



Stanchester
Academy

Key Stage 4

Curriculum Booklet

From September 2023



USING THIS BOOKLET

This booklet contains much of the information needed to help you to think about which courses you should study in Years 10 and 11. It provides an explanation of terms you need to understand along with details about the courses on offer during your final two years at Stanchester Academy.

Making the right course choices will help you be successful in your studies, enabling you to progress successfully onto your post-16 option at the end of Year 11. The choices you make now could have an impact on the options available to you in the future, so careful consideration is needed.

We encourage you to take this booklet and read through the information together carefully. You should think about which subjects you enjoy most, what you think you will be most successful at, and whether you have a clear idea about what you wish to study at a Sixth Form or College.

At Stanchester Academy our vision is to develop 'ambitious learners who are knowledgeable and literate'. This vision has inspired our curriculum and as a result the subjects we offer seek to ensure that every student has access to pathways that open future doors and opportunities.

Ambitious learners who are knowledgeable and literate



Our curriculum goes beyond the subjects you will study, but making the right choice is an important decision. To support you with this there are various staff you can turn to with your questions.

Mr G Mockridge – Headteacher

Mr J Young – Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum and Assessment)

Mrs Wellfair-Priest – Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning)

Mrs J Butler – Head of Year 9

Mrs C Lewis – Careers Leader

Your subject teachers.

Our Year 9 Options Evening will take place on Wednesday 18th January. At this you will have the opportunity to hear about the options process and understand our curriculum offer. This is a perfect chance to ask any questions you might have and explore which subjects are right for you.

OUR CURRICULUM OFFER

The subjects shown below are those that all students will take. These form the **CORE CURRICULUM**.

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSEs unless Triple Science is selected as an option)

A minimum of 1 humanities subject (History or Geography)

PSHE (no examination)

Physical Education (no examination)

In addition to the compulsory core curriculum you will study a further 4 courses (including the minimum 1 humanities). The subjects you can choose from are listed below:

GCSE Art, Craft and Design

GCSE Business

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Drama

GCSE Film Studies

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Photography

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Spanish

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Cambridge National in Sport Studies

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

NCFE V-Certs Creative Design and Production

NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery



English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) is a measure that recognises where students have secured a grade 4 or better across a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language. Currently, the Ebacc is not a qualification in itself but is a recognition of academic attainment across the traditional, academic suite of subjects. The Ebacc is particularly relevant for students wishing to apply for university or to further their studies in these areas.

Vocational Qualifications

Differing slightly from traditional GCSE courses, our vocational qualifications are focused on the specific demands of the employment sector, whilst maintaining challenge of an academic nature. With the increasing popularity of post-16 apprenticeships and the new T-Level awards, our vocational qualifications are an excellent precursor to these industry-specific pathways. With feedback from employers and universities, recognising the advantage of vocational qualifications with regards to increased specialist knowledge, practical skills, work-related understanding and an increased aptitude for independence and proactivity, our vocational qualifications are the perfect complement to traditional GCSE qualifications.

Why do we study this subject?

- To communicate effectively - written and spoken language;
- To read and comprehend a wide range of fiction and non-fiction;
- To explore writers' intentions and the effects of their writing.

Whether you want to go to college or to complete an apprenticeship, you will be expected to have clear communication skills. A good qualification in English is important for all entry to A-Level or other post-16 courses, and to further training when you leave school. The course allows candidates to demonstrate their ability in functional English; to investigate and analyse language; and to experiment and use language creatively. If you do not achieve a level 4 at GCSE, you will have to re-take the course when you are at college, sixth form or completing an apprenticeship after Year 11.

What content will I be learning?

You will study a wide range of extracts from the following types of texts, including:

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- 19th century
- 20th century
- 21st century

You will also complete a variety of description, narrative and persuasive writing tasks.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar are a vital part of this GCSE.

Where can the subject take me?

A sound understanding of the English Language in all its forms is the cornerstone to being able to access all other subjects. The skills developed as part of the English Language GCSE will equip you with valuable transferrable skills which will be attractive to employers and educational institutions alike. There is not a single career in which the written and verbal communication skills gained through this course will not be essential to your future success. Specific careers include journalist/writer, PR/advertising/media, education and intelligence services.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

1 hour 45 minutes - 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Section A: reading 40 marks

One single text (unseen) from 20th or 21st century

Section B: writing 40 marks

1 extended question - Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes - 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

Section A: reading 40 marks

Two linked texts

One non-fiction and one literary non-fiction from different time periods (19th, 20th or 21st century)

Section B: writing 40 marks

1 extended question - To persuade or argue

Spoken Language Endorsement

All pupils will deliver a 2-to-5 minute presentation to their English class on either the Romantic movement, Wordsworth's 'The Prelude', or Browning's 'My Last Duchess' (which means this functions as Literature revision as well). Pupils will receive a pass, merit or distinction awarded by their teacher. This is a compulsory part of the GCSE and must be completed for pupils to receive their English Language grade.

Why do we study this subject?

GCSE English Literature allows you to experience and explore a range of literature from the British literary canon. Students study in detail the plot, themes, characters and language of each novel, play and poem we read. Students will have a detailed depth of knowledge by the time they are ready to approach the exams.

