



# Your pathway to the future

**Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2021-2023**

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## Welcome

January 2021

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 2021-2023

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# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## *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 make a 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 2021-2023

## Key Stage 4 Pathways

What might my curriculum look like? For example:



or

or

or

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	Combined science
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 2021-2023

## 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.

Your daughter will be awarded grades by number 9-1 in all GCSE subjects.

### GCSE grades explained

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
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 2021-2023

## *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 virtual career seminars, dates on daily briefing.
- Researching and attending virtual career opportunities advertised on daily briefing.
- 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.**

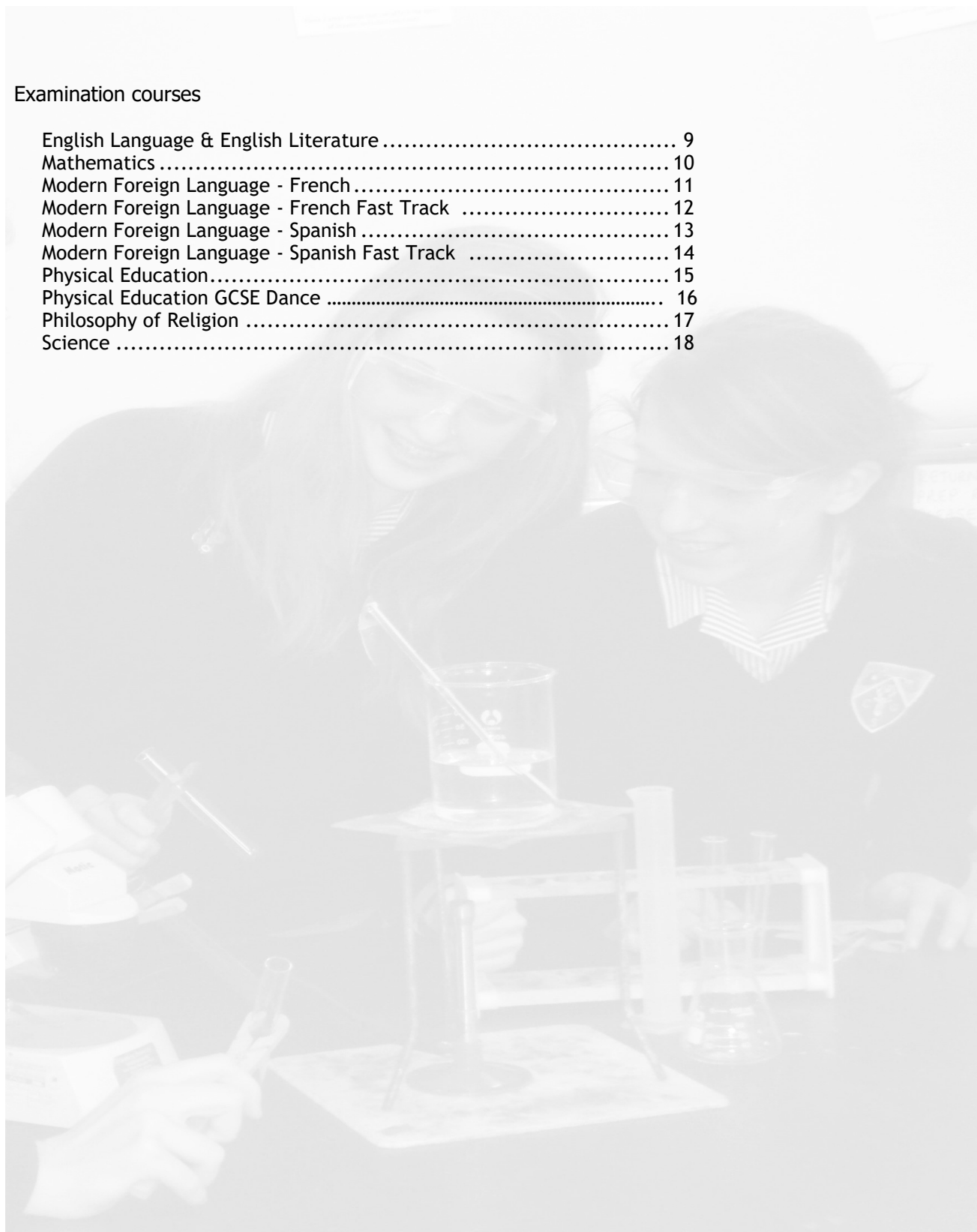


# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## Core Subjects—Course Descriptions

