



***Your pathway to the future***

**Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2020-2022**



# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Welcome

January 2020

Dear Student

### Re: YEAR 9 OPTIONS: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Choosing your Year 9 options is one of the most exciting times in your education as it gives you your first real opportunity to select some of the subjects that you will study for the next two years. It also marks the start of planning for your future; the decisions that you make now will have an impact on post 16 and career choices.

At The Holt, our aim is to offer all students a broad, well balanced and relevant learning programme.

All of you will continue to study the examined 'core' subjects of: **English, English literature, mathematics, science (triple or combined)** and **philosophy of religion**.

You will also study courses in **physical education and personal, social and health education (PSHE)**.

In addition, most students will follow a course in at least one modern foreign language (**French** and/or **Spanish**).

Opportunities exist for you to study a range of other GCSE and non-GCSE courses.

Every effort is made by your subject teachers, form tutors, Head of Year and the Senior Leadership Team, to offer you information, advice and guidance in the weeks leading up to this time of choice.



Ben Adams  
Assistant Headteacher



# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

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# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## *FAQs for students*

### **WHO chooses my options?**

Basically YOU choose your subjects. You should talk things through with your parents and you will also be helped by your teachers.

### **WHY is my choice important?**

You are making a two year commitment, and it is important that you enjoy what you are doing.

You are preparing yourself for both working and leisure time in the future; you should consider both aspects. Your choices now may well make a big difference to which courses you can take in Years 12 and 13 and later, at university, or at work.

### **HOW do I make my choice?**

#### **DO:**

- Find out exactly what each course involves by reading the details in this booklet.
- Consider how well you will cope with the demands of the subject. Ask your teachers about this.
- Consider the entrance requirements of any area of employment in which you have an interest.
- Be careful not to close any doors at this stage because you may well change your mind about jobs later.

#### **DON'T** choose a subject because:

- your friend is doing the course
- you like the teacher
- you think it will be easy

### **WHICH courses must I take?**

Some of your curriculum is compulsory. You will continue to take English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language, PE, philosophy of religion and PSHE.

**In addition** you choose 3 subjects from the options blocks.

### **How many examination subjects will I take?**

Most students take a minimum of 7 separate GCSE subjects and a maximum of 12.

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Key Stage 4 Pathways

### What might my curriculum look like?

	<b>or</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>or</b>
EBacc	NON EBacc	ENGLISH PLUS PATHWAY	ICA PATHWAY
Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
English language	English language	English language	English language
English literature	English literature	English literature	English literature
Triple or combined science	Triple or combined science	Combined science or biology	Biology
MFL French or Spanish	MFL French or Spanish	MFL French or Spanish  OR Learning Link support	Learning Link support
PoR - examined in Year 10	PoR - examined in Year 10	PoR - examined in Year 10	PoR non-examined course
PE GCSE or core PE	PE GCSE or core PE	PE GCSE or core PE	PE GCSE or core PE
PSHE	PSHE	PSHE	PSHE
History or geography	3 GCSE or non-GCSE options	English Plus course	English Plus course
2 other GCSE options		2 other GCSE or non-GCSE options	ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, health and social care (level 1), plus one option
10-12 GCSEs plus EBacc	10-12 GCSEs	7-10 GCSEs	5-7 GCSEs

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## GCSE Options – parent guide

The open choices comprise a comprehensive range of GCSE subjects based on the following areas: **arts, humanities, technology** and **languages**.

We strongly recommend a balanced curriculum, consisting of a mixture of arts, technology and humanities subjects, with a language choice being compulsory. However, if your daughter has a particular interest or aptitude in languages, she may wish to take more than one modern foreign language.

It may be helpful for you to understand that in 2011 the government introduced the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). The idea was that schools should offer students a broad range of academic subjects to age 16, and that the EBacc promotes that aspiration. It is not a qualification in itself, but will recognise students' achievements across a core of selected academic subjects. The EBacc is awarded for achievement of a 9 - 5 grade in the following GCSEs: English, maths, science and a language (i.e. French or Spanish) and either history or geography. As you will see, our options system allows all students to opt for programmes to qualify for the EBacc award if they wish.

In September 2015, new GCSE courses were introduced for maths and English. The rest of the GCSE subjects have now come on board with these changes. Therefore, your daughter will sit 'new style' exams and be awarded grades by number 1- 9 in all GCSE subjects.

### GCSE grades explained

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B <small>GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above = top of C and above</small>
5	
4	C <small>AWARDING 4 and above = bottom of C and above</small>
3	
2	D
1	E
	F
	G
U	U

The key changes from the old style GCSE are:

- A new grading system ranging from 1-9 with 9 being the highest grade awarded
- Assessment in most subjects is by external exam only



# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## *Careers Education & Guidance*

The choices that you make now are very important as they can affect the range of options available to you at the end of Year 11. To help make the right choices in Year 9, students are provided with reliable and timely careers information.

### **The Holt School provides:**

#### **Year 9**

- Careers lessons in PSHE
- Computer software to match strengths and preferences to occupations
- Specialist lessons/assemblies focusing on option choices
- Careers guidance from specialist staff at school and at options/careers evening
- One-to-one interview with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year

#### **Year 10 and beyond**

- A citizenship programme that focuses on preparation for career management and exploration
- One day of enterprise skills workshops
- Guest speakers in a number of occupational areas from industry
- Help with guidance at 16+
- Use of drop-in career clinics
- One week of compulsory work experience

### **Students are reminded that they can help themselves by:**

- Looking out for lunchtime careers seminar dates on daily briefing.
- Researching and attending career opportunities advertised on FROG.
- Visiting the careers library in the Careers Resource Centre in the English block at break or lunchtime.
- Using careers related computer software such as [www.fasttomato.com](http://www.fasttomato.com) (login is HOLW).
- Talking about their career ideas with their teachers to connect what they are learning with job roles.

**Your Careers Lead is Mrs Hart. Please visit the Careers Resource Centre situated in the English block for current information. Appointments are available on request.**