Students are encouraged to develop their wider reading by reading a variety of texts linking to the genre or context of the texts being studied. Students are required to organise their notes independently as the subject knowledge demands of this subject are high.

What content will I be learning?

In Year 10 you will study 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls', 'Romeo and Juliet', and the AQA Power and Conflict poetry anthology, as well as a range of unseen poetry.

Completing our initial study of all the set GCSE texts in Year 10 means that we are able to devote the entirety of Year 11 to revising and consolidating knowledge of the texts and refining your critical literary writing skills.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 - Shakespeare & The 19th Century Novel - 40% of the GCSE

Section A – Shakespeare: 'Romeo and Juliet'

Section B – The 19th-century novel: 'A Christmas Carol'

In each section students will answer one question. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play/novel and then to write about the play/novel overall.

Paper 2 - Modern Texts, Poetry & Unseen Poetry - 60% of the GCSE

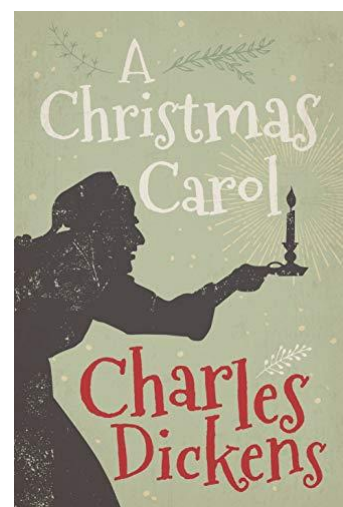
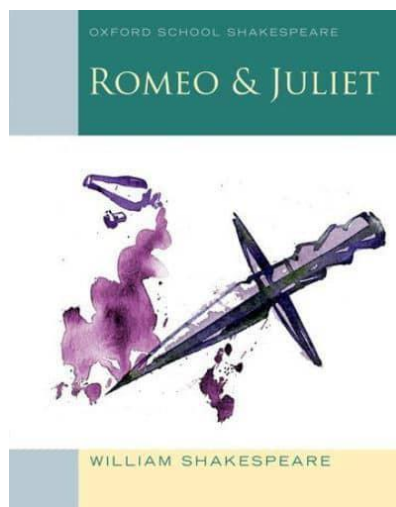
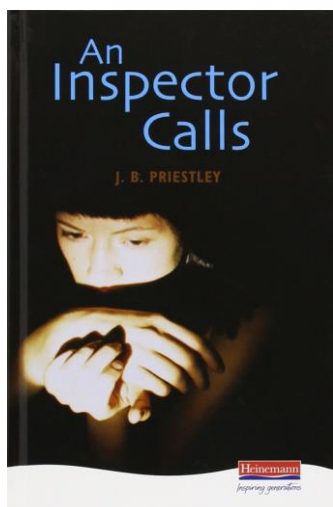
Section A – Modern Text: An Inspector Calls

Section B – Conflict and Power Poetry

Section C – Unseen Poetry.

Where can the subject take me?

To study English Literature is not only to study how writers use language to shape meaning and influence the world around them; it is also to use your own critical thinking skills and ability to manipulate language to form meanings for yourself, and to convey those interpretations to others. These vital skills will benefit you in a wide variety of potential careers, and particularly lend themselves to professions that thrive on effective communication, from law and the media to education and politics.



Why do we study this subject?

Mathematics is a core subject so it is compulsory to study it throughout Years 10 and 11. Most employers and post 16 courses will expect you to have some kind of qualification in Maths. The aim is to provide a course which is relevant to everyday needs; to further study in mathematics and other related subjects, and to future employment. This course meets the new curriculum requirements and will be graded from 1 to 9.

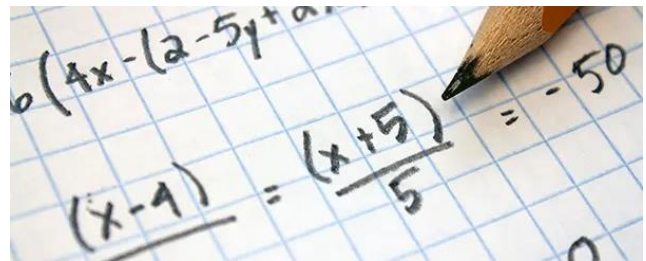
The qualification encourages students to develop confidence in and a positive attitude towards mathematics, and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society. It also prepares students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

What content will I be learning?

Students will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including number, ratio and proportion, algebra, geometry, measures, statistics and probability. Students will use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and apply them to real-life problems.

The aims and objectives of the qualification are to enable students to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.



All students are expected to bring mathematical equipment, including a scientific calculator, to every lesson. Much of the work in class is dependent on their use and students who continually fail to bring the right equipment will put themselves at a disadvantage

How will I be assessed?

Mathematics is a linear course and will be examined by three papers at the end of year 11. It is offered at two different tiers, Higher (Grades 4 to 9) and Foundation (Grades 1 to 5). Each paper carries an equal weighting towards the final grade in each tier.