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# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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 command 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 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

*"I enjoy English because you can create a whole new world through your writing."*

Sydney

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

Maddie

*"English at The Holt is really enlightening; I leave the lesson feeling really inspired."*

Lily

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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 2021-2023

## 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?

Any of your French teachers (Mr Darby, Miss Robillard, Miss Dovaston or Mr Bennett) 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 2021-2023

## 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 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 2021-2023

## Modern Foreign Language - Spanish

*"When I chose my language option in year 10, I had the choice between French and Spanish, however I decided to continue with Spanish as it has always come more easily to me. Over the course of the GCSE, I have found it so enjoyable to learn a wider range of vocabulary and I now have enough knowledge of the language to be able to hold a conversation, as well as learn to read and translate longer texts of a higher level of Spanish. Spanish lessons are always interesting and suitably challenging. In studying GCSE Spanish, I have become more interested in languages and hope to continue to develop my Spanish skills in my spare time after I finish the course."*

**Ruby**

**Year 11**

**GCSE student**

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

Over the three years (Years 9-11) 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 is this subject so useful to me?**

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, Mrs Ellison, Mrs Bellis, Miss Sankey, Mrs Diaz and Miss Robillard will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE Spanish course.

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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:

- identity and culture
- local, national, international and global areas of interest
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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.

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

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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, 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 and Mrs Bellis will be happy to answer any queries about the GCSE Spanish Fast Track course.

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

**Year 10 Fast Track student**

*"I started studying Spanish in year 10 as a fast track course. I wanted to try out a new language because I enjoy languages and I heard from the other side of the year that Spanish is really good. I found the taster day super fun so I picked it. Once I started the course, I loved finding out about the Spanish culture and it's a beautiful language. Also, the grammar and vocabulary started to stick in my head quite quickly as we used it a lot in lessons. I highly recommend this course!"*

**Dasha**

**Year 11**



# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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 Ebdon, Mrs Woods, Miss Cardy, Miss Flintham, Mrs Bolton



# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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 2021-2023

## Philosophy of Religion - Full Course

*"I believe POR brings you together as a school community. It helps you bond and connect through religions you don't necessarily know lots about. It brings awareness and understanding about inclusivity and relationships between religions you might not ever notice. PoR really made me feel like my religion was explained properly. It is definitely an important subject in understanding those around you."*

Lailah

*"I feel that GCSE POR is a very rewarding course to do, as it allows you to develop a deeper understanding of Christianity and Islam as well as the themes you cover later in the course, which are interesting and enlightening."*

Rachael

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

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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

*"There is always a good learning environment in science. The teachers are always there to provide us with resources you need to succeed as well as allowing us to do real life experiments helping our understanding."*

Amelia

*"Science helps me make links between what we learn in class to the real world."*

Sanli

*"In science the teachers are very supportive and never fail to make the lessons interesting. We do amazing practicals. Getting us involved and showing us the meaning behind them as well. I thoroughly enjoy science at The Holt."*

