university. Competition for places can be very high and I believe one way they will decide on who is offered a place is to expect at least a GCSE Grade 4 in a modern foreign language. Despite this, it is still their choice, and whilst it is in their best interests to consider very carefully all of the advice they are given, ultimately they should and must decide. For this reason the school has not made the study of this subject compulsory. Whatever their choices, you can be certain that we will do everything we can to support them in achieving the qualifications necessary for the next stage of their development, and ultimately a fulfilled and happy adult life.

Additional information about each subject is now available on Teams. You can email questions about GCSE courses to the relevant member of staff, your child's tutor or the SENCo, for further advice. As usual, all students will have a 1:1 interview with a member of staff to discuss their options and we look forward to supporting you in helping your child make clear, confident and exciting GCSE choices.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs R Kelly
Headteacher

Next Steps

Think about your preferences, skills and abilities and what you hope to do in the future. Discuss your ideas with your parents/carers and with your teachers.

Take the opportunity to talk to subject staff and your tutor. They are there to help you get more information and answer questions.

Look carefully at the course information contained in this brochure. What can each subject offer you? Which subjects best help you to pursue your intended post-16 course or future career? Are there any subjects that are a **requirement** for your proposed career or post-16 course?

Do

- ✓ Remember that all GCSE subjects are of an equal standard;
- ✓ Choose subjects **you** are interested in and which you are likely to enjoy;
- ✓ Choose subjects in which you are likely to achieve success;
- ✓ Choose subjects that fit with your future needs;
- ✓ Remember, courses last for 2 years – you cannot change your mind at the end of Year 10!

Don't

- Choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them;
- Decide to take a subject just because you like the teacher you think will be teaching it;
- Be afraid to ask for advice or information from your form tutor, subject teachers, Year Leader and your family. They want to help you make the best choice for you.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

Although not a qualification in itself, the EBacc recognises those students that have secured a Grade 4, or better, across a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, Computing, History, Geography, Sciences and a Language. Students wishing to take A Levels, which could lead to a University course, should consider following EBacc subjects. Not doing so could potentially reduce options in the future if universities change their admissions arrangements.

The Russell Group of leading UK universities have published guidance on post-16 study choices and have included a list of ‘facilitating subjects’ which they list as Mathematics, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and Languages. Further information can be found at www.informedchoices.ac.uk. Of course there are also many other universities that will have different admissions criteria and are less likely to be so specific about ‘facilitating subjects’. Most university courses will require a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 4, or above.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I study History or Geography and a language at GCSE?

For students potentially wishing to take an academic KS5 pathway (A Levels), which in turn might lead to study in Higher Education, it would be very sensible to study these subjects at KS4.

Does Religious Studies count as an EBacc subject?

Religious Studies, despite being a humanities subject, does not count towards the EBacc.

Are any universities currently insisting that students have taken the EBacc at GCSE?

Not currently, although a number of universities are identifying those included in the EBacc as desirable to support study at university – Mathematics, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History or languages.

Compulsory Subjects

At Key Stage 4, some subjects are compulsory for every student. These are GCSE English, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Science, Physical Education, Religious Studies and PSHE. Physical Education and Religious Studies can be studied at GCSE (see later pages).

English

Exam board: AQA

Reading - The range of texts available to students will include poetry (AQA *Poetry Anthology*), *An Inspector Calls*, novels (A *Christmas Carol*), and *Macbeth*. Students will also read and analyse letters, travel books, newspapers, literature from different eras and works of non-fiction and media.

Writing - Students will be given opportunities to demonstrate that they can: write about their experiences and express what they feel and imagine; understand, order and present facts, ideas and opinions; show a sense of audience and an awareness of style and use English grammar correctly.

Speaking and Listening - Students will be given opportunities to demonstrate that they can: articulate experience and express what they feel and imagine; understand, order and present facts, ideas and opinions and communicate a sensitive personal response to what is heard, read and understood.

Assessment: English Language and English Literature (2 separate GCSEs). An additional Entry Level *Step Up to English* (AQA) qualification will be made available for students not achieving a GCSE standard.



Mathematics

Exam board: Edexcel

The aims of the Mathematics Department are;

- To develop an ability to think and reason mathematically.
- To notice and realise the application of mathematics in the world.
- To have the understanding of how to use mathematics up to GCSE level and create a firm foundation for those wishing to study the subject further.

Students study topics from six mathematical categories: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry and Measure, Statistics and Probability. New topics will be introduced under these headings, such as errors in calculations, surds, solving quadratic equations and trigonometry. New content such as calculating gradients of graphs, areas under graphs, and locating turning points of quadratic functions by completing the square will also be taught to students, depending on ability.



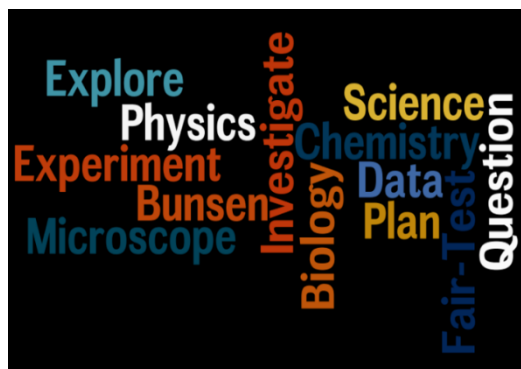
Students will be expected to develop the ability to apply their mathematical knowledge to real-life contexts and to have a good understanding of how to tackle unstructured questions.

