

Options 2026-
2028

**Information
for students**



STOUR VALLEY
— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

The Core Curriculum

- All students will study the following in Year 10 & Year 11
- English Literature - One GCSE
- English Language – One GCSE
- Maths – One GCSE
- Core P.E (Non examined)
- Science (Combined or separate sciences) – Either two or three GCSES

Options

- In addition to the core curriculum students will get to study FOUR options.
- One of these options must be either Spanish. History. Geography.
- The other three options are free choice
- ✓ On the options form students will choose six options (four choices and two reserves)
- ✓ Six rank order choices (student will be allocated four of these)
- ✓ We will try our best to give students their highest rank priority as much as possible

Three Remaining Options

- You will then study three more choices from the following list

Geography	Sport	Food Technology
History	RE	RM
Computer Science	Art	Graphics
Drama	Music	Health & Social care
Spanish	Photography	Psychology
Statistics		

- Students can only choose one Technology from Resistant Materials and Graphics as they are the same GCSE course (may choose the other as reserves), Food Technology is a separate subject and may be chosen alongside either RM or Graphics.**

To summarise all students will study

CORE CURRICULUM	ONE OPTION FROM	OPEN OPTIONS
All students will study *English *Maths *Science *Futures (during form time) *Core PE	One choice from *Spanish *History *Geography	Three more choices

We offer a
range of
qualifications

Level Equivalent	New Grade	Previous Grade
Level 2 equivalent	9	A*
	8	A
	7	B
	6	B
	5 Strong pass 4 Standard pass	C
Level 1 equivalent	3	D
	2	E
	1	F
		G
	U	U

Current Option Blocks Example



Monday period 1	Tuesday period 3	Tuesday period 4	Friday period 5
A	B	C	D
Statistics	Food	History	Computer Science
Health & Social Care	Art	History	Geography
Music	Drama	Sport	History
Psychology	Geography	Spanish	Health & Social care
Religious Studies	Graphics	RM	Psychology
Photography	RM		

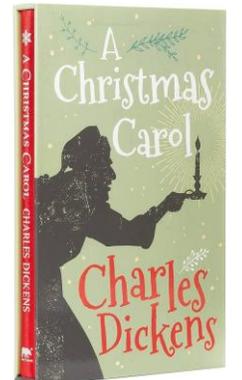
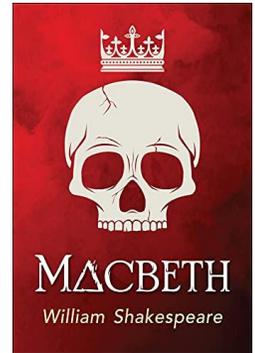
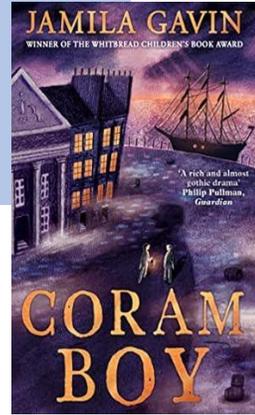
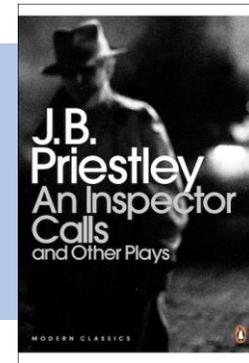
How to make your choices

- Consider your strengths and which subjects really interest you
- Do not choose a subject simply because your friends do
- Do not choose a subject because you like the teacher
- Be selfish!
- Take advice from your subject teachers and your form tutor
- Find out more about subjects from staff
- Ask for help making your decision if you need it
- Try and get a good mix of subjects which suit your skills

The process

- Forms to be sent out FRIDAY 12TH MARCH by email to main parent contact
- Forms ARE NOT first come first served but must be returned by Thursday 26th March 9am
- Option Blocks will then be built and students will be informed of their choices approximately by the end of June.
- Mr Mussett and Miss Cooper will be discussing with students if there are any issues.
- All option choices WILL be used in some cases so please choose carefully as it is impossible to allocate every student their first four preferences.
- If there is not enough interest in a course or if staffing changes then it may not be offered

Subject – English CORE



Who to speak to: - Mrs Gill

English Language- Pearsons Edexcel

What will I learn about?

- Analysing language and techniques
- Exploring different structural choices
- Creative writing

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1- Non- Fiction (50%)
- Paper 2- Fiction (50%)
- Spoken Language

English Language- Pearsons Edexcel

What will I learn about?