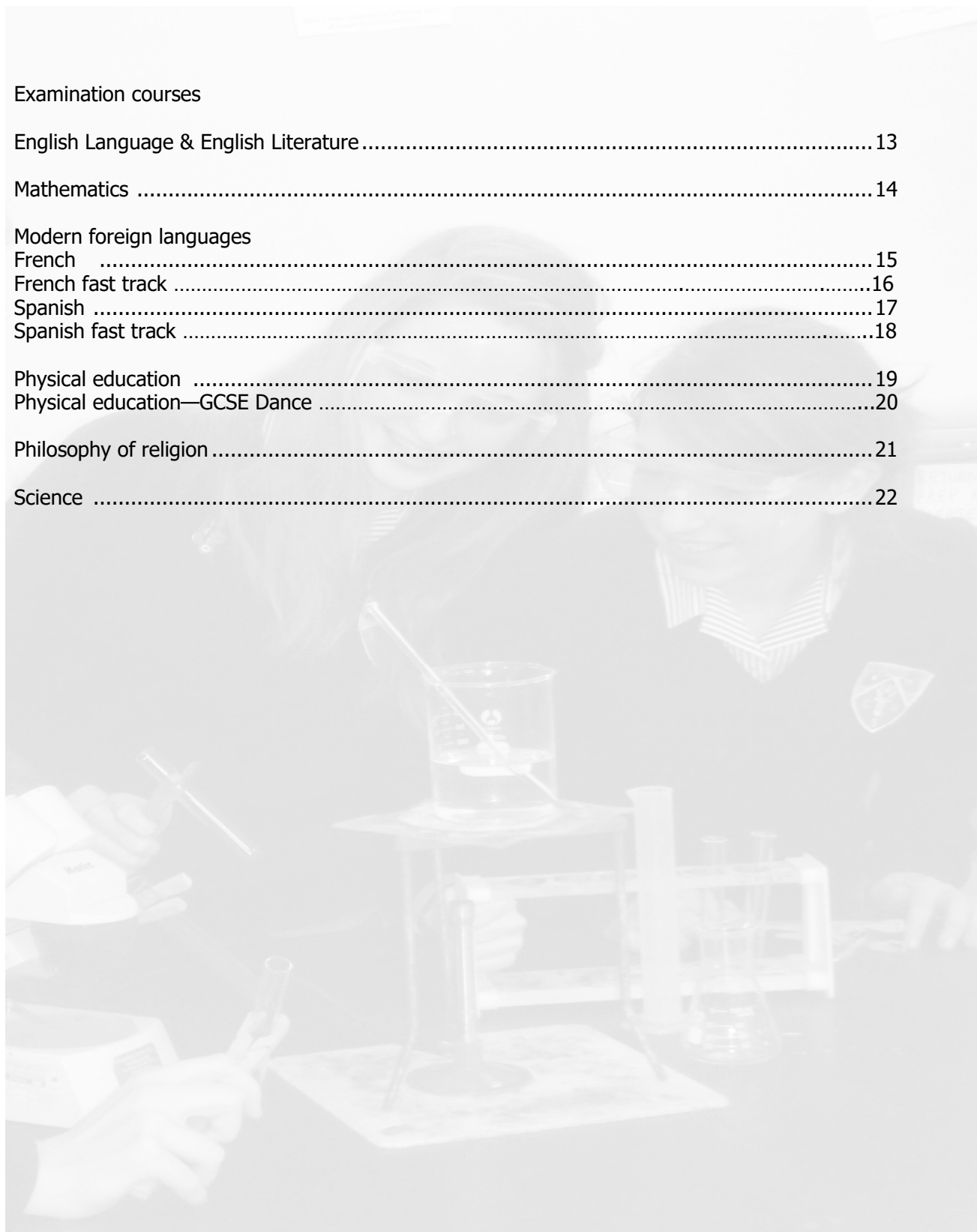


# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Core Subjects—Course Descriptions

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# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## English Language & English Literature

### WHAT are these subjects about?

In English language and literature lessons you will be taught to read fluently and write effectively. As well as developing a confident control of standard English, you will learn to write grammatically correct sentences, deploy figurative language and analyse texts. You will be taught to respond to, and to write for, a range of audiences and purposes to provide information, entertainment and persuasion. In addition, your paragraphing, sentence structure, variety of expression and correct spelling and punctuation will continue to be assessed.

The courses will allow you to develop your ability to read, understand, enjoy and respond to all types of texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. You will study poetry, prose and drama, including Shakespeare. There will also be an emphasis on developing your insight into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. You will therefore develop an awareness of personal, social, cultural and historical significance in literature. You will be encouraged to read widely, independently and critically, making informed comparisons between writing.

The GCSE English Language and English Literature courses are inter-related and are not taught as separate entities.

You will also have an opportunity to develop your ability to formally present ideas and arguments using standard English.

### WHY do I study these subjects?

The English teaching in Years 10 and 11 is guided by the requirements of the AQA GCSE specifications. All students will be entered for both GCSE English Language as well as GCSE English Literature, which is a separate qualification.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

English Language: 100% examination at the end of Year 11 (two final papers: one on explorations in creative reading and writing, and the second on writers' viewpoints and perspectives)

English Literature: 100% examination at the end of Year 11 (two final papers: one on Shakespeare and a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel and the second on modern drama and prose, poetry and unseen poetry)

Spoken English: assessment throughout the course (to be separately certificated)

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Everyone is building on the skills they have learned throughout Key Stage 3 in the areas of reading, writing and spoken English. These skills will ensure every success for committed students.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

These skills are essential for those wishing to continue with English at the next stage of A level. GCSE English is welcomed by employers as essential to their requirements and will take you into any area for future study across the whole range of subjects available at university and college.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs R McClelland, Head of English

*"English allows you to broaden your understanding of different perspectives and motives that once might not have been apparent."*

Jess

*"Revision tips are easy to follow and embedded into our learning."*

Maddie

*"Our teacher is very supportive in lessons to ensure we do our best."*

Emilia

## Mathematics

*“Maths is a core subject which is valued very highly by employers, and it applies to lots of other subjects.”*

Hannah

*“Employers/ apprenticeships/ universities often look at how you did in maths.”*

Jana

*“Maths helps with other subjects. It’s a prestigious qualification which will help you to get a good job and degree.”*

Aneesh

### **WHAT is this subject about?**

Maths covers the six areas of number, algebra, geometry, ratio, statistics and probability. The course aims to give you the skills and fluency to be able to cope with mathematical problems in everyday life, as well as to develop logical reasoning and problem solving ability.

### **WHY should I choose this subject?**

Maths is not optional; all students will take this subject in KS4. However, a good pass in maths is essential for sixth form entry, to get onto nearly all college courses after Year 11, and also to get a place at university. Higher grades in maths are required to gain access to some university courses.

### **WHEN and HOW am I assessed?**

Maths is a linear course, which means that you have to do all the exams at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment, just three exam papers in June of Year 11. One paper is non-calculator. The papers will all be 1 hour 30 minutes long, regardless of the tier of entry. During the two years you will do regular assessments so that you can see how you are progressing towards your target grade.

### **WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?**

Maths has links to many other subjects. The most obvious of these are the sciences, especially physics, but many others such as geography, business, computer science and music can also contain elements of it.

### **WHERE could this subject take me in the future?**

In sixth form study you can take an A level in maths, or further maths (if you really enjoy the subject) and then study it at university. If you take science or geography A levels, then maths will support your learning in these subjects. Many universities like to see that you have studied maths as it indicates a logical mind.

### **WHO do I need to speak to for more information?**

Talk to any maths teacher or see Mrs Tearle, Head of Mathematics.

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Modern Foreign Language - French

### WHAT is this subject about?

Over the two years you will learn how to speak French more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will build on what you have learnt already and develop your skills further in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in French speaking countries.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

French was recently voted the most useful language by businesses in the UK (CBI Skills Survey 2017). The ability to speak the language will allow you to communicate with other nationalities across Europe and the French speaking world. The French language will also give you the key to a rich cultural heritage – literature, films, music and art.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE with AQA is assessed by final end of course exams in the four skills in either foundation or higher (no mixing of tiers).

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have an interest in the way the French language works and in the culture of French speaking countries.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

France and the other French speaking countries make up an economically successful part of the global economy, so French speakers are highly sought after by British employers. If you learn French, being able to speak the language will put you in high demand when you look for a job in the future. Careers for which being a French speaker would be an advantage include: medical assistant, doctor, receptionist, personal assistant, human resources manager, social worker, teacher, private tutor, Border Agency staff, journalist, civil servant and flight attendant to name but a few! Being able to offer French as a skill will open up many more opportunities for you.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Darby and Miss Howgill will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE French course.

*“I chose to continue with French to A level because I loved the course and being able to speak the language much more fluently. I have combined it with business studies and was delighted to successfully get a place on my chosen university course.”*

*“I have always enjoyed learning languages and think that doing a language module at university will give me the advantage over other applicants for jobs later on.”*

*“I love France and French music, and want to spend a year abroad when I am studying French and Spanish at university.”*

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## French Fast Track

### WHAT is this subject about?

French fast track takes you from beginner to GCSE in two years and is for those students on the Spanish half of the year who wish to study French GCSE in addition to Spanish. You will find the learning is fast paced, and so this course is suitable for confident linguists who enjoy learning vocabulary and studying. Over the two years you will learn how to read, write, speak and understand French more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will build on what you have learnt already and develop your skills further in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in French speaking countries.

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### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Darby and Miss Howgill will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE French course.

*“I chose to continue with French to A level because I loved the course and being able to speak the language much more fluently. I have combined it with business studies and was delighted to successfully get a place on my chosen university course.”*

*“I have always enjoyed learning languages and think that doing a language module at university will give me the advantage over other applicants for jobs later on.”*

*“I love France and French music, and want to spend a year abroad when I am studying French and Spanish at university.”*



# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Modern Foreign Language - Spanish

“I like that doing Spanish GCSE isn't just about the language, it is about learning about and appreciating other cultures. I also like that my studies of Spanish help me to understand other languages too.”

“I like that when I hear people speaking or singing in Spanish I can understand them better.”

“As I study Spanish at GCSE, I can now watch and understand more Spanish and Latin American films and TV series, especially on Netflix.”

“I love my lessons of Spanish, they are really fun!”

“I love being able to understand some Spanish songs, TV shows, news and films. Even if it isn't word for word I can get the gist of what they are trying to say.”