Assessment: Higher tier (Grades 9 to 4) and Foundation tier (Grades 5 to 1); three, 1½ hour exams taken at the end of Year 11.

Combined and Single Sciences

Exam board: AQA

The aim at GCSE is to build on the scientific skills acquired in Key Stage 3 and further develop scientific thinking, experimental skills, analysis and the ability to evaluate results. The complexity of topics increases as the students progress through the course, building higher order thinking skills to prepare for future studies.



Students will be learning about a wide range of topics that cover all three Science areas, for instance in Biology students study the working of plants and animals in detail as well as more contentious issues such as genetic engineering, population growth and cloning. Whilst in Chemistry students take the basic knowledge of elements and compounds; then take this knowledge and apply it to

new technologies such as Smart Polymers and Nanoparticles while considering the environmental impact of these new technologies. Finally, in Physics students build on the concepts of Forces and Energy and move on to ideas such as Radioactivity and Nuclear Physics. The large breadth of topics studied allows students to apply some of the knowledge they have learnt to whatever future career, course or apprenticeship they move onto at Key Stage 5.

Lessons will be a mix of practical work and theory. There are a number of practical tasks that may appear in the exam written paper and students will need to be familiar with them for the exam. Students are encouraged to work independently as much as possible.

Assessment: A total of 6 exams will be taken at the end of the course.

Art and Design



What will I learn in this subject?

The GCSE covers a range of in-depth projects relating to various themes. This qualification is marked from four main areas including; recording, experimenting, developing and presenting. The GCSE course involves lots of drawing from observation therefore drawing is an important skill that underpins everything we do. Students will develop skills in different disciplines including design, painting, printmaking, ceramics, textiles and photography. The main aim of the course is to develop independent working skills in order to produce personal and exciting sketchbook projects and high quality final pieces.

What will I do in lessons?



During lessons students will be exploring and developing ideas in their sketchbooks in preparation for their final pieces. Researching other artists, drawing from observation and drawing design ideas are important elements of any project. A range of techniques and processes will be explored through both teacher led and students' own independent work resulting in personal responses of varying kinds. All project work produced during Year 10 and 11 will contribute towards the students' portfolio of work to be submitted for assessment.

Homework is an integral part of the course, enabling students to develop and refine their work further in their own time. During Year 10 students work on their coursework portfolios and as they transfer into Year 11 they start their mock exam project, helping them to prepare for the final exam.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

Completion of the GCSE course could lead to further education including A-Level Art, BTEC or Diplomas in Art, Photography, Textiles or Fashion.

Students will have a portfolio of work that will evidence their ability to pursue a two year course covering different assignments and producing a range of work. This will be valuable for an interview in further education or when applying for a job. Many employers look for candidates who are creative, can think creatively and can evidence commitment to a two year course in their portfolio.



How will I be assessed?

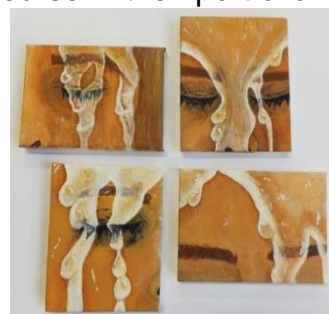
Unit 1: Personal Portfolio (Year 10)	60% Total Mark
Unit 2: Externally set assignment (Year 11)	40% Total Mark

Exam board:

AQA GCSE Art and Design

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mrs Mayes



Computer Science

Computer Science is the fourth Science subject. Students will be required to complete any three Science subjects to meet the English Baccalaureate criteria.

What will I learn in Computer Science?

Engaging and contemporary – This course requires good analytical and problem solving skills. Using up to date technology this course has been designed with the help of Microsoft, Google and Cisco and academics.



Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in Component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming

Students are given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular Component 02 (section B).

How will this subject be of use in the future?

GCSE Computer Science allows students to progress with further study at A Level and beyond. Computing will be very beneficial to students wanting to pursue a variety of careers including IT, engineering, business, media and science.

How will I be assessed

Exam 1 Computer Systems 50%

Exam 2 Computational Thinking 50%

Exam board:

OCR

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr Lee



Dance

What will I learn in Dance?

You will develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles through the interrelated processes of performing, creating and appreciating dances.

What will I do in lessons?

- You will develop a range of dance styles such as contemporary, ballet, urban, and other dance cultures.
- Develop your physical, technical and expressive skills.
- Learn, practise and perform two set solo phrases. You will aim to accurately replicate the contemporary dance movements. These phrases will be marked against your demonstration of physical skills, technical skills and expressive skills.
- Choreograph your own complete dance (solo or group) using a stimulus set by the exam board e.g. poem, photograph, prop, historical event.
- Learn how to critically appreciate your own work and create choreography that enables the audience to understand the theme, mood and style.
- Study a Dance Anthology of six professional works choreographed by established and emerging artists in a range of styles and style fusions. You will describe, analyse, interpret, evaluate and reflect on the works in response to short answer and extended writing questions.
- Improve your fitness, develop a healthier lifestyle, and develop team work and creativity.
- You will be required to rehearse performance and choreography pieces outside of lesson times in order to achieve your full potential.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

GCSE Dance provides you with a solid foundation for further studies and/or a career in dance or performing arts, including A Level Dance, BTEC Level 3 Dance.