- Plot and context
- Theme
- Character

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1- Macbeth and An Inspector Calls/ Coram Boy (50%)
- Paper 2- Belonging Poetry and A Christmas Carol (50%)

Subject – Maths CORE

Who to speak to: - Mr Hayes

What will I learn?

Topics from the following headings:

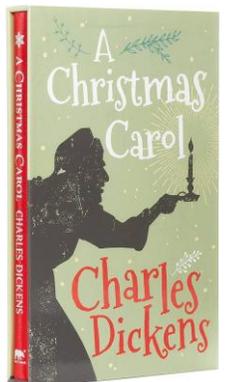
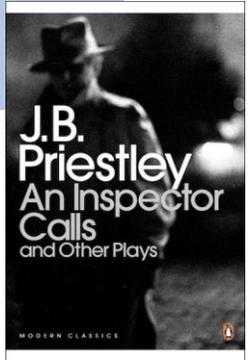
- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Course: Edexcel (Pearsons)

How will I be assessed?

Three 1 and ½ hour papers, equally weighted:

- Paper 1- Non-calculator
- Paper 2- Calculator
- Paper 3- Calculator



Subject – Science CORE

Who to speak to: - Mr Jenkins

What will I learn?

You will continue to learn Biology, Chemistry and Physics until the end of Year 11 regardless if you take Triple or Double Science.

The main difference between the two Science courses is there is more content to cover in Triple Science in the same amount of time, so it results in an additional GCSE exam.

Course: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Double Science – 2 GCSE's

Two exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes

Triple Science – 3 GCSE's

Two exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes



Subject – History



Who to speak to: Miss Terry & Miss Howard

What will I learn about?

The USA in Suffolk during WW2

Life inside Nazi Germany

Power & plots in Elizabethan England

Crime & punishments c.1250-today

The birth of the USA: slavery, Native Americans and the American Civil War!

Course: OCR History B (SHP)

How will I be assessed?

3 exams which assess:

- Your ability to analyse sources (photos etc)
- Your ability to explain and make connections between events and people.

Subject – Geography



Who to speak to: - Mr Craig and Mr Chapman

Course: Edexcel Geography B

What will I learn about?

- Hazards, urbanisation and megacities.**
- UK's coasts, rivers, London and rural areas.**
- Ecosystems, deforestation and resources.**

How will I be assessed?

3 papers of 1 hour 30 minutes.

Mixture of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions.



SE HABLA
Español

Subject – Spanish



Who to speak to: - Mrs Magowan

Course: Pearson Edexcel, 2024 specification

What will I learn about?

We study Spanish via six Thematic Contexts:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism



How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams:

- Speaking exam 25%
- Listening paper 25%
- Reading paper 25%
- Writing paper 25%

The speaking exam is conducted by your teacher.

Subject – Computer Science

Who to speak to: - Mr Lee

What will I learn about?

- **Systems Architecture**
- **Computational Thinking**
- **Programming**
- **Computer Networks**
- **Ethical Issues and AI**
- **Network Security**
- **Boolean Logic**

Course: OCR J277 Computer Science

How will I be assessed?

- **Exam 1 : Computer Systems**
- **Written Paper**
- **1 hour and 30 minutes**

Exam 2 : Computational Thinking and Programming

- **Written Paper**
- **1 hour and 30 minutes**



Subject – Religious Studies

Who to speak to: Mr Livermore/Mrs Chester

Course: Edexcel Religious Studies Spec B

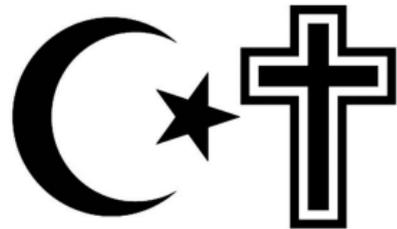
What will I learn about?

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



How will I be assessed?

Two written exams at the end of Year 11

**Written exam paper 1 – Religion and Ethics
Christianity**

1 hour 45 minutes

Worth 50% of your final mark

**Written exam paper 2 – Religion, peace and conflict
– Islam**

1 hour 45 minutes

Worth 50% of your final mark

Sports Science – Cambridge National

Who to speak to: - Mr Leppard

What will I learn about?