Carmen

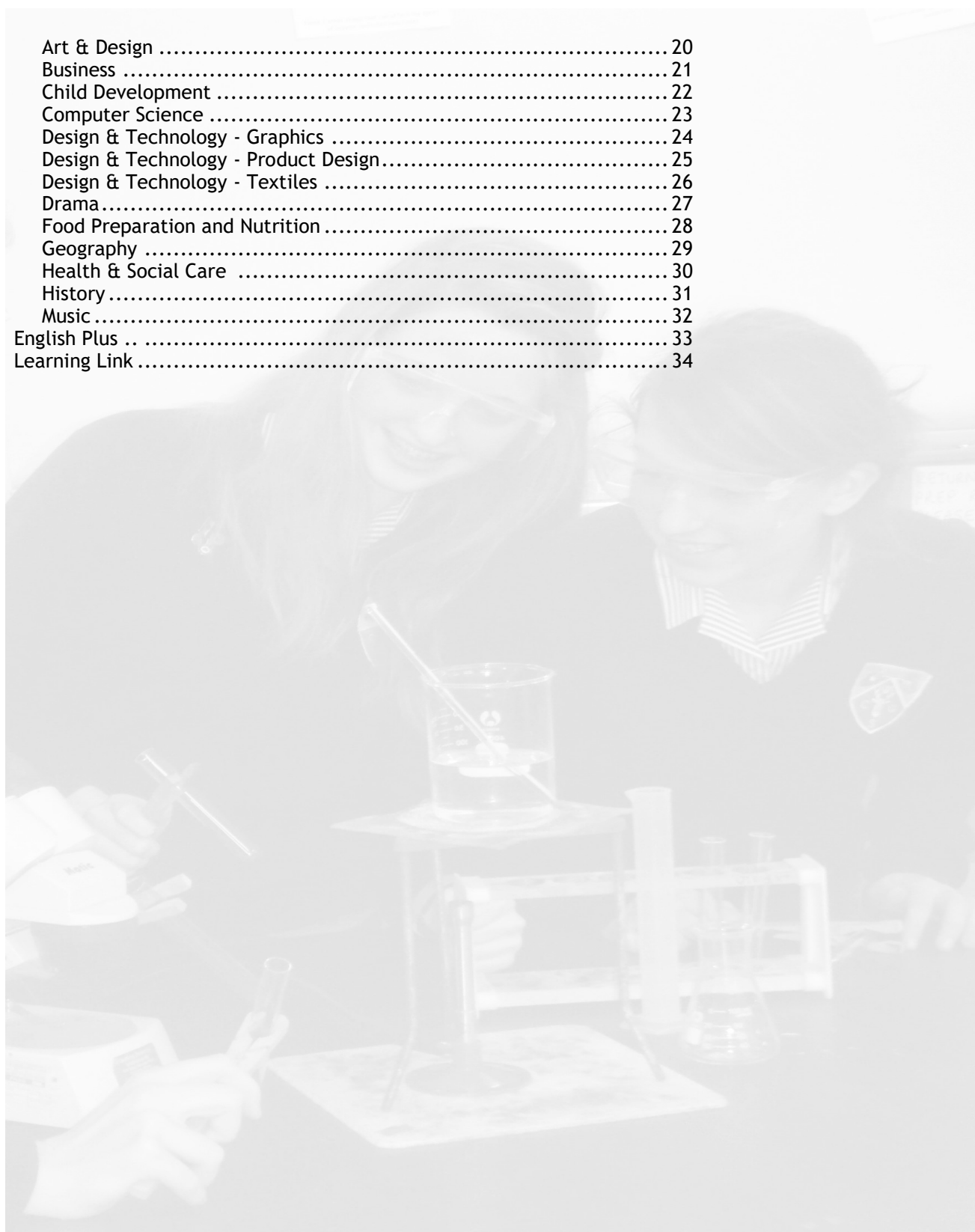
*"I love science and the teachers are always there if you need them."*

Katherine

## Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

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# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## Art & Design

### WHAT is this subject about?

The aim of the GCSE Art and Design course is to develop your confidence and knowledge, and build on your existing art skills whilst 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.

### 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.

### 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.

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.