How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1: Performance and Choreography (60%)**
Performance: Solo (15 marks) Duet/Trio (25 marks)
Choreography: Solo or group (40 marks)



- **Component 2: Critical Appreciation (40%) 80 marks**
Written exam (1 hour 30 minutes) based on 3 main sections:
 - a) Your knowledge of performance/choreography
 - b) Critical appreciation of your own work
 - c) Critical appreciation of 6 professional works



Exam board? AQA

Who do I need to see for more information? Miss Whitaker

Drama



What will I learn in this subject:

You will explore a variety of different acting techniques & styles, theatre practitioners, scripts and devising skills in a practical way, developing a range of skills that build on those studied at Key Stage 3. You will also learn more about technical aspects of theatre such as lighting, set design and costume design.

What will I do in lessons:

In practical lessons you will explore a wide variety of styles and genres of theatre and acting, as well as learn how to use technical theatre such as lighting to prepare for your two assessed group performances. In preparation for the written exam, both written and practical approaches are used to explore a play. You will also have the opportunity to visit live theatre productions throughout the two year course, and are required to write an evaluation of one of these in your written exam.

How will this subject be of use in the future:

As well as laying the foundations for careers in performing and technical theatre, you will gain self-confidence and communication skills and you will increase your ability to work with other people as part of a team without arguing or disagreeing. Employers are looking for people with these sorts of skills, and a GCSE in Drama will be useful for any sort of profession where you are expected to communicate confidently with other people, or work as a member of a team.



How will I be assessed:

40% Controlled Assessment (Practical performance and written portfolio), **20% Practical Examination** and **40% Written Examination**

Component One 40%	Component Two 20%	Component Three 40%
Controlled Assessment: You will work in a group to create a devised performance based on a theme, and using a particular theatre style. You will also create a portfolio of Supporting Evidence, and write an evaluation of your final performance.	Practical Examination: You will work in a group to prepare a short performance of two key scenes from a script. You can be examined on acting, set design OR costume design.	Written Examination: <u>Section A</u> requires you to answer questions about acting, directing and design for selected scenes of a set text explored throughout the two year course. <u>Section B</u> requires you to write an evaluation of a live theatre performance you have seen during the course.

Exam board:

Eduqas

Who do I need to see for more information?

Miss Duffy

Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I learn in this subject?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

What will I do in lessons?

Food Preparation and Nutrition consists of a varied selection of practical and theory lessons which aim to build on the existing skill base. By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Students will be expected to work independently and meet all deadlines relating to controlled assessment and homework tasks. A good level of organisation will be needed for this course as students will be expected to organise ingredients for lessons on a weekly basis. Enjoying cooking alone is not enough to succeed in this subject, students will be expected to apply an equal amount of effort into their research, planning and evaluating, as they do to any practical tasks.

This course can lead on to a number of opportunities in the future

- A Level study of Food Technology, Nutrition or Hospitality and Catering management
- Further vocational qualifications following a Professional Chef Diploma at West Suffolk College
- A confidence to prepare a range of foods and healthy meals for yourself and your family.

How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition – 50% of qualification**

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

- **Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action - 50% of qualification**

2 x Non-exam assessments – Food Science investigation assessment and Food Preparation assessment.



Students need to carefully consider that this course is not just about cooking or making dishes. They will need to link practical work to theory, research, planning and evaluating.

Exam board:

WJEC Eduqas

Who do I need to see for more information? Mrs Iannone

French

What will I learn in this subject?

The French GCSE course builds upon vocabulary and structures we have been studying up to Year 9, exploring familiar topics in more depth. Some topics, such as environmental matters, are also included in order to reflect students' interests and to provide a bridge to the A Level course for our more able linguists. The aim of the course is to provide students with the skills to be able to interact in spoken French with spontaneity and to write accurate, detailed French without support. The course prepares students to speak and write in a range of tenses, and it is important to get to grips with the grammar of the language and to learn the GCSE vocabulary as we go along. We also develop comprehension skills in order to understand spoken and written language in new and unfamiliar contexts such as extracts from literature.



What will I do in lessons?

Lessons involve practising new vocabulary and structures in pairs or groups, reviewing and learning more about the grammar of the language and completing reading and listening comprehension activities. By using songs, magazines and videos, we ensure lessons also include varied and authentic French.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

Studying French at GCSE opens the door to future opportunities, from moving on to A Level French or other qualifications to a wide variety of careers, they can also help enrich your experiences while travelling abroad. The skills learnt in GCSE French are transferrable when learning additional languages, as well as developing communication skills, an interest in other cultures and problem-solving, qualities which are highly desirable for future employers and academic institutions. A language qualification is frequently a requirement for the top universities.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11, the four skills: (listening, reading, speaking and writing) are assessed through a formal examination paper in each skill. Your teacher will conduct the speaking exam, and it takes place shortly before the written exams begin in Year 11. It has three parts: a role-play, a discussion based on a picture and a conversation.