Anatomy & Physiology

Fitness training

Fitness testing

Fitness programming

Rules & regulations

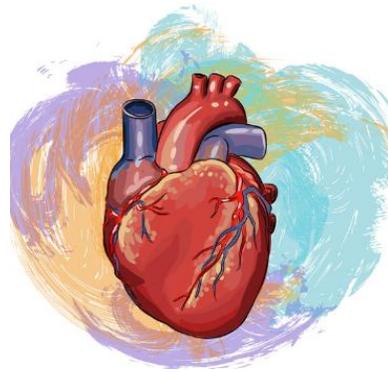
National Governing Bodies

Providers of sports facilities

Sports Injuries

Treatment of injuries

Practical Sporting Opportunities

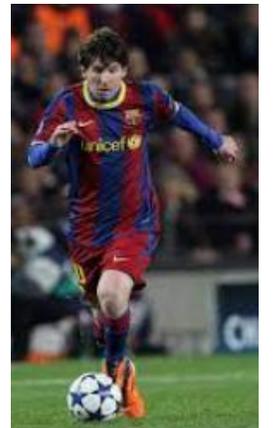
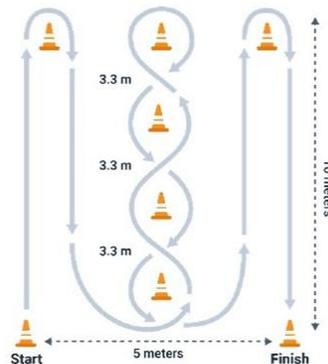


Course:

1 x exam (1 hour 30 mins)

2 x internal assessments

- 5 tasks in 5 hours
- Combination of video evidence, written document and PowerPoints



Subject – Art

Who to speak to: - Mrs Mayes

What will I learn about?

You will produce personal sketchbooks in response to a range of themes. These will evidence your creative journey and development of ideas. You will study the work of other artists and analyse their work in detail. The course will enable you to develop your skills in the following areas.

Drawing

Painting

Ceramics

Printing

Mixed media

As part of your personal portfolio, will also produce large-scale drawings, 2D and 3D final pieces.

Course: GCSE Art (AQA)

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio (Year 10) 60% of Total Mark

Unit 2: Externally set exam assignment

10 Hour GCSE Exam (Year 11) 40% of Total Mark

Both units must show evidence for all ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- **AO1** Develop ideas
- **AO2** Explore
- **AO3** Record ideas
- **AO4** Produce a personal response

Subject – Music



Who to speak to: Mrs Hutchinson

What will I learn about?

5 Areas of Study:

AOS1 – My instrument

Learn to play pieces on your instrument of choice or develop your Music Technology skills and use recording and producing software

AOS2 – The Classical Concerto

Learn about Baroque, Classical and Romantic Music

AOS3 – World Music

Study Greek, Palestinian, African, South American, Indian and Punjab Music

AOS4 – Film and Game Music

Study film scores and music used in Computer Games

AOS5 – Popular Music

Learn about Rock and Roll from the 50's and 60's, Rock Anthems from the 70's and 80's, Pop Ballads from the 70's, 80's and 90's and Solo Pop Artists from 90's to present day.



Course: OCR GCSE Music

How will I be assessed?

90 Minute Listening Exam – 40%

1 Solo performance – 15%

recorded on an instrument of your choice (or piece recreated on music software)

1 Free Choice Composition – 15%

Write your own piece of music completely made up by you!

1 Ensemble Performance – 15%

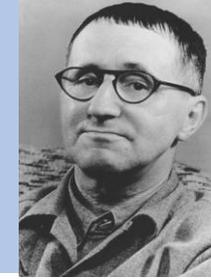
recorded on an instrument of your choice with at least one other person (or piece recreated on music software)

1 Brief Choice Composition – 15%

Write your own piece of music completely made up by you but in response to a set of instructions given to us by the exam board e.g. write a piece for a new film being released about an alien invasion...



Subject – Drama



Who to speak to: Miss Wright

What will I learn about?

The GCSE Drama specification is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience of Drama. You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but also your design skills in areas such as:

- Lighting design
- Sound design
- Set design
- Costume, Hair and Make-Up design

Course: Eduqas GCSE Drama

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre 40%

You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised. You will produce a portfolio of supporting material based on your rehearsal process, a performance lasting between 5-16 minutes and an evaluation of your final performance.

Component 2: Scripted Performance 20%

You will study two extracts from the same text. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design. You will produce a performance lasting between 5-14 minutes using sections of text from both extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre 40%

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes. You will answer:

- Section A: Find Me by Olwen Wymark (45 marks). A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.
- Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation (15 marks). One question from a choice of two, analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre performance seen during the course.