### 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 one to 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.

### 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.

*"I am enjoying experimenting with different media with more control than I previously had."*

Jay

*"I am enjoying being creative and find Art very therapeutic as all work is practical which I love."*

Emma

*"I chose art because I enjoy it. It is great because it is all coursework and the effort you put into every piece of work pays off in the long run."*

Georgia

*"I am enjoying the GCSE art course because it allows me to be creative and I am enjoying exploring different style and learning new techniques."*

Sanli

*"I chose GCSE Art because I wanted to challenge and extend my creativity and it's a subject that doesn't require any revision."*

Phoebe

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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

### 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

Dr Barwah, Teacher of Economics and Business

Miss Sankey, Teacher of Business and Spanish

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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 pieces of coursework:

- 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:

- R018 - Health and well-being for child development,

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

The qualification is complemented by a range of GCSEs including Biology, Health and social care, 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 2021-2023

## Computer Science

*"I enjoy the practicality of the subject and way it is delivered to us in class. I chose this subject because I know coding will be a useful and impressive task with future jobs and I would highly recommend this course to everyone."*

Phoebe

*"I enjoy learning about what happens inside the computer because its very interesting to find out about the different processes. It was very different to the other subjects that I chose which made it stand out."*

Rosabelle

*"Computer science helps you understanding of the everyday technologies you use. It also increase your knowledge on ethical issues concerning these technologies. It is a super rounded subject."*

Lailah

*"This subject is a great option if you like thinking outside the box and coming up with solutions for problems. It can be a bit challenging at first, however with great determination and having fun, you will enjoy this subject."*

Manya

*"I chose Computer Science as one of my GCSE subjects due to the impressive course content it offers and the opportunities it brings, for example, practising coding skills and learning more about the electronic world around us."*

Shachi

### 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 2021-2023

## 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

*"In GCSE Graphics you can be very creative, innovative and express your ideas freely. It's a very unique subject which gives you an insight into professional design, manufacturing process and shifts your creativity."*

**Sneha**

*"I chose Graphics because it is a creative subject and it is 50% NEA 50% exam."*

**Tegan**

*"I want to study interior design or architecture in the future and graphics GCSE helps me get there."*

**Katie**

*"I chose Graphics because it gives a clearer perspective on how products are designed and created."*

**Megan**

*"I really enjoyed it in year 9 and wanted to become more advanced in the subject."*

**Malaika**

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## Design & Technology - Product Design

*"Product design is a lot of fun and it is exciting. It gives you a lot of opportunities to improve your problem solving and practical skills. You will not regret it!"*

Shruti

*"I chose Product Design GCSE because I was enjoying it in year 9 and wanted to take it further. I also enjoy doing more practical work which is hands on rather than heavy theory."*

Michaella

*"I chose to do Product Design as there is only one exam and the NEA. I really enjoy it as you learn lots of new skills and it is really fun to do."*

Keshini

*"I have enjoyed it since year 7. I like creating and making things. Design & technology gives you independence to make what you like and you are given the trust to handle machinery."*

Isobel

*"I chose Product Design as there is only one exam and you have a year for the NEA. I enjoy it because there is freedom to design something you are interested in."*

Lauren

### 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 2021-2023

## 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

*"I really like doing GCSE Textiles because it is really enjoyable it is a good subject that I really look forward to. Textiles is relaxing and you are free to make anything you want."*

Lucy

*"Calm environment when working and practicals are always fun and creative."*

Martha

*"You get to work with lots of fabric and the practical is fun. The teachers are very helpful and informative of the knowledge you need to learn."*

Alessia

*"Textiles is a good way to use your creativity and it is fun and enjoyable. The content is also very interesting."*

Nell

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## Drama

*"I chose Drama GCSE as I love to act and have enjoyed the subject since Year 7. I have enjoyed the freedom I have had in the devising project and being able to work with new people. I really Recommend it."*

Casey

*"I took Drama to develop my confidence and it has definitely done that. I now have the communication skills that will help me in later life. If you're feeling unsure, I would definitely recommend it."*