Exam board:

Edexcel

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mrs Magowan



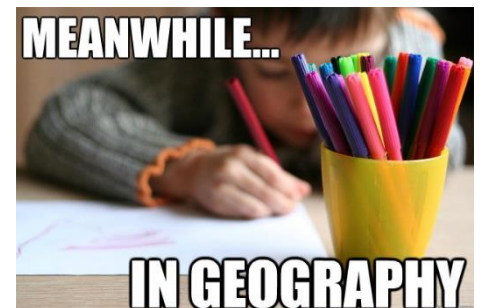
Geography

What will I learn in this subject?

Geography at GCSE builds on many of the units of work studied at KS3 as well as investigating some new topics, whilst continuing to make students aware of current geographical events and honing the skills required for further study. Anchoring all of this is the mantra of 'becoming a better Geographer'. In practice this means that students will not merely recognise that it is raining outside. Instead they will recognise that there is a low-pressure system in the air bringing cumulonimbus clouds and heavy rain. This may lead to flooding because humans have built on floodplains which are formed by successive flooding and deposition of sediment. This flooding has significant effects on the lives of people, the economy and the environment. In essence, gaining a deeper interest, so that they may be fully informed, aware and pro-active about the issues that they will face now and in the future.

What will I do in lessons?

During the course you will investigate these topics using a range of resources, fieldwork, making models, geographical information systems, sketches as well as many others. There will obviously be some note taking!



How will this subject be of use in the future?

Geography provides the knowledge and skills that many employers look for. During the course students will understand further about their place in the world, understanding about how and why the world is developing and changing, as well as acquiring the skills needed in order to respond and adapt to these changes.

How will I be assessed?

All exams will take place at the end of Year 11. Students will undertake **two** pieces of fieldwork (one physical and one human) related to a particular topic. All exams are **1 hour 30 minutes** long.

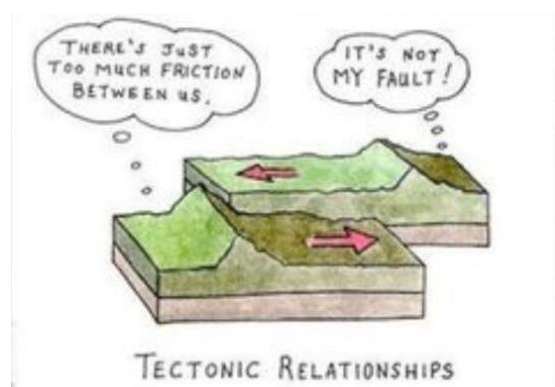
Paper 1: <i>Global Geographical Issues</i> Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hazardous Earth- Development dynamics- Challenges of an urbanising world	Paper 2: <i>UK Geographical Issues</i> Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The UK's evolving physical landscape- The UK's evolving human landscape- Geographical Investigations	Paper 3: <i>People and Environment Issues</i> Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- People and the biosphere- Forests under threat- Consuming energy resources
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Exam board:

Edexcel Specification B

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr Craig
@SVGeographers



History

GCSE History is following a great new curriculum. There are five elements of the course; each worth 20% of the total mark. This course covers large areas of American and European history over the past 1000 years.

Thematic Study (20%) Crime and Punishment, c.1250 - today



Why was smuggling a problem? What was the 'Bloody Code'? Who were the major criminals and crimes in Victorian Britain? Investigate the effects of capital punishment. Was Britain right to get rid of the death penalty? How has technology changed modern policing?

World Depth Study (20%): Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-45

Explore how Hitler rose to power and how the Nazis maintained control of Germany. What was it like to live under Nazi rule? Would you have joined the Hitler Youth? Why was there so little opposition to Nazi rule within Germany? What was it like in Germany during World War Two?



Period Study (20%): The Making of Modern America

Why did the cotton plantations and slavery expand in the USA? How did the American Civil War begin? What was it like to be a Plains Indian?

British Depth Study (20%): The Elizabethans, 1580–1603

How big a threat was Mary Queen of Scots to Elizabeth I? Was Elizabeth right to execute a fellow queen? Investigate the witch hunts as well as the rise of English theatre.



History Around Us (20%): Local Site Study

Research life in the USAAF base at Lavenham during World War Two. Why was it called the 'friendly invasion'? What impact did 3,000 US servicemen and women have locally?

How will History GCSE be useful in the future?

Ideal for a very wide range of careers such as: journalism, law, politics and business studies. As the subject develops skills in the processing and analysis of evidence, it is advantageous for students wishing to pursue careers in psychology, criminology and the sciences.

Assessment: 3 written examinations at the end of Year 11. The examinations will include source evaluations and a range of questions worth 1-20 marks each.

Exam board: OCR (Oxford and Cambridge).

Who do I need to see for more information? Miss Terry and Miss Howard

Music

What will I learn in this subject?

Music is all around us, and influences us in many ways. The GCSE course will help you to understand how music is created, through five Areas of Study, which focus on a wide range of music. You will:

- Enjoy of a wide range of music
- Perform and create music, on your own and with others
- Understand more about how music works

What will I do in lessons?

All the work you do will be related to performing, composing, or understanding specific types of music set out in the Areas of Study.