Year 11 GCSE students

### WHAT is this subject about?

Over the two years you will learn how to speak Spanish more confidently by studying three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
- current and future study and employment

You will learn how the Spanish language works and develop your skills in listening, translating, reading and writing as well as speaking. You will also learn more about the culture and traditions in Spanish speaking countries.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language globally with more than 400 million speakers. Being able to speak the language will allow you to communicate with people of other nationalities particularly those from Spain and countries from the American continents. The Spanish language will also give you the key to a rich cultural heritage of literature, films, music and art.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE with AQA is assessed by final end of course exams in the four skills in EITHER foundation or higher (no mixing of tiers).

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have an interest in the way the languages work and in the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Spain and the other Spanish speaking countries make up a vast Hispanic global economy so Spanish speakers are highly sought after by British employers. If you learn Spanish, being able to speak the language will put you in high demand when you look for a job in the future. Being a Spanish speaker would be an advantage for virtually any career you can think of, so we will not limit your imagination by listing jobs here. Suffice to say, along with a set of skills which employers look for, if you have English as a mother tongue and some competency in Spanish, you will be much in demand in the jobs market.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Stoker, Ms Wood, Mrs Bellis and Miss Crichton will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE Spanish course.

## Spanish Fast Track

### WHAT is this subject about?

Spanish fast track takes you from beginner to GCSE in two years and is for those students on the French half of the year who wish to study Spanish GCSE in addition to French. You will find the learning is fast paced, and so this course is suitable for confident linguists who enjoy learning vocabulary and studying. Over the two years you will learn how to speak Spanish more confidently by studying three themes:

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### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Stoker, Ms Wood, Mrs Bellis and Miss Crichton will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE Spanish course.

*"I like travelling so I wanted to do another language to add to my experience."*

*"I thought Spanish Fast Track would be useful as Spanish is spoken in so many countries around the world."*

*"I enjoy learning languages and wanted to try a new one."*

*"When I go on holiday a lot of destinations speak Spanish, and I love visiting Spain."*

**Year 10 Fast Track students**

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Physical Education

*"I have enjoyed the opportunities given to us in GCSE PE, as it provides us with more knowledge on health and fitness."*

Katie

*"I enjoyed GCSE PE because I got to work in a team with people who I wouldn't have typically interacted with and have made some great new friends along the way."*

Eleanor

*"I enjoy the science behind sports performance. I like learning about the rules and I have the chance to develop my ability in sports I wouldn't usually take part in."*

Imogen

*"GCSE PE opened my eyes to different careers routes in the sporting world."*

Natasha

### **What is this subject about?**

Physical education aims to instil the necessary skills and knowledge to lead a lifelong active and healthy lifestyle. GCSE PE is suited for those who have an interest in sport as well as how the body works and current issues surrounding sport, such as violence and drugs.

### **WHEN and HOW am I assessed?**

#### **Component 1 and 2 - Theory of PE (60%)**

Two written exam papers:

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Component 2: Health and Performance

#### **Component 3 - Practical (30%)**

Students will perform in three sports.

#### **Component 4 - Personal Exercise Plan (10%)**

Students apply their theoretical knowledge to plan, deliver and analyse a personal exercise plan to improve aspects of their fitness in one of their three sports.

**We STRONGLY advise that students selecting this course participate in at least one sport outside school.**

### **WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?**

Students choosing to follow the GCSE full course would be supported by high attainment levels in science, particularly biology.

### **WHERE could this subject take me in the future?**

Physical education leads to A level PE and a variety of career paths including: physiotherapy, sports development, sports law, sports science, psychology, sports coaching, teaching, exercise science, medical professions, nutrition, sports agency.

Please note: Students who do not opt for GCSE PE will participate in a core Sports Leader Course. This involves learning how to lead others in various sports and culminates in planning and delivering a multi-sports festival to primary school students as well as organising a High 5 netball tournament. Students will also take part in new practical activities such as lacrosse, tag rugby, trampolining and fitness.

### **WHO do I need to speak to for more information?**

Mrs Bolton, Miss Elford, Miss Shephard, Mrs Woods, Miss Cardy, Miss Flintham

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Physical Education—GCSE Dance

### What is this subject about?

GCSE Dance aims to develop students technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation. It promotes a healthy lifestyle, teamwork and creativity. As well as independent learning and critical and reflective thinking.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

#### Component 1— Performance and choreography 60%

Internally marked and externally moderated by video evidence of final performance.

#### Performance

Set phrases through a solo performance

30% of GCSE

#### Choreography

Duet/trio performance

30% of GCSE

#### Component 2—Dance appreciation 40%

One written exam paper with three sections:

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional work

**We STRONGLY advise that students selecting this course participate in at least one dance style outside of school.**

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

GCSE Dance leads to A level Dance and a variety of career paths including: professional dancer, choreographer, dance teacher, community dance practitioner, movement therapist, dance movement psychotherapist, dance journalist, dance and exercise instructor, personal trainer, dance project coordinator.

Please note: Students who do not opt for GCSE Dance or GCSE PE will participate in a core Sports Leader Course. This involves learning how to lead others in various sports and culminates in planning and delivering a multi-sports festival to primary school students as well as organising a High 5 netball tournament. Students will also take part in new practical activities such as lacrosse, tag rugby, trampolining and fitness.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss Flintham

*“GCSE Dance has taught me to appreciate different dance works that we study and how to create dance pieces that connect with an audience.”*

**Megan**

*“I have enjoyed how GCSE Dance has provided me with the opportunity to learn new dance styles and improve in different techniques.”*

**Ellie**

*“I have enjoyed developing my dance skills by working in groups, learning from others and analysing each other’s dance techniques.”*

**Katie**

*“GCSE Dance has allowed me to explore lots of different dance styles both practically and theoretically.”*

**Kate**

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Philosophy of Religion - Full Course

At the end of Year 9, students will have already completed a year of the GCSE syllabus and will be sitting the GCSE exams in the summer of Year 10.

### **WHAT is this subject about?**

The GCSE course looks at a range of moral and ethical issues. Students examine how these issues are viewed by Muslims and Christians as well as by non-religious people. Some of the issues covered are marriage, crime, human rights and euthanasia. Students will look at these topics from the perspectives of Muslims and Christians.

### **WHY should I choose this subject?**

It is a legal requirement that students participate in some form of Religious Education. Full course PoR will provide you with an extra qualification and allow you to learn about, discuss and evaluate a variety of ideas, both religious and non-religious. In the modern world it is important that you are able to understand different cultures and traditions and that you can evaluate the views and beliefs of others.

The ethical topics covered in this course mean that it links closely with other subjects such as psychology, sociology, history, politics and law as well as science subjects. Religion has been a major factor in recent history, and it is increasingly important that people who are involved with the international community have an understanding of the religions and cultures among which they are working. PoR is both academically challenging and inspiring. It is taught by knowledgeable and passionate teachers who use a range of teaching methods.

### **WHEN and HOW am I assessed?**

Students will have two exams at the end of Year 10. The marks for both papers will be added together to form an average, which will then be used to give an overall grade. These exams will be graded 9-1.

### **WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?**

It would be useful to have ability in literacy based subjects such as English and history, but is more important that you are able to listen to and evaluate the views of others in a balanced way.

### **WHERE could this subject take me in the future?**

PoR opens the door to an incredibly diverse range of courses and careers. The ethical nature of the course makes it ideal for people going on to study subjects such as law and medicine as well as some of the most academic degrees, such as PPE (Philosophy, Politics and Economics). In addition to this the fact that it gives students a deeper understanding of the two largest religions in the world would be extremely useful for those intending to enter careers that involve working with people from different backgrounds, such as social work, diplomacy, nursing or teaching.

### **WHO do I need to speak to for more information?**

Mrs Barker, Head of Philosophy of Religion

*"I feel like PoR GCSE helps you understand cultures around you and the diversity of our world. After taking this GCSE I feel like I understand more about the way other religions live and some of the social issues in the world. My favourite topic was Crime and Punishment and the later themes as they linked to real life."*

**Olivia**

*"I enjoyed PoR in Year 10 because it helped me to explore different aspects of Christianity and Islam of which I was unaware. I enjoyed getting the chance to dig deeper into this subject and becoming more aware about the practices of these two religions."*

**Gloria**

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Science

### What is this subject about?

Students will follow the OCR Gateway programme. Most girls will take the combined science course, this course is worth two GCSEs. Some students will study the OCR triple award course, this course is worth three GCSEs. Entry into the triple award course is based on achievement in Years 7 to Year 9.