Foundation Level

Paper 1 Non Calculator	1½ hours
Paper 2 Calculator	1½ hours
Paper 3 Calculator	1½ hours

Higher Level

Paper 1 Non Calculator	1½ hours
Paper 2 Calculator	1½ hours
Paper 3 Calculator	1½ hours

Students will follow a programme of study that is appropriate to their ability and allows them to achieve their GCSE target grade. Students can move between groups but any final set movements will be made early in Year 11 to fully prepare for their final exams.

Where can the subject take me?

Achieving a Grade 4 or higher is a requirement for all Level 3 post-16 courses at a College, Sixth Form or apprenticeship. As a subject it will support further study in mathematics or other subjects such as the sciences, engineering, computing and design based qualifications.

Why do we study this subject?

Students studying Combined Science (Trilogy) will cover the three science disciplines and will be awarded with two GCSEs of identical grades. Trilogy takes a logical and coherent journey through the content below and will enable students to develop a deeper understanding of the key scientific ideas. The course focuses on scientific explanations and models and gives an insight into how scientists develop scientific understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit.

Combined Science is worth 2 GCSEs, and is the compulsory minimum taken by all students in the country. All students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics units.

Students may in addition opt to take Triple Science (see options subjects below) where they will obtain 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What content will I be learning?

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure & properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure



How will I be assessed?

There are six examination papers all to be taken at the end of Year 11; two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. There is no coursework element.

Grading will be on the 1 – 9 system. There are Foundation and Higher tiers and a decision about which tier a student is entered on will be based on their academic performance.

The question types in an exam consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Where can the subject take me?

Grade 6 and above will typically enable progression onto A-level science courses. Level 5 or above will allow progression onto vocational science courses such as BTEC Applied Science.

OPTION SUBJECTS



GCSE Art or Photography

GCSE Business

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Drama

GCSE Film Studies

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Spanish

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Cambridge National in Sport Studies

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

NCFE V-Certs Creative Design and Production

NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery



GCSE ART OR PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

QAN: 601/8088/2

At Stanchester Academy we offer two different GCSE Art options.

- Art, Craft and Design
- Photography

Why do we study this subject?

Art and Design is essential to encourage independent learning, an ability to problem solve, reflect and refine critically and to collaborate as part of a team. It's all about how you learn and develop individual learning skills. The arts allow the individual to explore, experiment and develop their understanding about the world they live in as well as enabling insight into the varying cultural worlds of others. Students will gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of Art History whilst developing skills of communication and keeping pace within an increasingly technological society.

Students within this subject area have consistently achieved excellent GCSE outcomes, significantly exceeding national averages, for many years. Our staff are highly knowledgeable, experienced and entirely committed to the success of our young people.

What content will I be learning?

Over the two years students must select and present a portfolio of work that includes a sustained project developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief evidencing the journey from their initial engagement with an idea to their final outcomes.

Students must also submit a selection of further work about their learning and understanding showcasing what they are able to do. How you work with the media you choose is also an important part of the course.

Knowledge and understanding includes learning about how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed and interpreted in images, artefacts and products.

You will use your new knowledge and understanding about how artists/photographers past and present have worked to further your own work. At every point of the learning students are encouraged to engage to develop a critical understanding of artists, architects and designers expressing reasoned judgments that can inform their work.

You will have to keep a sketchbook for all project work with notes explaining what you have been doing – what you know and understand. You will learn about a range of approaches and media and how to use your new skills to meet the work briefs.

Final pieces will be presented in a portfolio or 3D elements will be photographed and added to the portfolio.

How will I be assessed?

Your portfolio collection of work will comprise 60% of the total GCSE grade.

An externally set assignment will comprise 40% of the total GCSE grade.

Where can the subject take me?

This course is excellent preparation for any pupil considering Art at A-level or Art and Art related courses at university and further education. Art helps you to develop into an independent creative thinker which universities and employers are keen to take on.



Why do we study this subject?

GCSE Business covers up to date topics which aim to engage students with the current business climate and provides an insight into issues facing businesses on a local, national and global level. Throughout the course students will build not only their knowledge but their skills to apply this knowledge, form opinions and construct an argument in order to make judgements. Students will be encouraged to keep up to date with the news and have an awareness of what is happening currently in the business world. This course is very transferable across subjects and into students' future studies.

What content will I be learning?

Business in the real world

The purpose and nature of business, business ownership, setting business aims and objectives, stakeholders, business location, business planning & expanding a business.

Influences on business

Technology, ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate, globalisation, legislation & the competitive environment.

Business operations

Production processes, the role of procurement, quality management, customer service.

Human Resources

Organisational structures, recruitment and selection, motivating employees & training.

Marketing

Identifying and understanding customers, segmentation, the purpose and methods of market research & elements of the marketing mix (product, price, place and promotion).

Finance

Sources of finance, cash flow, financial terms and calculation & analysing the performance of a business.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams at the end of year 11, both are written exams which are 1 hour 45 minutes long. They have equal weighting both contributing to 50% of the overall GCSE grade.

Both papers follow the same structure as follows:

Section A has multiple choice questions and some short answer questions.

Section B has one case study/data response stimuli with questions to follow totalling 34 marks.

Section C has one case study/data response stimuli with questions totalling 36 marks.