Area of Study 1 – My Music Studying any instrument or voice (including beatboxing and rapping) and performing and composing pieces in your preferred styles.		Area of Study 2 – The concerto through time Studying the concerto and its development from 1650-1910.	
Area of Study 3 – Rhythms of the world Studying the rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world.	Area of Study 4 – Film music Studying music composed and used for film and video games.	Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop Studying popular music from the 1950s to the present day.	

There is some music theory work, which is usually covered through hands-on individual and group tasks. You must be prepared to practise regularly on your instrument outside lesson time and will also be expected to take part in school ensembles and music events.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

- You may want to study music more in the future, at A Level, BTEC or Degree.
- A job in radio, music administration, concert management or as a performer or composer of music for films, adverts and computer games to name but a few options.
- You will develop skills for self-management, creativity, performance, problem-solving, communication, discipline, memorisation, self-efficacy and teamwork.

How will the course be assessed?

Controlled Assessments (60% of the final grade) – This is a mixture of performing, composing and evaluating your work, and will be done during lessons. You will need to record a solo and group performance, and do two compositions by the end of the course.

Listening Test (40% of the final grade) – this is a 90 minute test, in which you will hear extracts of music and answer questions about them.

Further information can be found on the OCR website – www.ocr.org.uk Music GCSE – code J535

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr Sodey



Photography



What will I learn in this subject?

Students must be passionate and enthusiastic about photography and understand the weighting of written work involved with this course. Students will be required to take all photoshoots in their own time in order to capture high quality images, relevant to their intentions.

The GCSE covers a range of in-depth projects relating to various themes. This qualification is marked on four main areas including; recording, experimenting, developing and presenting.

The GCSE course will help students to develop practical photographic skills. However the research and preparation work are just as important as the final images. Students must use creative approaches which go beyond observation and recording. Students will develop skills in different disciplines including Photoshop, practical manipulation and in depth analysis of work. The main aim of the course is to develop independent working skills in order to produce personal and exciting projects. Students will learn processes and techniques in lessons that they will be expected to apply in their own time by going out and taking their own photographs. This course is not just about taking photos, drawing and sketching plans are important elements of the course.

What will I do in lessons?

During lessons students will be exploring and developing ideas in their sketchbooks in preparation for their final pieces. Researching other photographers, analysing, planning and evaluating are integral parts of each project. These are important factors to help any photographer develop and improve their work. During lessons students will develop their work using Photoshop. Homework is an integral part of the course, enabling students to develop and refine their work further in their own time. During Year 10 students work on their coursework portfolios and as they transfer into Year 11 they start their mock exam project, helping them to prepare for the final exam. Dedicating time, preparation and commitment to taking photo shoots are vital in GCSE Photography.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

On completion of your GCSE course you could progress to further education including A Level Photography, BTEC or Diplomas in Photography. Many employers look for candidates who are creative, can 'think outside of the box' and can evidence commitment to a two year course in their portfolio.

How will I be assessed?

Unit1: Personal Portfolio (Year 10) 60% of total mark
11) 40% of total mark

Unit 2: Externally set assignment (Year

Exam board:
AQA

Who do I need to see for more information?
Mrs Mayes

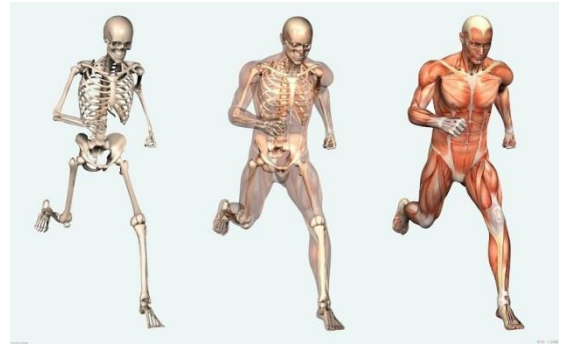


GCSE Physical Education

What will I learn in this subject?

Students will...

- learn about applied anatomy and physiology of the human body
- learn how to organise, analyse and interpret data
- develop their knowledge of exercise and training
- find ways to improve their own performance in a variety of roles
- identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle
- learn how to analyse biomechanical movement



What will I do in lessons?

One additional hour per fortnight of practical PE as well as five classroom based theory lessons.

This course will appeal to students who...

- have an interest in issues linked to biology and maths
- take part in competitive sport outside of school time and look forward to PE lessons
- want to follow a course that will develop your knowledge and understanding of sport and exercise
- are considering a sports related career or A Level or degree level education courses.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE PE course is assessed over 3 units:

Component 1: Applied anatomy and physiology and Physical training

1 hour in the Summer Term Year 11. **Totalling 30% of your qualification**

Component 2: Socio-cultural influences, Sports psychology, Health, fitness and well-being

1 hour in the Summer Term Year 11 **Totalling 30% of your qualification**

Component 3: Practical Performance in 3 activities and one piece of NEA (Non Examined Assessment) coursework.