Subject – Photography

Who to speak to: - Mrs Mayes

What will I learn about?

You will produce a digital portfolio in response to a range of themes. You will evidence your photographic journey and development of ideas. You will study the work of other photographers and analyse their work in detail. In lessons, you will plan your photoshoots, which you will photograph as homework tasks in your chosen locations. The course will enable you to develop your skills using Photoshop to digitally manipulate and enhance your photos.

You will be required to demonstrate skills in all of the following:

- the ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography
- awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of photography
- the ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography
- appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement
- appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area(s) of photography
- understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

Course: GCSE Photography (AQA)

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio (Year 10) 60% of Total Mark

Unit 2: Externally set exam assignment

10 Hour GCSE Exam (Year 11) 40% of Total Mark

Both units must show evidence for all ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- **AO1** Develop ideas
- **AO2** Explore
- **AO3** Record ideas
- **AO4** Produce a personal response



Subject – Food Technology



Who to speak to: - Mrs Iannone

What will I learn about?

- **Food commodities**
- **Principles of nutrition**
- **Diet and good health**
- **The science of food**
- **Where food comes from**
- **Cooking and food preparation**

Course:  **eduqas**
Part of WJEC

Food Preparation & Nutrition.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1-Principles of food preparation and nutrition

Written examination =50% of qualification

Component 2-Food preparation and nutrition in action

Two-NEA(Non examination assessments) Practical and written =50% of qualification

Subject – Resistant Materials

Who to speak to: - Mr Coe & Mr Stephens

What will I learn about?

- How to develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values
- The generation of imaginative ideas when designing.
- How to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making.
- Communicating design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing.
- Developing decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- Developing a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.
- How to be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses
- Costs, commercial viability and marketing of products.
- Safe working practices in design and technology
- Use of key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making, manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics.

Course: AQA

How will I be assessed?

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 - 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

Subject – Graphics

Who to speak to: - Mr Coe & Mr Stephens

What will I learn about?

- How to develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values
- The generation of imaginative ideas when designing.
- How to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making.
- Communicating design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing.
- Developing decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- Developing a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.
- How to be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses
- Costs, commercial viability and marketing of products.
- Safe working practices in design and technology
- Use of key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making, manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics.

Course: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Written exam Paper, 2 hours – 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 - 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

Subject – Health & Social Care

Who to speak to: - Mrs Jamieson

What will I learn about?

Health and Social Care develops real world skills through the use of case studies to plan and analyse individual care. This is a vocational course ideal for students that are considering a career in the Health and Social Care sector. Examples of careers that students may wish to pursue include nursing, midwifery, counselling, psychology, care work, speech and language therapy and special educational needs teaching.

Students are encouraged to develop industry specific knowledge and skills and apply them to practical situations by completing coursework / NEA's in the form of written reports as well as undertaking examinations in some units.

Various topics are covered including human growth and life stages. You will develop skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as Communicating effectively with individuals or groups. Communication is at the heart of health and social care and is taught or applied in all units.

Course: Cambridge National in Health and Social care (Level ½)

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed across 3 components:

- 1) RO32 Principles of care in health and social care settings – External examination. This exam makes up 40% of the final grade.
- 2) RO33 Supporting individuals through life events – NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)
- 3) RO34 Creative and therapeutic activities OR RO35 Health promotion campaigns – NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)

The NEA components completed through coursework make up 30% each of the final grade.

Subject – Psychology

Who to speak to: - Mr Mussett & Mr Simms

Course: AQA GCSE Psychology 8182

What will I learn about?

Unit 1 – **Memory**

Unit 2 - **Perception**

Unit 3 - **Development**

Unit 4 - **Research Methods**

Unit 5 - **Social Influence**

Unit 6 - **Language, Thought & Communication**

Unit 7 - **The Brain & Neuropsychology**

Unit 8 - **Psychological Problems**

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 : **Cognition & Behaviour**

- Written exam (Units 1-4)
- 100 marks
- 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Each unit – multiple choice, short answer & extended writing (25 marks)

Paper 2 : **Social Context & Behaviour**

- Written exam (Units 5-8)
- 100 marks
- 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Each unit – multiple choice, short answer & extended writing (25 marks)

Subject – Statistics

Who to speak to: - Mr Hayes

What will I learn about?

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

Course: Edexcel (Pearsons)

How will I be assessed?

Two 1 and ½ hour papers, equally weighted:

- Paper 1- Calculator
- Paper 2- Calculator