Paper 1

Topics assessed:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources

Paper 2

Topics assessed:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Marketing
- Finance

Where can the subject take me?

GCSE Business naturally progresses onto a Level 3 qualification in Business, be it a vocational or A-level course. Ultimately this could lead to further study at university or it would also be a great insight for anyone wishing to take part in an apprenticeship and wants to understand how businesses work.

Why do we study this subject?

Computer programs directly affect every aspect of our lives; we rely on computer scientists for this. Computer scientists theorise, design, develop and apply the software and hardware for technology most of us use every single day.

As the digital world is rapidly evolving, the need for computer scientists continues to grow. Computer Science GCSE encourages students to understand and apply the fundamental principles of Computer Science.

Students will learn to analyse and solve problems, including designing, writing, and debugging programs. Students will learn to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. They will learn to understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and other systems. They will understand the impact of digital technology and learn to apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What content will I be learning?

Exam paper 1 content

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Exam paper 2 content

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

How will I be assessed?

Written paper 1:

1 hour and 30 minutes, 50% of total GCSE, 80 marks.

This is a non-calculator paper. All questions are mandatory. This paper consists of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

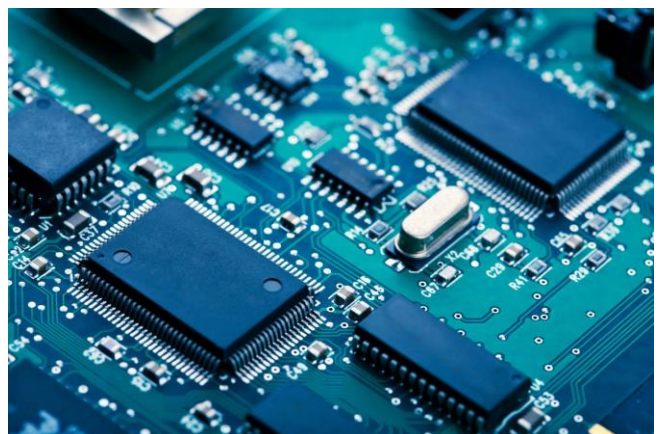
Written paper 2:

1 hour and 30 minutes, 50% of total GCSE, 80 marks.

This is a non-calculator paper. This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. All questions are mandatory. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.

Where can the subject take me?

This subject leads on to A-Level, Level 3 BTEC or T-Level in Computer Science. Areas of employment may include network engineering, IT user support, software engineering and testing, video game development, cyber security, project management and web development.



Why do we study this subject?

The study of Drama at GCSE offers students a creative outlet during a stressful point of their education, giving them the opportunity to use drama to explore the world in which we live, which we believe is more important now than ever before.

Drama prepares you for the world we live in by using imagination and creativity, as well as being able to clearly articulate yourself. 55% of our total communication is delivered by body language, 38% by vocal signals and the last 7% is delivered by words, therefore studying Drama can be a valuable learning tool in which to comprehend life's situations such as job interviews and formal presentations. The importance of literacy is paramount at Stanchester Academy and Drama works to enhance this through exploration and evaluation of different texts.

What content will I be learning?

Over the two years you will learn and use a variety of Drama techniques and strategies to explore both devised and scripted work, with the opportunity to be either performer or designer.

You will participate in a number of workshops to meet the requirements of the syllabus on employing explorative strategies to investigate themes and topics through drama, as well as learning how to interpret and stage scripts.

You will learn about how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed through the medium of Drama to an audience.

You will build on knowledge and understanding to create performances that communicate meaning, elicit emotion and explore ideas. Additionally, you will have to write about your work in class, how you approached the work and why you adopted that particular approach.

Students will experience live theatre performances during the course. Previously we have been to London to see the Woman in Black as well as watching other amazing shows such as Blood Brothers.

As a new department we are always looking to develop new opportunities with approximately six theatre visits per year, practitioner workshops and a number of Drama Clubs and Productions available for students to get involved in.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Understanding drama (40% of GCSE)

Written examination, including theatre terminology, study of a set text, and a live theatre response.

Component 2 – Devising drama (40% of GCSE)

Practical workshops leading to the creation of an original piece of theatre where students can specialise in either performance or design elements.

This is supported by a three-part piece of Non-Exam Assessment

Component 3 – Texts in practice (20% of GCSE)

The performance or stage design of two extracts from a script of the students choosing, with support from their teacher.

Where can the subject take me?

Drama is unique in its ability to offer students invaluable transferrable skills which are highly valued both in education and in employment. Skills such as creativity, collaboration and problem-solving are key, as well as academic skills such as analysis and evaluation which will support learners' education, whether their aspirations are to go into any Arts-based careers or public-facing roles.

Why do we study this subject?

The Creative Industries in the UK is one of the fastest growing industries at present, with the consumption of visual media developing at an exponential rate.

GCSE Film Studies offers students the opportunity to be more selective, analytical and critical of what they consume, whether this be via streaming services, gaming or on the big screen. It also gives them both critical and analytical skills as well as practical and creative film making opportunities.

What content will I be learning?