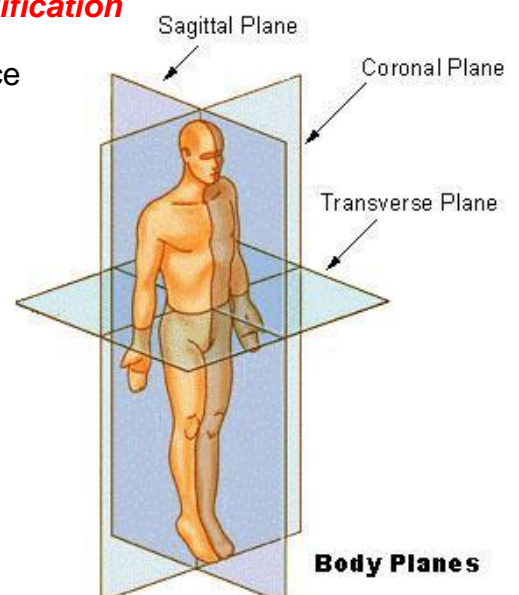
Totalling 40% of your qualification

Exam board:

OCR

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr Leppard



Prince's Trust Achieve Programme

What will I learn in this subject?

The Prince's Trust Achieve programme helps 11 to 19 year-olds develop the skills and confidence they need to reach their goals, through relevant, engaging and informal learning. Education should prepare young people for the future they want and this course contributes to that aim.

What will I do in lessons?

Students will compile a portfolio of evidence that will help them to achieve the Prince's Trust Personal Development and Employability Skills (PDE) qualification. Students will complete a range of topics from the Achieve Programme such as interpersonal and self-management skills, team work, career planning, money management and supporting others in the community.

Students will also develop competence in the wider key skills of working with others, improving their own learning and problem-solving.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

- * You will learn practical skills needed for everyday life when you leave school.
- * You will talk to experts from the world of work.
- * You will study ways of making career pathway choices.



Prince's Trust

How will I be assessed?

There are no examinations at all. Assessment is based entirely on projects and coursework. Students gain 1 or 2 credits for each module completed. The credits for each unit will be used to achieve Entry, Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Miss Stewart – Special Needs Co-ordinator

Psychology

What will I learn in this subject?

The **GCSE Psychology** course takes you to that most fascinating of places - the human mind! You will learn how to understand people's behaviour and predict how they are likely to behave in different situations. You will investigate areas such as:



- How exactly does my memory work?
- Why do I forget things?
- How can I read body language?
- How can I tell if somebody likes me?
- How (and why) do Psychologists conduct research?
- Why are some people reluctant to help in emergencies?
- How do animals communicate?
- How do our thoughts influence our behaviour?
- What causes depression?
- Is addiction genetic?
- Which parts of the brain process speech, thinking and pain?

What will I do in lessons?

The course comprises eight units on topics such as Memory, Perception and Psychological Problems. A typical lesson will involve learning about and writing notes on the science behind key topics, case studies and theories. You will learn to understand what is going on around you, how your brain works and how you can apply your learning to everyday life such as memory techniques to improve your study skills. There will also be some practical work.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

The course will build your analytical, evaluation and research skills. A good knowledge of Psychology can support many further education courses, and is useful in many careers such as police work, neuroscience research, psychotherapy and counselling, journalism, teaching, medical professions, law, personnel work, childcare, social work, animal care, civil service, the armed forces, general management, occupational therapy, forensic psychology and probation work.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 2 exams at the end of the course, both lasting for 1 hour and 45 minutes. The papers are a mixture of multiple-choice, short answer, and long answer questions. Each exam covers 4 separate units.

Exam board:

AQA

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms Chappell



Religious Studies

What will I learn in this subject?

Religious Studies at GCSE builds on the social and ethical issues covered in Year 9, students focus on two main Religions; Christianity and Islam, but also look at many topics from an Atheist and Humanist perspective. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of these belief systems via an in-depth study into Religious Values and how Religious people live their lives. This enables students to gain an understanding about people from different walks of life. They will investigate Christian and Islamic teachings and show an understanding of how faith impacts on individuals and communities.

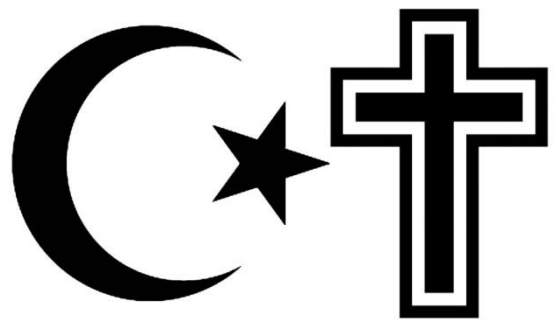
Students will study the following topics from two exam papers:

Paper one: Religion and Ethics – Christianity

- Christian Beliefs
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Christian life
- Matters of Life and Death

Paper two: Religion, Peace and Conflict- Islam

- Muslim Beliefs
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Muslim Life
- Peace and Conflict



What will I do in lessons?

Throughout the GCSE students will debate different issues and complete a great deal of group work. It is important to note that being able to form your own opinion and express your ideas is a key aspect of the course. Units will include issues such as abortion, sexual relationships, capital punishment, conflict in the world and life after death. These topics will help students to develop their own opinions and formulate arguments to create well-informed, structured written answers; a skill that is fundamental to many A Level courses.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

GCSE Religious Studies allows students to gain an understanding about people from different walks of life. It is valued by employers and particularly those dealing with members of the public, such as the police, emergency and rescue services, jobs with children and the medical profession. The ability to collaborate and discuss will further prepare them for further education and the world of work and it links well to the A Level study of Philosophy, Law, History, and Sociology.