Millie

*"GCSE Drama is the only subject I still genuinely look forward to on my timetable. If you are thinking of it, just do it! The lessons are such escapism and inspire me everyday."*

Tayyibah

*"I took GCSE Drama as I thought it would help me with my future career and boost my confidence. The teachers are very helpful and support you through the whole process. I really enjoyed devising with my group and being able to express myself freely. I would really recommend it."*

Jessica

*"Drama is the best subject I am studying as it's really enjoyable, it's really different from other subjects and the teachers are all great! It has lots of transferable skills and helps with public speaking for English and Languages."*

Cara

### 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: Summer term of Year 11	Component 2: Spring term of Year 10	Component 3: Spring term of Year 11
Understanding drama (written exam) (40% of GCSE)	Devising drama (practical) (40% of GCSE)	Texts in practice (practical) (20% of GCSE)
<b>You will be assessed on:</b>	<b>You will be assessed on:</b>	<b>You will be assessed on:</b>
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 or Vlogging.

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

Miss Edwards, Head of Drama

Mrs Bennett, Teacher of Drama

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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, 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 Nyazika, Head of Food & Nutrition

*"I took food and nutrition because although I am a fussy eater and wanted to vary my opportunities to try different cultures foods, in addition to this I love baking and cooking so wanted to practice my skills further. Although there is a lot of theory it is fun and gives you an insight into different cultural foods. I would recommend it."*

Casey

*"I took food and nutrition because I would like a career in this one day and I want to learn about food science."*

Freya

*"I chose food and nutrition because I have loved cooking all my life. I learnt from my mum and grandma and I just love bringing my family together to share meals. I love to cook new and exciting dishes because it makes me happy."*

Holly

*"I took food and nutrition because I really enjoy making and cooking. I thought it would be a nice subject to do. I was told by a year 12 who took it in year 11 and they loved it, she said it was helpful in everyday situations, taking food & nutrition would help me in the future as well as the present."*

Scarlett



# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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.

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

Jessica

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.

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

Elisha

### 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 2021-2023

## 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 is my favourite subject because it has a good balance of work between exams and coursework. I enjoy the course because it is something I want to do and learn about in the future. The quality of teaching in this subject is very good because you always feel like your learning and making progress."*

Emilia

*"Health and Social Care is an enjoyable subject and it has a good balance of coursework and exams which I prefer. It opens up lots of job opportunities for the future."*

Kira

*"Health and Social Care is a fun subject which can open many job opportunities in the future. It is a good balance between exams and coursework and I find that less stressful."*

Hannah

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## History

“Our history lessons are engaging, interesting and thought provoking and always relevant to our lives and future.”

Elysia

“History educates us of our surroundings, allows us to learn from past mistakes and enlightens us of the world we live in.”

Suzie

### 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 essential 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 vital.

### 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 which 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 specification 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.

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

Mrs R Hagger, Head of History

# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## 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**