The combined science course will be taught as the three separate strands of biology, chemistry and physics and will be taught by three teachers who are subject specialists. The triple award course will also be taught by subject specialists. Either course will allow entry to any of the A level sciences for students who meet the entry requirement.

The content for both combined and triple science will include topics such as cells, co-ordination and control, ecosystems and inheritance in biology, particles, elements, mixtures and compounds, chemical reactions and rates of reaction in chemistry and matter, forces, electricity and magnetism in physics.

### Why should I choose this subject?

Science is a compulsory core subject.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The combined science course is assessed by six written papers, each 1 hour and 10 minutes in length, examined at the end of Year 11. There are two biology, two chemistry and two physics papers.

Separate biology, chemistry and physics are also examined at the end of Year 11. Each subject has two written papers, each 1 hour and 45 minutes in length.

There are no controlled assessments.

All subjects are offered at foundation and higher tiers.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You need to have a curiosity about the world around you and enjoy problem solving. Science involves logical thought, mathematical skills and practical work. You will need the ability to be able to work independently and as a team member.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Science is a core subject and is often a requirement for entry onto many post 16 courses. Science GCSEs (triple or combined science) also lead on to A level studies in biology, chemistry or physics which then open the doors for many careers.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Nayyar, Head of the Science Faculty

*"The teachers' great support meant that even the most challenging work was made manageable and fun."*

Juhi

*"Teachers were very helpful and personable."*

Holly

*"Challenging but rewarding."*

Bea

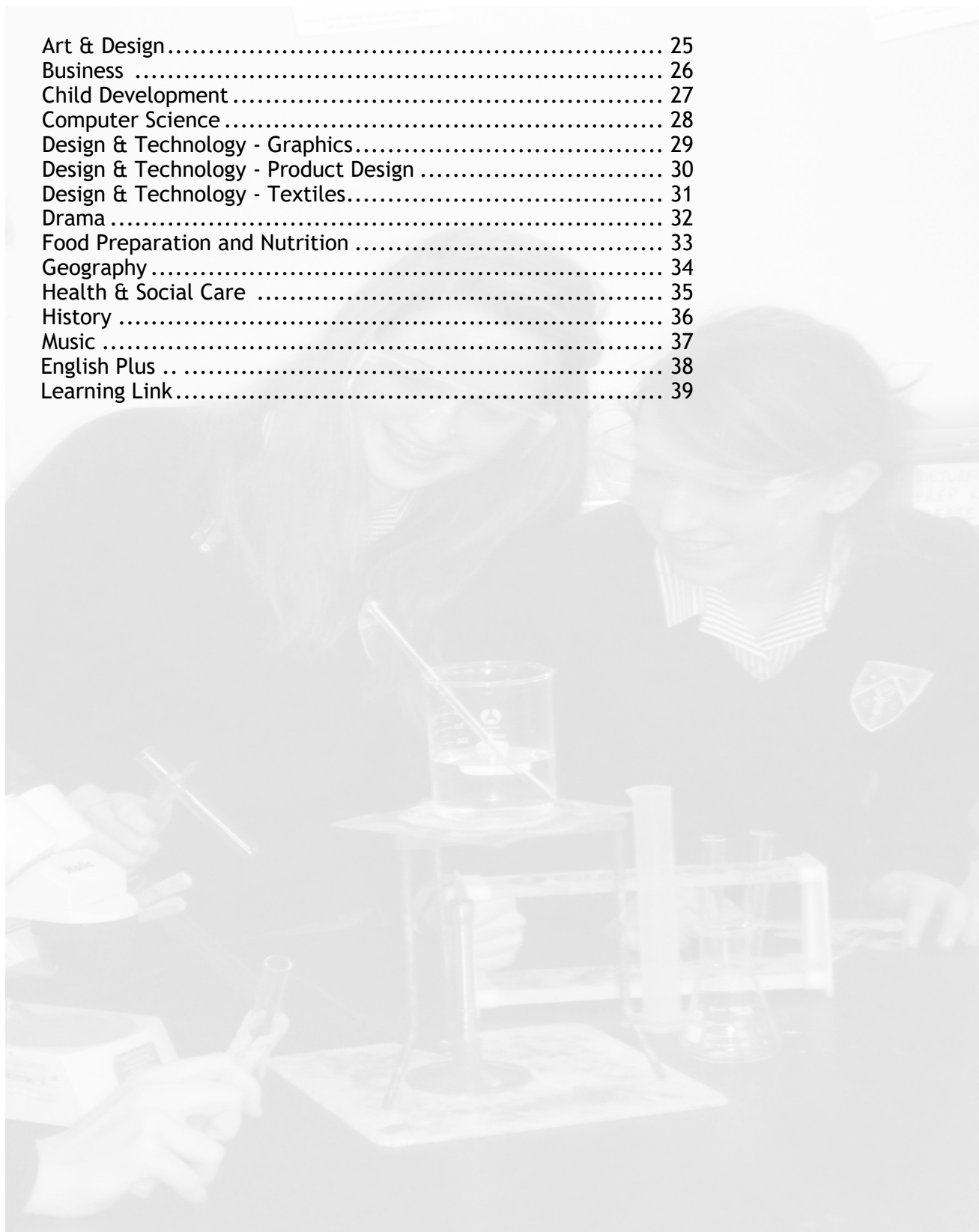
*"The practical work we did supported my learning and made it fun."*

Laura

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

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# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Art & Design

### WHAT is this subject about?

The aim of the GCSE Art and Design course is to develop your confidence and existing knowledge, building on existing skills and introducing you to a wide range of new techniques in a variety of two and three dimensional media. You will also study the work of artists and craftspeople from different cultures and produce a diverse and exciting portfolio of work.

*“In art you can express yourself using a wide range of media.”*

Lucy

### WHY should I choose this subject?

You will be making art and design decisions throughout your life; the vast majority of careers consider creativity to be an asset. Having a creative confidence also provides great personal enjoyment and a diverse cultural appreciation, and allows you to access a huge variety of pastimes.

*“Art allows you to express your own unique ideas and completing work gives you great satisfaction.”*

Lucy

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio

During Years 10 and 11, you will be working on various projects that will form your portfolio. There is no restriction on the scale of work, media or materials used. Portfolio work will be marked throughout the year but will be formally assessed once it is submitted at the end of Year 11. You are able to choose your best pieces of work for the portfolio ensuring the quality of the submission is of the highest standard possible, although, potentially everything you do in art can count towards your GCSE. Component 1 provides 60% of the available marks for the GCSE.

*“GCSE Art can lead you to many exciting opportunities in the future.”*

Naomi

Component 2: Externally set assignment

The exam paper is released in January of Year 11 and you will choose one of the 8 starting points given by the exam board. You will produce a book of preparatory work in lessons and for homework to support the final piece which is produced in May over 10 hours (two days) in exam conditions. In order to prepare you for this, you will have a mock exam in the Spring term of Year 10. Component 2 provides 40% of the available marks for the GCSE.

*“I have the chance to show off my creative skills and nothing is right or wrong. I love the practical work and it means my school work isn't all academic which gives balance to my studies.”*

Elisha

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

We expect students to have a genuine interest in art and design with a willingness to practise, experiment, research and explore. There is an expectation that every student will spend two hours per week on their set home learning task or on completing classwork. There is not an expected level required to join the GCSE course however your suitability will very much depend on your attitude and progress during Year 9.

*“GCSE Art is a good option because it lets me explore my imagination.”*

Micky

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Having taken GCSE Art, the next steps to establishing a career in one of the many creative industries is to study art at A level and then go on to a foundation course and/or a degree. However, with such high university costs now, many are opting for work placements and apprenticeships where you can hone a skill, and learn on the job. Careers may include graphic designer, corporate advertising, photographer, fashion and retail, product design, interior design, architecture, illustration, animation, medical illustrator, primary and secondary education, art therapy, architectural concept design, theatrical make-up, set and costume design, TV and film...the list is endless.