Students will study a total of six films; three from the US and three from outside the US. As part of this, students will develop an understanding of film language such as cinematography, editing, sound and mise-en-scene as well as the social, cultural and political contexts in which the films were made and their structures.

We will also look at the creative and practical elements of film making and storyboarding.



How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Key Developments in US Film (35% of GCSE)

Written examination looking at two Hollywood films, key developments in film and film technology, and an independent US film.

Component 2 - Global Film (35% of GCSE)

Written examination looking at three global films.

Component 3 – Production (30% of GCSE)

The creation and analysis of either a story board or extract from an original film.

Where can the subject take me?

As well as taking the study of Film further in education and as a potential career, students are also equipped with analytical skills which makes them media-savvy in the contemporary world. Analytical skills are akin to those acquired in English, History, Geography and Business as are well suited to potential careers such as journalism, media-related roles and marketing.

For any further questions about GCSE Film Studies and GCSE Drama, please contact Mr D Morgan, Curriculum Lead of Performing Arts.

Why do we study this subject?

Geography is all around you. It is dynamic, exciting, relevant and a useful subject. It helps you understand the environment in which you live, it allows you to consider world issues and acquire knowledge about people in different places, and in doing all of this you will develop a range of unique, yet useful skills.

Geography gives a balanced viewpoint which is a good preparation for the world of work. Employers want people with the following attributes: good communication skills; ability to work in a team; ability to manage themselves; numeracy and literacy; ability to problem solve; computer literacy; spatial awareness; environmental and social awareness. Geography provides them all!

What content will I be learning?

This course has 3 units:

Unit 1: The Physical Environment. This unit focuses on the UK and its physical environment with an emphasis on coasts and rivers. It also looks at the living world: Rainforest and Cold Environments. Finally, it covers natural hazards and their management.

Unit 2: The Human Environment. The changing economic world, the increasing urban world and resource management are covered in this section of the course.

Unit 3: This comprises geographical skills and includes decision making, fieldwork and map work skills.

You will use different sources of information such as fieldwork data, pictures, geographical information systems and maps.

You will need to be able to use these sources effectively to be able to understand how the world is formed and changes over time.

How will I be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of the course:

Paper 1: Physical environment

1 hour 30 minutes; 88 marks; 35% of final mark.

Paper 2: Human environment

1 hour 30 minutes; 88 marks; 35% of final mark

Paper 3: Geographical applications (fieldwork & skills)

1 hour 15 minutes; 76 marks; 30% of final mark.



As part of the GCSE students will participate in a series of trips to support the fieldwork component of the course.

1 day coastal fieldwork - Lyme Regis

1 day urban fieldwork - Bristol

UK based residential – Aberystwyth

International residential - location to be confirmed

Where can the subject take me?

Anyone wishing to study Geography further at A-level or university should consider the GCSE. It can lead to careers in professions such as cartography, climate change analysis, climatologist, or emergency management specialist.

Why do we study this subject?

History is an exciting, challenging and rewarding subject. Not only will you learn about events in the past, but you will gain an understanding of why things are the way they are today. You will learn about wars and conflicts as well as inventions and progress. Above all, you will learn about people. Finding out about your own or someone else's past is fascinating. The skills learnt in History are valued by colleges, universities and employers. In fact, if you are thinking about a career in law, teaching, politics or the services then a History GCSE will set you apart from the rest!

What content will I be learning?

The syllabus consists of three sections which count towards your final GCSE grade:

Unit 1: A thematic study and a study of the historic environment.

Thematic study: Crime and Punishment through time c1000 to present day.

Historic environment: Whitechapel c1870-1900; crime, policing and the inner city.

Unit 2: A period study and British depth study.

Period study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91.

British study: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-88.

Unit 3: A modern depth study.

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.



Throughout the course you will use primary sources such as newspapers, pictures, cartoons and diaries and you will need to be able to evaluate these sources for usefulness and reliability. You can also expect to be involved in discussion and group work if you choose this subject. You will learn to understand different points of view and the ability to write clearly is very important. You will need to analyse and organise information and present reasoned arguments.

As part of the GCSE students will participate in a series of trips to support their studies.

- Chalke Valley History Festival
- International residential – location to be confirmed

How will I be assessed?

History is assessed purely through examination. You will sit three external exams at the end of the two years.

Each paper comprises of a number of sections and questions that assess the students over a variety of skills. Students must demonstrate their knowledge, along with an ability explain, analyse and evaluate in an extended writing format.

Where can the subject take me?

Apart from a range of History courses at A-Level and university, History GCSE is well regarded by employers for the skills it provides.

The ability to look at both sides of an argument, to write from a reasoned point of view, and the skills of individual research that you develop are highly valued. So too is the ability to analyse and interpret information and reach your own conclusions based on evidence, not just opinion.

History would also be an excellent subject for individuals with interests in law, politics, religion, literature and drama.

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: AQA

QAN: 601/8279/9

Why do we study this subject?

The GCSE PE course is suited to those students who have an interest in the theory elements around sport including anatomy and physiology and movement analyses and prefer exams as an assessment style.

The specification covers a range of sport specific topics from the human body such as the bones and muscles to contemporary topics such as the ethics around the use of performance enhancing drugs. In addition to two papers sat in the year 11 exam series, students are assessed in their practical performance. Students will be assessed within one team sport, one individual sport and third of choice.