How will I be assessed?

The exam consists of two written papers which are 1 hour 45 minutes each. Each exam paper accounts for 50% of the total marks.

Exam board:

Edexcel

Who do I need to see for more information?

Miss Spearpoint



Spanish

What will I learn in this subject?

The Spanish GCSE course builds upon vocabulary and structures we have been studying up to Year 9, exploring familiar topics in more depth. Some topics, such as environmental matters, are also included in order to reflect students' interests and to provide a bridge to the A Level course for our more able linguists. The aim of the course is to provide students with the skills to be able to interact in spoken Spanish with spontaneity and to write accurate, detailed Spanish without support. The course prepares students to speak and write in a range of tenses, and it is important to get to grips with the grammar of the language and to learn the GCSE vocabulary as we go along. We also develop comprehension skills in order to understand spoken and written language in new and unfamiliar contexts such as extracts from literature.

What will I do in lessons?

Lessons involve practising new vocabulary and structures in pairs or groups, reviewing and learning more about the grammar of the language and completing reading and listening comprehension activities. By using songs, magazines and videos, we ensure lessons also include varied and authentic Spanish.



How will this subject be of use in the future?

Studying Spanish at GCSE opens the door to future opportunities, from moving on to A Level Spanish or other qualifications to a wide variety of careers, they can also help enrich your experiences while travelling abroad. The skills learnt in GCSE Spanish are transferrable when learning additional languages, as well as developing communication skills, an interest in other cultures and problem-solving, qualities which are highly desirable for future employers and academic institutions. A language qualification is frequently a requirement for the top universities.

How will I be assessed?



At the end of Year 11, the four skills: (listening, reading, speaking and writing) are assessed through a formal examination paper in each skill. Your teacher will conduct the speaking exam, and it takes place shortly before the written exams begin in Year 11. It has three parts: a role-play, a discussion based on a picture and a conversation.

Exam board:
Edexcel

Who do I need to see for more information?
Mrs Magowan

Statistics

What will I learn in this subject?

GCSE Statistics provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in the following areas:

- planning a statistical enquiry
- collecting data
- processing, analysing and representing data
- interpreting and evaluating results

What will I do in lessons?

Students will learn new methods and techniques under the following headings;

- Planning and data collection
- Processing, representing and analysing data
- Reasoning, interpreting and discussing results
- Probability

Much of the content supports the Mathematics GCSE, whereas other areas are solely in the Statistics curriculum.

How will this subject be of use in the future?

This qualification is useful in many areas, particularly those interested in running a business, or studying A Levels in Economics, Biology, Psychology, Business Studies and particularly Mathematics.

How will I be assessed?

Two Tiers; Foundation grades 5-1 and Higher grades 9-4

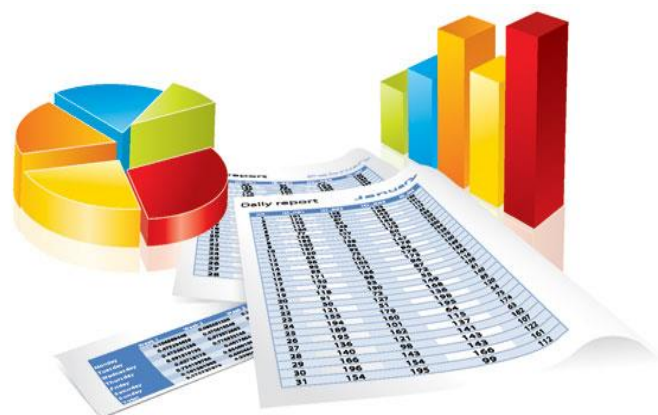
GCSE Statistics is assessed via two 1½ hour written papers, taken at the end of Year 11, 80 marks per paper.

Exam board:

Edexcel

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr Hayes



Technology

Students taking GCSE Technology will be grouped by the specialist area they wish to base their studies around with choices to be made from either a Resistant Materials, Graphics or Textiles bias. Although students will be required to choose a specialist area, the new course content will allow students much greater creativity and freedom to how they design and produce their products. For example, a Resistant Materials student may choose to work with card and paper; a Graphics student work with electronics and fabrics and a Textiles student work with timber and metals.

It needs to be noted that the new specification does not allow students to take for example Graphics in one option block and Resistant Materials in another; they may only choose one Technology subject.

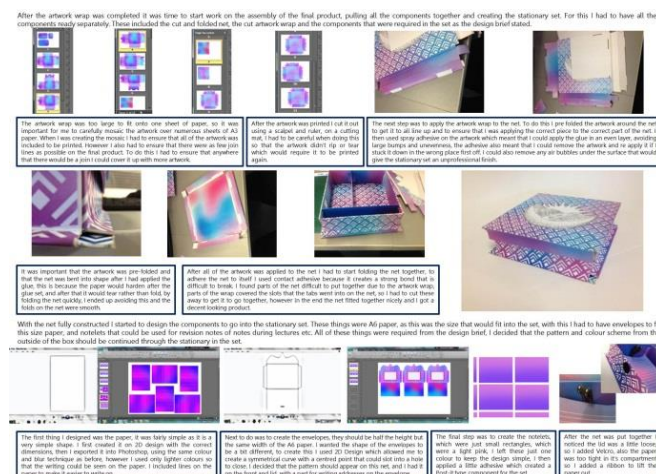
What will I learn in this subject?