**WHO do I need to speak to for more information?** Mrs Skeates, Head of Art.

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Business

### **WHAT is this subject about?**

This course aims to enable you to gain a critical understanding of the business environment that affects your daily life. By the end of the course you will be able to appreciate what is happening in the business world and why it is happening.

This course focuses on the four main functional areas of business: operations, human resource management, marketing and finance. We look at how each of these is managed in the real world and the influences on them.

### **WHY should I choose this subject?**

Business is a constantly changing subject and is happening around us all the time. You will be able to use your own experiences from everyday life, the knowledge and skills of your family and things that you watch on TV to bring the subject to life and make it relevant to you.

### **WHEN and HOW am I assessed?**

You will sit two papers, each worth 50% of the final grade. The first paper covers influences of operations and human resource management on business activity. The second is influence of marketing and finance on business activity. Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes and has a mix of multiple choice, short answer questions, case study and data response questions.

### **WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?**

You need to be able to perform simple calculations and use formulae.

You must be interested in what is happening in the business world and be prepared to keep up to date with business news.

### **WHERE could this subject take me in the future?**

Business goes well with many other GCSE subjects across both sciences and arts. Many of our students continue with business at A level or move into economics.

Business combined with other A levels is an ideal foundation for a variety of degree courses. This can then open the door to a wide range of professions including accountancy, banking, insurance, marketing, personnel, operations, retail management, journalism and events management.

### **WHO do I need to speak to for more information?**

Mrs Styles, Head of Economics and Business

Mrs Vaughan, Teacher of Economics and Business

*“Business is incredibly useful for general knowledge about the business world as well as very interesting. The course is extremely fun as well. It will be beneficial for later life and will open many career doors for you.”*

Yahvi

*“Taking business has boosted my confidence as it is a challenging but rewarding subject. Everything we learn is interesting and useful for later life.”*

Katie

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Child Development, Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

### WHAT is this subject about?

You will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. You will also gain an understanding of the equipment needs of babies and young children. You will gain knowledge of nutrition and hygienic practices. The course also focuses on developmental norms for children up to the age of 5 years.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. If you enjoy working with children this course would be suitable for you. You have the opportunity to be inspired and motivated by independent application of the centre assessed tasks. You should have the commitment to work hard and the desire to be successful.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This is not a GCSE course but a Cambridge National qualification which can be sat at Level 1 (Foundation - equivalent to grades 1-3 at GCSE) or Level 2 (Higher - equivalent to grades 4 - 9 at GCSE).

You will be assessed in two ways.

Two centre assessed tasks:

- R019 - Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.
- R020 - Understand the development of a child from birth to 5 years - this will include practical tasks; you must have a child under 5 years of age to study.

A written paper of 1 hour 15 minutes taken in January of Year 11:

- R018 - Health and well-being for child development, a written paper of 1 hour 15 minutes in January of Year 11.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The qualification is complemented by a range of GCSEs including biology, sociology, maths and English. It also complements creative subjects such as art and design and computer science.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This course is an excellent foundation for nursery nursing, infant teaching, nursing, social and community work .

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Woods, Head of Department

*"I am very glad I chose child development as one of my options. Every lesson is very enjoyable and interesting. I feel this course will be very beneficial for me in the future."*

Sarah

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Computer Science

*"Computer science can be used in every sector of the job industry, and its importance will only increase in the future with more advanced technology."*

Sandi

*"The problem solving involved in doing certain programming tasks is fun and enjoyable as there are often many different ways around the problem."*

Kirsten

*"I took Computer Science because I have an interest in programming and learning how computers work. The lessons are focused and I have enjoyed learning how computers 'think'. I hope to continue studying this at A level and possibly a career in game design."*

Emily

*"I took Computer Science without any plans to go into a career out of it because I believe that it is an interesting and fun subject. It provides transferable skills that are especially beneficial due to the increasing use of technology. I have always enjoyed computing and coding so while it is not an 'easy' subject and requires hard work, it is very rewarding and worth taking if you enjoy it."*

Lucy

*"I took Computer Science because I enjoyed learning Python in KS3 and I had an interest in technology. I find the programming enjoyable as it is rewarding when you can solve a problem using the skills you have learnt."*

Kimi

### WHAT is this subject about?

The course gives you a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from your other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming. You will develop your programming skills and use them to solve tasks both in the examination and programming project.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

As technology is constantly changing there are always new topics up for discussion and new areas to explore. This specification encourages you to acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts. You will look at the use of algorithms in computer programs, develop computer programs to solve problems as well as evaluating the effectiveness of solutions and the impact of computer technology in society.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The OCR Computer Science (J277) course has two components. Both components are written examinations each worth 50% of the overall qualification which you will take in the summer of Year 11. You will cover the theory required for the examination across the two years, some of which will be applied in practical lessons. You will also undertake several small programming projects to allow you to develop skills within the following areas when programming: design, write, test and refine. Your practical programming skills will be assessed in the Component 2 examination.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You should have a keen interest in computing and programming, as well as current and emerging technologies and how they work. You should also be able to work independently on tasks to interpret a scenario and then apply your knowledge and skills to solve programming problems. In order to help you with this, you will develop skills in designing algorithms and computer programming throughout the course. We would request that by the end of year 9 that you have a minimum projected maths grade of a 5.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving you a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for those of you who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include computer science roles, engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Dearing, Head of Computer Science Department

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Design & Technology - Graphics

### WHAT is this subject about?

The new GCSE Design & Technology course will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in our increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on design & technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental, mathematical and economic factors as well as new emerging technologies.

You will get to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical skills to all your work. You will learn core technical, designing and making principles and how to apply the iterative design process to problem solving using a wide range of materials, techniques and equipment. You will then study specialist principles in graphics in greater depth.

You will learn a wide range of drawing, presentation, modelling and illustration techniques. These will include two and three dimensional drawings, such as isometric, orthographic, perspective, planometric and geometrical constructions. You will learn how to use and apply 2D/3D CAD and CAM, as well as focusing on industrial manufacturing techniques. You will also study printing methods, advertising techniques, sustainable design and smart materials and will then study the environmental impact of waste produced in packaging.

This is a course aimed at potential graphic and product designers; there is an emphasis on producing finished 3D products by modelling them in graphic materials such as card, thin sheet plastic, foam board and other suitable materials. The difference between resistant materials and graphics is that final outcomes in graphics will relate more to packaging, promotion, conceptual modelling or advertising and will be of a prototype nature using mostly semi-rigid materials.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

This is an exciting and hands-on course for those who enjoyed designing and making products in Key Stage 3 and who found the design element really appealing.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is a non-examined assessment (NEA) which is one project making up 50% of the final grade. It will be a substantial project covering four key assessment criteria: investigating, designing, making and evaluating.

There will be a 1 hour and 45 minutes written examination at the end of Year 11 making up the remaining 50% of your final grade.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students who choose to study D&T Graphics should be interested in products around us, inquisitive into why products are designed the way they are, be a keen designer or interested in design in general, be creative, be interested in research and a keenness to make a difference.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Students who have studied D&T have often then moved on to study college and university courses in product design, engineering, interior design, graphic design, marketing and advertising. The sheer nature of the subject - creative and problem solving - means that it is a life skill, so this is a very rounded subject, useful in any future career.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Williams, Head of Faculty Design & Technology, Food & Textiles

*"Graphics has enabled me to explore my creative capacity and help me grow my skills and assist me in making decisions in the near and far future."*

**Maddie**

*"The future is technological and creative and graphics is the perfect opportunity to combine the two."*

**Sam**

*"Taking graphics opens a huge gateway of opportunities for new and exciting courses and furthermore careers."*

**Grace**

*"I took D&T because I like working creatively and designing graphically. It is also very different to all the other subjects you take so adds interest to your timetable."*

**Eleanor**

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Design & Technology - Product Design

*"I chose to take Product Design because I enjoy the subject and it is interesting. I want to continue it in the future."*

Charlotte

*"Product Design allows you to be creative, unlike most other subjects it is less structured so you have more control over your work."*

Rosie

*"In the future I want to do something creative which may be to do with Product design, so taking it gave me an idea of what it involves and some key knowledge."*

Ruby

*"It has allowed me to learn about how products we use everyday have been made. It's fun to create a product that solves a problem for a real client. Product design links to engineering and creating products is something many people need to do for work."*

Emma

*"Product Design includes many aspects of other subjects such as economics, and the sciences whilst bringing in new and unique topics that are only covered in Product design. The course allows creative freedom and room to make your final product something you are positive about along with and exam which is 50% of your final grade."*

Felicity

### WHAT is this subject about?

Design & technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in our increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on design & technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical skills. You will learn core technical and designing and making principles including a broad range of design processes, material techniques and equipment. You will then study specialist principles in resistant materials in greater depth.