Students who consider taking GCSE PE should be playing sport for the school and ideally outside of school.

What content will I be learning?

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is made up of 60% examinations and 40% NEA.

Paper 1

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks
- 30% of GCSE

Paper 2

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks
- 30% of GCSE

NEA - Ongoing practical assessment throughout the course.

- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA
- 100 marks (25 per sport and NEA)

Where can the subject take me?

This course would benefit anyone who is interested in sports, or wants to pursue a career in the sports, leisure and exercise industry.

Progression from this course could include A-level study, a level 3 vocational sports qualification or a relevant apprenticeship.



Why do we study this subject?

Religious Studies is not just for those who are interested in studying religions. It is about understanding the world that we live in today and putting that world into context. Religious Studies is a subject that offers time for reflection, discussion, dialogue, and debate. Not only will you study the diversity of both religious and non-religious belief, you will also gain skills that are vital for spiritual, moral and cultural development.

The skills that are learnt in Religious Studies are also valuable for deepening an understanding of other curriculum areas. Knowledge of Religious Studies will help students understand GCSE English literature, drama, history, music, geography and art to a more sophisticated level.

If you'd like to express your own views and engage in debate and critical thinking, then RS is the subject for you!

What content will I be learning?

At Stanchester, we offer the GCSE Religious Studies A. There are two components.

Component 1: A study of religions. We will look at the belief's, teachings and practices of Islam and Christianity and compare the two religions.

Component 2: Thematic studies, where we will consider four religious, ethical, and philosophical themes:

- Relationships and family – sex, marriage, divorce, families and gender equality.
- Religion and life – abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation.
- Religion, crime, and punishment – corporal punishment, the death penalty and forgiveness.
- Religion, human rights, and social justice – status of women in religion, the uses of wealth and freedom of religious expression.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written papers that you will take at the end of year 11. Each paper is worth 50% of your GCSE.

The first exam will be on component 1 of the course, this is an 1 hour 45 minute written exam. Students must demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the two religions that we have studied throughout the two-year course.

The second paper will be on component 2 and is also 1 hour and 45 minutes. Students must demonstrate their knowledge and ability to explain and evaluate their understanding of the religious, ethical and philosophical themes we have studied.



Where can the subject take me?

Religious Studies is a well-respected subject for further study including A Level and is recognised as suitable preparation for degree courses offered at university. It is also highly regarded by employers for the range of skills that it provides. Being able to analyse and evaluate information and express your own opinion, makes Religious Studies suitable for a wide variety of careers. These include law, politics, health care, social care, medicine, media, human resources, human rights, research, media, and teaching.

The subject will also help you to navigate future careers where you will have to work with people from all religious backgrounds, cultures and nationalities, in Britain or if your ambition is to work abroad.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES - SPANISH

Exam Board: AQA

QAN: 601/8160/6

Whilst GCSE Spanish is our main language offered, if you are interested in studying French at GCSE please register your interest during the options selection process. All subjects run under the condition that a minimum number of students take the course.

Why do we study this subject?

In our international world, studying a foreign language is more important than ever before. Moreover, as an Ebacc subject, a GCSE in a language is increasingly used as a measure of academic progress by colleges, employers and universities alike. Languages open many doors in life as they enable you to communicate with people from different countries, travel abroad and work for international businesses. Spanish in particular is the second most-spoken language in the world and is a language of global importance.

In the GCSE, you will learn to convey information and express your own ideas and opinions, as well as studying the fascinating cultures of the Spanish speaking world.

Where can the subject take me?

If you want to take a foreign language beyond GCSE there is a variety of exciting options available locally. For example, most local colleges offer excellent A-Level courses in Spanish and other languages. GCSE language will be essential if you wish to study it further at post-16 level. Equally, employers recognise highly the value of speaking another language and many companies are looking for employees with the skills to engage in an international market.

What content will I be learning?

In the GCSE, listening (25%), speaking (25%), reading (25%) and writing (25%) are the 4 key skills you will practice. You will learn to speak spontaneously and with confidence on a variety of interesting topics such as technology, free time, Spanish customs and traditions, family and friends, and global issues. The need for you to thoroughly learn and revise material at home is very important, as all skills are assessed in exam format.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a variety of assessment methods that draw upon your language skills.

- Speaking (exam) – Assessment with a teacher
- Writing (exam)
- Reading (exam)
- Listening (exam)

You will also be assessed in your translation skills as part of the above examinations.



GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE

Exam Board: AQA

QAN: 601/8752/9 (Biology), 601/8757/8 (Chemistry), 601/8751/7 (Physics)

Why do we study this subject?

Students covering the separate science course will be awarded three GCSEs and these may be different grades depending on the pupil attainment. Studying the separate sciences means students will cover the content of the Trilogy course (as listed above), plus some additional content in each unit. This course will therefore provide greater preparation for AS and A-level studies in either biology, chemistry or physics.

It is important to note that Triple Science is not any more difficult than combined science, and therefore the chances of attaining a particular grade are the same on each course. However, we would only encourage students who have a particular passion for science to consider this route.