Technology GCSE as a subject is both intellectual and practical in nature. Through testing, experimentation and manufacturing products students develop a practical knowledge of the working properties of materials as well as knowledge of both hand and computer aided manufacturing techniques; they develop both hand and computer aided design drawing and presentation skills; and use ICT to help research, communicate and realise their ideas. These skills are backed up by an intellectual understanding of the design process and design history, as well as imaginative problem solving, analytical and evaluative skills that will enable students to produce well-designed products that meet the needs of the target market. Students are also introduced to the possibilities presented by new and emerging technologies such as smart materials and they also consider the social, moral and environmental impact on society of design and future technological developments.

The specification has been designed to re-enforce the close links between Technology and Maths and Science, and students should note that the course requires application of mathematical and scientific knowledge (at end of KS3 level) during both the practical and exam elements of the course. This course would therefore suit not only creative students but could act as a complimentary subject for those students with an interest in the Sciences, Maths and Computer Science.

What will I do in lessons?

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore their creativity and build on previous skills and knowledge. It demands a high level of commitment and students will be expected to work independently to deadlines in both their portfolio and theory work, as well as show a high standard of presentation as designers are required to do in the real world.



How will this subject be of use in the future?

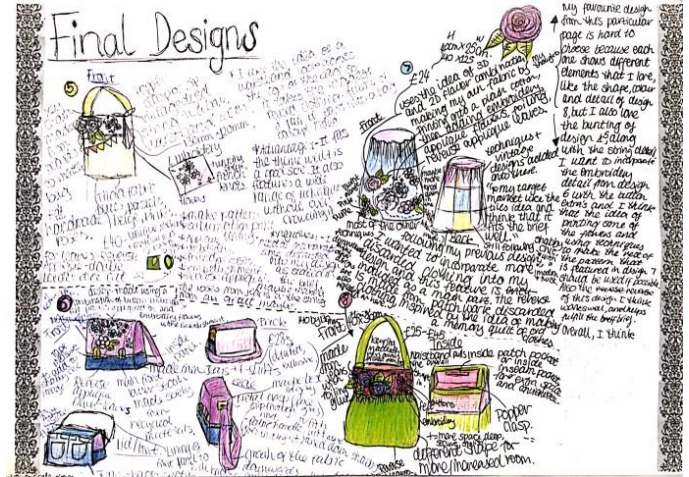
Studying Technology can lead to a wide range of careers including: engineering; product and industrial design; architecture; jewellery design; fashion and textiles design; film and theatre set design; self-employed craftspeople; graphic designer/artist; illustrator; cartoonist, animator; book and magazine design; web based design; and advertising.

How will I be assessed?

The Technology GCSE is composed of two parts.

Written exam Paper, 2hours – Marked out of 100 and worth 50% of GCSE award. Taken at the end of Year 11 and marked externally.

- Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks). A mixture of multiple choice and short questions assessing general Technology knowledge.
- Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks). Questions based around students selected specialism, several short answer question and one extended response to assess more in depth knowledge.
- Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks). A mix of short and long answer questions.



Non-exam assessment, 30-35hours approx. Portfolio based design and make task, marked out of 100 and worth 50% of GCSE award. Marked by teachers then externally moderated by exam board, started at the end of Year 10 and assessed as follows –

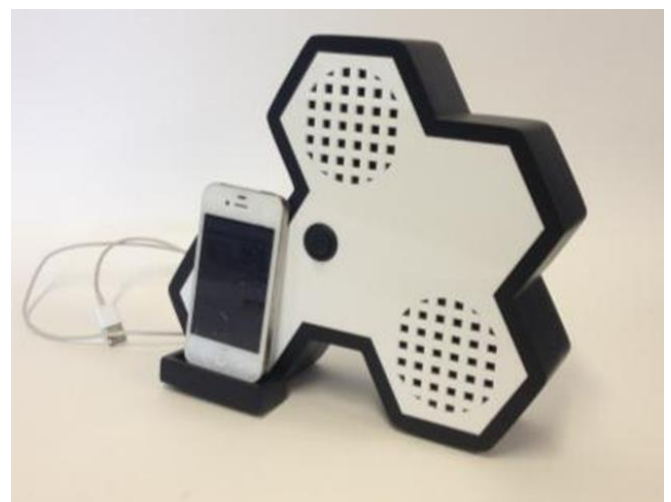
- Identifying and investigating design possibilities (10 marks).
- Producing a design brief and specification (10 marks).
- Generating design ideas (20 marks).
- Developing design ideas (20 marks).
- Realising design ideas (making) (20 marks).
- Analysing and evaluating (20 marks).

Exam board:

AQA

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr Coe, Mr Stephens, Mrs Bruton



Notes



STOUR VALLEY

— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

Options Brochure 2021