Students will study the design and manufacture of products using a number of different materials such as woods, metals, plastics, composites and smart materials. All of the basic hand-making techniques will be covered in theory and in practice, as well as common cutting, joining and finishing methods. Students engage in a number of set focused tasks that lead up to controlled assessments at key points in the course. Students will also learn how to use selected machines such as lathes and CNC equipment. They will study industrial processes and are, throughout, encouraged to show creativity, ingenuity, skill and sensitivity towards design.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

This is an exciting and hands on course for those who enjoyed the taste of designing and making products in Key Stage 3 and would like to extend their knowledge in this area further.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is one project making up 50% of the final grade. It will be a substantial project covering the four key assessment criteria: investigating, designing, making and analysing and evaluation.

There will be a 1 hour and 45 minutes written examination at the end of Year 11 worth 50% of the final mark.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students who choose to study D&T Product Design should be interested in technology and the way in which things work, should have a reasonable ability to draw and sketch and should be prepared to try ideas out and to not be too afraid to make mistakes.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Students who have studied D&T have often then moved on to study college and university courses in product design, engineering, civil engineering, jewellery design and architecture.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Williams, Head of Faculty Design & Technology, Food & Textiles

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Design & Technology - Textiles

### WHAT is this subject about?

Design & technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in our increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from the wider influences on design & technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical skills. You will learn core technical and designing and making principles including a broad range of design processes, material techniques and equipment. You will then study specialist principles in textiles in greater depth.

This exciting and hands on course gives the opportunity to design and create innovative products in both fashion and interior design. It enables you to experience a wider range of textile techniques in the production of clothing, furnishings, decorative items and accessories. The course will also consider issues related to the environment, moral and social aspects of fashion.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

Textiles is a varied and interesting course which gives you the opportunity to develop the skills you acquired in Key Stage 3. The designing is less structured at GCSE and gives the opportunity for individuality in all aspects of product development.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is one project making up 50% of the final grade. It will be a substantial project covering the four key assessment criteria: investigating, designing, making and analysing and evaluation.

There will be a 1 hour and 45 minutes written examination at the end of Year 11 worth 50% of the final mark.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

This course is suitable if you are interested in designing, experimenting with design ideas and have an interest in fashion, textiles, fabrics and decoration. Enthusiasm, an openness to new ideas and a willingness to learn are essential to success in this subject. Although a talent for art can be useful, it is not absolutely necessary as high grades can be achieved without drawing ability.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Following this course can lead to careers in fashion design, retailing, journalism, advertising and buying, theatre costume and interior design. It also supports careers needing manual dexterity including dentistry and medicine.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Williams, Head of Faculty Design & Technology, Food & Textiles

*"It is so much fun, and a very creative subject to take. It has been very enjoyable. It teaches you a wide range of skills so it is also very useful."*

Isobel

*"I like sewing and creating new and imaginative items of clothing and accessories."*

Harriet

*"I enjoy learning about what goes into things in our everyday lives."*

Nina

*"I am interested in a career in the fashion industry."*

Isabelle

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Drama

*"I chose Drama as a GCSE because I wanted to do a subject that was fun and involved activities other than just writing which would also help me build my confidence. That is exactly what I got. I enjoy it because you get to learn so much together as a class and work together to create amazing pieces of drama. I also love learning how to use the lighting and set to enhance the work."*

Jayna

*"I chose drama because of the thrill I get from being able to be somebody else as a form of escapism and also putting myself in somebody else's shoes and being able to feel and portray a mix of different emotions. I have enjoyed working as a group because it means that the pressure isn't completely on you and I have also enjoyed the freedom that we are given to run with our own ideas."*

Holly

*"I chose Drama for GCSEs because I enjoy getting the chance to experiment with different characters and step into this new world. Drama has also given me more confidence and I just love being able to create new elements of theatre."*

Gloria

### WHAT is this subject about?

GCSE Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course. Lessons are a combination of practical learning supported by academic theory needed in order to understand the work being studied. Learning takes place through: practical workshops, theatre trips, contextual research, performance rehearsals, small group work, class discussions and independent study.

You will explore drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

- You enjoyed drama in Year 7 / 8 / 9
- You want to continue studying drama
- You enjoy group based projects
- You like watching live theatre and performances
- You enjoy being creative and are developing confidence as a performer
- You are confident writing about theatre you have seen

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Component 1:	Component 2:	Component 3:
Understanding drama (written exam) (40% of GCSE)	Devising drama (practical) (40% of GCSE)	Texts in practice (practical) (20% of GCSE)
You will be assessed on:	You will be assessed on:	You will be assessed on:
Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre	Process of creating devised drama	Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)
Study of one set play	Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)	
Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers or designer		

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Students who have skills in group based projects, creative thinking, confident writers in both creative and essay based writing projects. Individuals who are focused and are passionate about the Drama.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The course is useful for anyone considering careers in the arts, broadcasting, charity, education, events, healthcare, law, marketing, media, politics, public sector management, sales, social work.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss Edwards, Head of Drama

Mrs Bennett, Teacher of Drama



# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Food Preparation and Nutrition

### **WHAT is this subject about?**

Everything we do is about improving lives through better knowledge of food, where it comes from and how it affects our bodies. This course will motivate you to develop a high level of knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will have the opportunity to understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health. You will learn about environmental, economic, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability and production processes. Through practical application you will learn to plan, prepare and cook using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment.

### **WHY should I choose this subject?**

This course is contemporary and exciting. It allows you to develop a high level of knowledge, understanding and skills to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It allows you to explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions, giving you the opportunity to produce innovative food products.

### **WHEN and HOW am I assessed?**

You will be expected to complete two assessments which are together worth 50% of your final result.

One will be conducted at the beginning of Year 11. This will assess scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food, and is worth 15% of the total marks.

One will be conducted in the middle of Year 11. You will be expected to prepare, cook and present a menu of three dishes within 3 hours. This is worth 35% of the total marks.

You will also take one terminal examination at the end of Year 11 worth 50% of your final grade.

### **WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?**

This subject would be suitable for you if you wish to be inspired, motivated and challenged. You should have an interest in food related issues as well as having the desire to extend your practical application of skills. You should show enthusiasm and willingness to learn, and be totally committed to working hard to achieve your personal best.

### **WHERE could this subject take me in the future?**

This course will allow progression into higher education through general or vocational qualifications and into a career relating to the food industry. It also teaches students to plan ahead, to work under pressure and to be creative.

### **WHO do I need to speak to for more information?**

Mrs Van Wyngaardt, Head of Department

*"I love my food preparation and nutrition lessons; they are always fun, interesting and useful in everyday life."*

Hannah

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Geography

### WHAT is this subject about?

Geography provokes and answers questions about the natural and human worlds. It develops knowledge of places and environments throughout the world, an understanding of maps, and a range of investigative and problem solving skills both inside and outside the classroom. It is also an important link between the natural and social sciences. As students study geography, they encounter different societies and cultures. This helps them realise how nations rely on each other. It can inspire them to think about their own place in the world, their values, and their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment.

*“Geography is relevant to every day life and can really help you in your future.”*

Felicity

*“Do geography because it is fun and a great way to find out about the world.”*

Jessica

*“Do geography because it is inspiring and you have access to great trips.”*

Elisha

The topics you will study are: volcanoes and earthquakes, weather and climate, glaciation, coasts, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts, population, urban issues and resource management.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

You should study geography for GCSE at The Holt because:

- It is very well taught by experienced staff.
- The results are excellent. It is not uncommon for two thirds of the students taking geography to receive grade 7, 8 or 9.
- There is a great variety of different teaching techniques used in the lessons.
- You have the chance to carry out your own fieldwork.
- You have the chance to go on trips such as Iceland, The Olympic Park and Swanage.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will sit three examination papers in June of Year 11

- Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment – 35% (1h 30 min)
- Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment – 35% (1h 30 min)
- Paper 3: Geographical Application – 30% (1 hour)

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

There are no required areas of aptitude for geography.