What content will I be learning?

Triple science is the 'gold standard' qualification and is highly valued by employers and colleges.

If you choose triple science, you will be committing to extra time studying the subject, so you must enjoy it and be committed to learning.

You will be going into each unit in greater depth, with more opportunities for practical work and enrichment. For example, in Biology you will have the opportunity to learn about the eye, the brain and the kidneys. In Chemistry you will be conducting additional experiments such as titrations and forensic investigations. In Physics you will have the opportunity to learn about space and explore the dangers of radioactive waste.

You will have the time to further develop your skills at designing, conducting and analysing your own experiments, all of which are key skills which employers are keen to see in applicants.

How will I be assessed?

Each subject will be tested by two papers (6 in total). Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Each is worth 50% of the final grade and has 100 marks available. The question types will be multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



Where can the subject take me?

This is a firm basis for an all-round science education and due to depth and detail of the course it provides an excellent entry route to study science at A-level. It should be considered by anyone wishing to study science further at university or wanting to take a degree level apprenticeship in .

OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN CREATIVE iMEDIA

Exam Board: OCR

QAN: 603/7090/7

Why do we study this subject?

An OCR Cambridge National qualification is a level 2 course equivalent to a GCSE. As a vocational course it comprises of both internally assessed coursework units along with an externally assessed examination. Vocational courses allow students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge through practical means allowing them to maximise their potential outside of an exam context.

Creative iMedia lets students gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the media discipline, from pre-production skills to digital animation, offering a hands-on approach to learning. The options available offer the chance for each student to explore areas of creative media that interest them. The course will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and reviewing, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

What content will I be learning?

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry (This is assessed by taking an exam).

In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. Topics include: The media industry, Factors influencing product design, Pre-production planning, distribution considerations.

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (This is assessed by completing a set assignment).

In this unit students will learn to how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include: Develop visual identity, Plan digital graphics for products, Create visual identity and digital graphics.

Unit R097: Interactive digital media

This is assessed by completing a set assignment.

In this unit you will learn how to plan, create and review interactive digital media products. Topics include: Plan interactive digital media, Create interactive digital media Review interactive digital media. Students will plan, create and review a website they have made in response to a client brief.

How will I be assessed?

The examined unit R093 contributes 40% of the total marks available for the qualification

R094 and R097 contribute 30% each to the overall grade. R094 and R097 are internally assessed by the class teacher and externally moderated by the exam board.

Where can the subject take me?

The knowledge and skills students develop will help them to progress onto further study in the media industry. This may be other vocational qualifications including the Level 2 or Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media and/or Information Technology; the T-Level Qualification in Digital Production Design and Development or Media, Broadcast and Production; or the Media and Broadcast Assistant Pathway Apprenticeship. The qualification also helps to develop other transferable skills including creative thinking, digital presentation, planning and problem solving that will be valuable in other life and work situations.



Why do we study this subject?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies is a vocational qualification, which assesses students through a range of formats including; practical, coursework and an examination. Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development, and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

What content will I be learning?

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

By completing this unit you will understand a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, including learning about participation levels and barriers to completing sporting activities. You will also learn how participation is impacted by the promotion of values and ethical behaviour, about the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used in within sport.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

In this unit you will have an opportunity to develop your skills both as a performer in two different sporting activities, and as a leader, developing a range of transferable skills. You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. Finally, you will deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

R186: Sports and the media

In this unit you will understand the different sides of a range of media sources and apply real life examples to show the nature of the relationship between media and sport. You will also learn how rapid development in technology is enabling sport to be viewed, replayed and discussed whenever and wherever the spectator wants. You will then develop your ability to evaluate and interpret the different ways in which sport is represented by the media.

How will I be assessed?

R184 is assessed by an external examination.

R185 is assessed internally through a set assignment that is moderated externally.

R186 is assessed internally through a set assignment that is moderated externally.

Where can the subject take me?

This course would benefit anyone who is interested in sports, or wants to pursue a career in the sports, leisure and exercise industry.

Progression from this course could include A-level study, a level 3 vocational sports qualification or a relevant apprenticeship.



BTEC TECH AWARD IN MUSIC PRACTICE

Exam Board: Pearson BTEC

QAN: 603/7055/5

Why do we study this subject?

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

Music is a subject which can be pursued as a career or followed for enjoyment. To follow the BTEC Tech Music Practice Award successfully you should ideally already play an instrument or sing and it would be useful if you have lessons.

What content will I be learning?

Learners will have the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance which cover the:

- Development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques.
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music industry, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal and performance to respond to a music industry brief.
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the music industry, including personal management and communication.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as musical skills and styles.

How will I be assessed?

Over the course learners will be assessed through three components.

1. **Exploring music products and styles** – internally assessed unit with external moderation.
2. **Music skills development** – internally assessed unit with external moderation.
3. **Responding to a music brief** – externally assessed as a set task under supervised conditions and marked by Edexcel.

Where can the subject take me?

This qualification will prepare you for various courses at Sixth Form or College including BTEC Level 3 in Music/Music Technology, AS and A Level Music which further prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move onto higher education and study a music degree. Many employers value qualifications in music as it demonstrates an awareness of understanding multi-cultures, creativity, working independently and working with others.