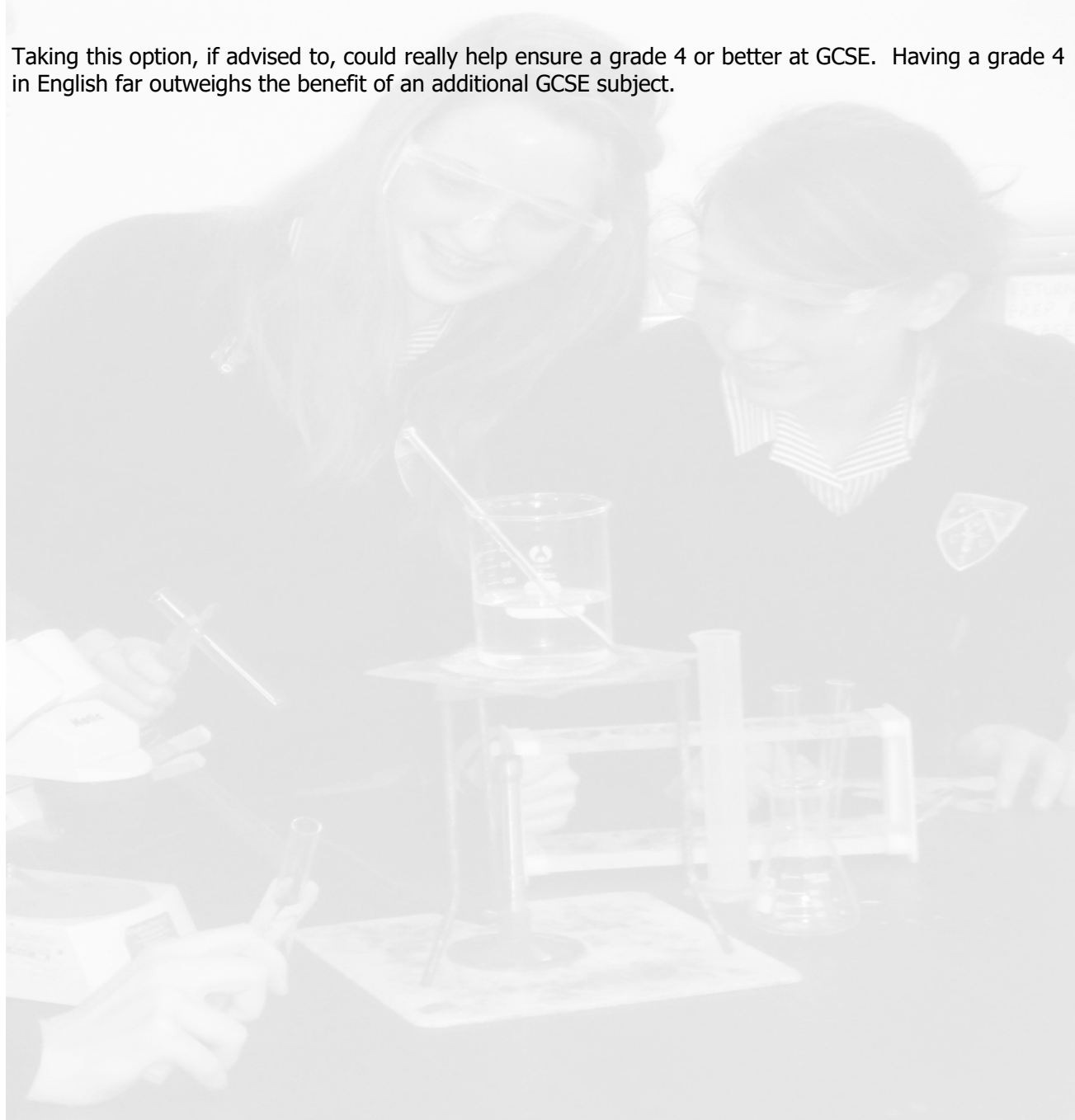
# Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

## *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 2021-2023

## *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 2021-2023

## *What happens next?*

### 1. Individual student interviews

Following the virtual KS4 information evening on Thursday 14th January 2021, every student will have an options meeting (via Microsoft Teams) with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or Head of Year to discuss possible choices.

### 2. Parents' Consultation Evening

At the virtual parents' consultation evening on Thursday 4th February 2021, 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 2nd MARCH 2021**

## *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.**

If you have not heard from us by the end of April, please assume that you have successfully enrolled on for your chosen courses.

## Key Stage 4 Options 2021-2023

### *Options Timeline*

#### **2021**

**Thursday 14th January - 6.30pm**

Options Information Evening (online)

**Thursday 4th February - 4.15pm - 6.45pm**

Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening (online)

**Monday 8th February - Friday 26th February**

Student options interview with Senior Leadership Team

**By Tuesday 2nd 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 2021-2023

Name :

Form:

**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	
Spanish	

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		GCSE Dance		Sports Leader course	
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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.