**WHERE could this subject take me in the future?** If you are interested in any of the following careers then geography is a suitable GCSE to take: law, banking and finance, environment agency, marketing, accountancy, surveyor, architect or any management position.

Statistics show that compared to other subjects, geography graduates are among the most employable. This is presumably because they possess the skills that employers look for. In part this is because the subject is a combination of the facts of science and the understanding of the arts. Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is a good preparation for the world of work.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Marrison, Head of Department, or your geography teacher.

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## *BTEC Tech award in Health and Social Care*

### **What is this subject about?**

This subject concerns the study of health and wellbeing. The aim is for you to learn about the important stages of physical and emotional development and gain some understanding about the importance of relationships and life events on an individual's health. The subject also provides the opportunity for students to examine the factors that have an effect on a person's self-concept and how people react to change in their lives.

### **Why should I choose this subject?**

Many students with qualifications in health and social care go on to have interesting and successful careers in childcare, nursing, midwifery, social work, teaching, paramedics, counselling and health visiting.

### **WHEN and HOW am I assessed?**

This will not be a GCSE course but the certificate can be sat at either level 1 (equivalent to GCSE grades 1 - 3), or level 2 (equivalent to GCSE grades 4 - 9). The qualification consists of three components and components 1 and 2 are assessed internally. Component 3, which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification, is assessed externally.

### **WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?**

Suitable candidates will be able to use computers for research and use the extended writing skills developed in English, such as expressing ideas and information clearly, for example, when creating a health and wellbeing improvement plan. You will also need to be able to work independently, demonstrate excellent social skills, listen with respect and empathise with others.

### **WHERE could this subject take me in the future?**

Study of this qualification will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will generally depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to A levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects, or study of a vocational qualification at level 3 which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in aspects of health care.

### **WHO do I need to speak to for more information?**

Mrs M Dakovic, Head of Social Sciences

*"Health and Social Care allows you to understand development at different ages and in different conditions, as well as engaging you in many discussions that widen your understanding of the lifestyles we live."*

Olivia

*"I am enjoying Health and Social Care because the topic we are doing at the moment is helping me understand more about my future."*

Eve

*"I chose Health and Social Care because you get to learn about things that affect your own day-to-day life and those of other people. It's a topic that gives you knowledge to use with any future job, as you get to know about development throughout life, illnesses and disabilities."*

Miriam

## History

### WHY STUDY HISTORY?

Historians are often asked the use or relevance of studying history. The answer is that history is inescapable. It is the study of the past, and the legacies of the past, in the present. It connects things through time and encourages its students to take a long view of such connections. All people and peoples are living histories, so understanding the links between past and present is absolutely basic for a good understanding of the condition of being human. That, in a nutshell, is why history matters. Knowledge of it is not just 'useful', it is essential.

### WHAT do I learn about in this subject?

The choice of topics are relevant, interesting and varied, meaning there is something for most historical interests. The topics that will be studied are:

- America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality
- Causes of World War Two, 1918–1939
- Britain: Migration, empires and the people, c790 to the present day
- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

You will learn how to organise and structure a logical, well-supported argument that is accurate and gets your point across. You will learn how to question and evaluate different pieces of historical evidence, to assess different perspectives and then give your own. These sorts of skills and the ability to communicate effectively are highly important and will certainly help you with other subjects.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two exams for GCSE History which the students will take in the summer of Year 11; both examinations are 2 hours long. The exams constitute 100% of the overall grade. We study the course offered by AQA.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

There are no special requirements to have a certain skill or aptitude in another subject. However, as you can expect to be undertaking long, extended pieces of writing, it would be advantageous to have strong literacy skills.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Where can't it take you? History as a subject makes you very versatile and links with most other subjects in one form or another. Many people who take history at GCSE, A level and then at university go into a wide range of careers. For example, many of the skills people learn when studying history enables them to become lawyers or gain jobs in the business world. Historians develop many analytical skills, so lots of students of history go onto working as journalists, in the media and working to help create the news. Lots of different people who take history work in museums, local newspapers, some become teachers or researchers at university. Many famous people have studied history from Sasha Baron-Cohen (Ali G) to Chris Martin (Coldplay) and Jonathon Ross (TV).

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr J Furlong, Head of History and Government & Politics

*"History makes us more aware of the lessons of the past to help us in the future."*

Rosie

*"I enjoy history as our lessons are enlightening and thought provoking."*

Emily

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## Music

### WHAT is this subject about?

Music at GCSE involves listening, performing and composing.

#### Listening:

The listening is based on studying two pieces of music from four areas of study. The two pieces in each area are really interesting and you will learn about a wide variety of styles, some of which you will never have heard before!

#### Performing:

During the two year course you must record yourself performing a solo piece on your chosen instrument or voice and an ensemble (group piece). To gain the maximum marks for this you need to perform to a standard of grade 4 -5. You do not need to have taken graded exams and we are there to help you find suitable pieces for you.

#### Composing:

Over the two year course you will be taught how to compose using a range of styles and you will submit two compositions as coursework at the end of Year 11.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

You will enjoy this course if you:

- Enjoy performing and can play an instrument or sing to a good standard
- Are open minded about listening to a wide range of music styles.
- You would like the opportunity to perform in class and at other concerts during the year
- You like creating your own music in any style.
- You enjoy learning about a wide variety of musical styles by studying set pieces of music

You will also be expected to take part in at least one extra-curricular music activity weekly.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This course is 60% coursework - 30% performance and 30% composition. There is a solo performing exam in the November of Year 11 and the ensemble performing exam in January of Year 11. With the composition coursework, one piece will be finished at the end of Year 10 and the other in Year 11. The listening exam (written) is held in the final exam session and is worth 40% of the marks.

### WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

All you need for this course is to enjoy music, be a self-motivated, independent learner, and work well on your own or in a group. You should, ideally, have some knowledge of music theory (reading the music) and be having lessons or looking to start lessons in playing your instrument or singing. All of this will help you to do well in music at GCSE. If you cannot read music to start with, we can help you improve. You are not expected to be able to compose music straight away but you must be willing to try out ideas at first.

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

These subjects offer a variety of career paths including professional performer, composer, teacher, sound engineer, music producer, or working in the media – BBC, radio, TV, internet etc. When applying for degree courses, universities like students who have studied music. Musicians are able to demonstrate lots of good qualities – dedication to practising their instrument, independent learning skills, self-motivation, teamwork and presentation skills (from experience of performing to an audience). Universities consider music A level as an academic, all-round subject and will accept it when you make a UCAS application.

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to either Mr Gray, Head of Music, or Ms O'Reilly if you have any queries or questions about the course.

*“GCSE Music enhanced the passion I have for my instrument and has given me a platform to explore my new found love of composition!”*

Amy

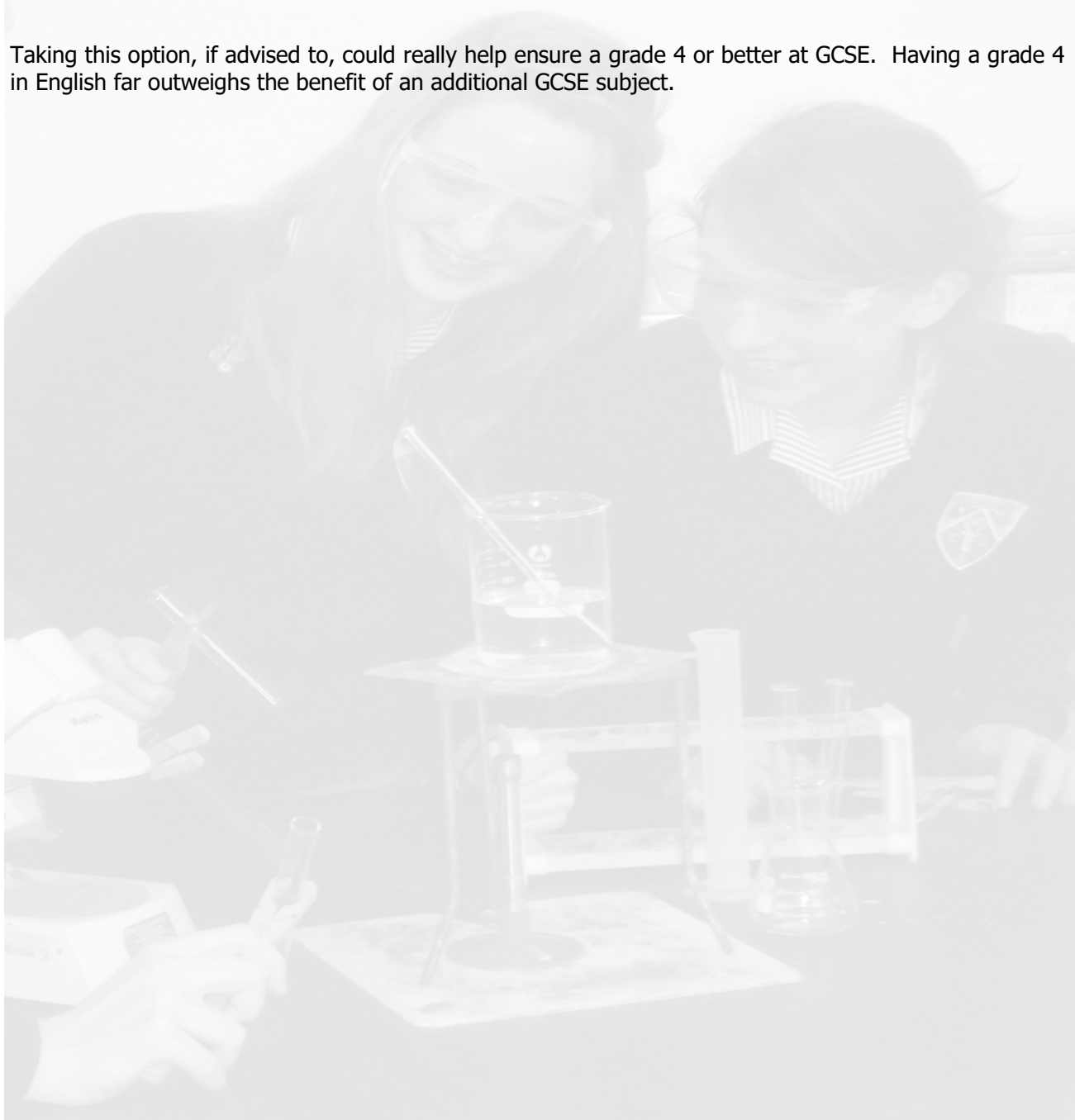
## Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

### *English Plus*

**WHAT is this subject about?** This option is an additional English option which will focus on consolidating learning, revising and revisiting topics studied in mainstream English lessons and guided practice for the examinations.

**WHY should I choose this subject?** If your teacher feels you will benefit from this option, you and your parents will have been consulted. This option is for those students who may otherwise fall just short of a grade 4 in their English GCSE and replaces one of their option choices.

Taking this option, if advised to, could really help ensure a grade 4 or better at GCSE. Having a grade 4 in English far outweighs the benefit of an additional GCSE subject.



# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## The Learning Link

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness / Health and Social Care

### WHAT is this subject about?

The ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) is a pathway tailored for students who may achieve a grade 3 or below in English or maths at the end of Key Stage 4. The CoPE course is designed to promote confidence, independence and give guidance towards future career goals of students taking the course. Students can also study BTEC Health and Social Care (level 1) alongside the CoPE.

### WHY should I choose this subject?

In taking this course, students will have the opportunity to gain skills in a wide range of curriculum areas and work experience placements. The course offers a very 'hands on' approach to learning, allowing students to develop many transferable skills to their chosen post 16 destination.

### WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Teachers will select challenges from the CoPE levels 1 and 2 student book. The challenges are split into 12 modules:

Communication, citizenship and community, sport and leisure, independent living, the environment, work experience, health and fitness, enterprise, science and technology, international links, expressive art, beliefs and values.

Students will be required to build a portfolio of evidence as they complete the challenges. The skills that will be developed are:

- \* Working with others in different environments
- \* Improving personal learning and knowledge
- \* Planning and completing research
- \* Communicating using different forms, e.g. discussion, email, letter
- \* Planning and presenting work

### WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This subject provides an excellent foundation into the world of working or into the student's chosen pathway at college. Regular work experience at local businesses and the wide range of activities undertaken as part of the qualification will ensure that students are confident about their future career choice.

CoPE level 3 is available as a post 16 qualification

### WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Griffiths will speak to you about your suitability for this option choice.

*"CoPE allows young people to be recognised and rewarded for their individual talents. It teaches important life skills, including teamwork and self confidence. Students develop the skills employers are looking for."*

Mrs E Griffiths

ASDAN Co-ordinator

[www.asdan.org.uk](http://www.asdan.org.uk)

# Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

## *What happens next?*

1. Individual student interviews

Following the KS4 information evening on Thursday 16th January 2020, every student will have an options meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year to discuss possible choices.

2. Taster Day

On Friday 14th February 2020, every student will have the chance to have a 'taster' lesson in the GCSE subjects they are considering.

3. Parents' Consultation Evening

At the parents' consultation evening on Thursday 6th February 2020, appointments can be made with subject teachers for students and their parents to discuss suitability for GCSE options as well as progress in general.

**Option choices must be submitted online. Details of how to do this will be sent out separately. Choose your options by selecting one subject in each block, plus a language and PE option.**

**A paper version of the form is included on the back page of this booklet for your reference only.**

**ALL OPTION FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ONLINE BY  
TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 2020**

## *Then what?*

No news is good news. When the forms are submitted, the school will then start to process them. Our aim is to give you the subject choices you want. Please do not keep asking your teachers or Head of Year about your choices as this can be a very slow process, and it will take some time before we are able to confirm your options. **Where possible, we will try to ensure that every student receives her first choices. However, on very rare occasions this may not be possible. For example, if a group size is too small, it will not run and students and parents will be informed. If a group is too big, a ballot will be drawn to ensure group sizes do not exceed 30. If this situation occurs then all students and parents concerned will be informed.**



## Key Stage 4 Options 2020-2022

### *Options Timeline*

#### **2020**

**Thursday 16th January - 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Options Information Evening

**Thursday 6th February - 4.15pm - 6.45pm**

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening

**Friday 7th February - Periods 1-4**

GCSE Options Taster Day

**Monday 10th February - Friday 28th February**

Student options interview with Senior Leadership Team

**By Tuesday 3rd March**

**All option forms submitted online**

#### **April**

Students/Parents contacted in the event of 4<sup>th</sup> choice being necessary

# Year 10 options form 2020–2022

<b>Name :</b>	<b>Form:</b>
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**All students in KS4 will study the following core examination courses:**

- English/English literature
- Mathematics
- Combined/triple science or single science (biology)
- Philosophy of religion — exam in Year 10
- French or Spanish
- GCSE PE , GCSE Dance or The Holt PE Sports Leader course

**1. Students will also choose 3 further options by ticking one subject in each block.**

For a balanced curriculum, we advise you choose an arts subject (art, drama, music), a humanities subject (business, geography, history) and a technology subject (food preparation and nutrition, graphics, product design or textiles).

To achieve the EBacc, you must choose either geography or history for one of your options.

Block A	Block B	Block C	
Art	English Plus	Art	
Business Studies	Art	Business Studies	
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Business Studies	Child Development (Cambridge National)	
Drama	Computing	Drama	
Geography	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Geography	
Graphics	Geography	History	
Health & Social Care (BTEC)	History	Textiles	
History	Music	*French Fast Track	
Textiles	Product Design	*Spanish Fast Track	

**2. Choose one modern foreign language. Learning Link support is offered to selected students only.**

(Please tick the box below)

	GCSE
French	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spanish	<input type="checkbox"/>

OR

Learning Link support
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**\*French Fast Track is for students on the Spanish side of the year wishing to take two languages**

**\*Spanish Fast Track is for students on the French side of the year wishing to take two languages**

**3. Choose your Physical Education option.**

GCSE full course	<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sports Leader course	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please note that this form is provided for reference only. All submissions must be made online. Details of how to do this will be sent out separately.