NCFE V-CERTS CREATIVE DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Exam Board: NCFE

QAN: 603/7003/8

Why do we study this subject?

The Level 2 Technical Award in Creative Design and Production is designed for learners who want an introduction to design and production that includes a vocational and project-based element, approached from a creative perspective with regular opportunities to experiment and create. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the design and production sector or progress to further study.

This is a vocational qualification, designed and written in collaboration with employers and practitioners in subject related industries, geared towards developing skills and experience which employers look for in their future employees.

What content will I be learning?

This qualification will promote the learner's understanding of:

Design and production in context:

- Including design movements and design principles

Design materials and processes:

- Including investigating materials, the design process and digital design and manufacture opportunities

Design brief and production processes:

- Including interpreting a design brief and communication skills
- Including purposes and methods of presentation and presentation skills

Review of processes and solution:

- Including review of the process and summative review

Working in the design production sector:

- Including employment and career opportunities, product promotion and self-promotion.

How will I be assessed?

This vocational qualification is designed to give a very hands on and practical approach to learning.

The course is structured into two assessment units – one is a coursework based project, which is 60% of the final result.

The second is an assessment paper which is made up of multi-choice questions, short answer questions and extended questions focusing on the technical learning covered in the course.

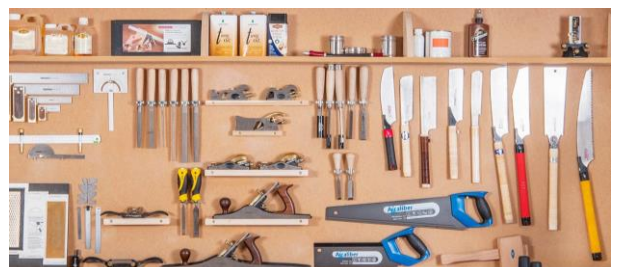
Both of these assessments take place in Year 11 of the course, maximising time spent in the workshop.

Where can the subject take me?

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to Level 3 qualifications such as:

- A Level Design and Technology (this will support progression to higher education)
- Study at Level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships, and further study
- Level 3 Technical Level in Engineering: Design
- T Level in Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing.

The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the industry through a variety of occupations that are available, such as interior designer, design studio assistant or furniture maker.



Why do we study this subject?

Studying our new Level 2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery will give pupils the fundamental skills and knowledge they'll need to prepare for a career in the hospitality and catering sector. This qualification covers key subject areas, from food health and safety and information on key food groups and key nutrients, to recipe development, amendment and evaluation.

Designed for learners who want to study food and cookery with a vocation and project based approach, for learners who want to pursue a career in catering/food industry or further studies in food. It matches the standard of GCSE courses but with a strong practical focus on preparing and adapting recipes and working within a range of contexts.

What content will I be learning?

As part of the course students will:

- Provide an understanding of health and safety relating to food, nutrition and the cooking environment
- Provide an understanding of legislation in the food industry
- Identify and understand food provenance
- Provide an understanding of the main food groups, key nutrients and what is required as part of a balanced diet
- Identify factors that can affect food choice
- Explore recipe development and how recipes can be adapted
- Understand how to cater for people with specific dietary requirements
- Demonstrate menu and action planning
- Be able to evaluate and consider how to improve completed dishes

How will I be assessed?

A vocational qualification is designed to give a very hands on and practical approach to learning.

The course is structured into two assessment units – one is a coursework based project, which is 60% of the final result.

The second is an assessment paper which is made up of multi-choice questions, short answer questions and extended questions focusing on the technical learning covered in the course.

Both of these assessments take place in Year 11 of the course, enabling a maximum amount of time spent in the kitchen carrying out practical work and developing those important cooking skills.

Where can the subject take me?

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Certificate/Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition
- Level 3 Technical Levels including T Level programmes (this will support progression to employment and higher education).

Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the food industry through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as kitchen assistant, catering assistant, chef and sous chef.



COURSE SPECIFICATIONS

GCSE Art, Craft and Design/Photography:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Business:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/business/specifications/AQA-8132-SP-2017.PDF>

GCSE Combined Science:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/science/specifications/AQA-8464-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Computer Science:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

GCSE Drama:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE English Language:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8700-SP-2015.PDF>

GCSE English Literature:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8702-SP-2015.PDF>

GCSE Film Studies:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/sjyhrgeu/eduqas-gcse-film-studies-spec-from-2017-e-27-09-22.pdf>

GCSE Geography:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/geography/specifications/AQA-8035-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE History:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf>

GCSE Mathematics:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf>

GCSE Physical Education:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/pe/specifications/AQA-8582-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Religious Studies:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance>

GCSE Spanish:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-8698-SP-2016.PDF>

GCSE Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics):

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/biology/specifications/AQA-8461-SP-2016.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/chemistry/specifications/AQA-8462-SP-2016.PDF>

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF>

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610942-specification-cambridge-nationals-creative-imedia-j834.pdf>

Cambridge National in Sport Studies:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/610953-specification-cambridge-nationals-sport-studies-j829.pdf>

BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370555-BTEC-Tech-Award-Music-Practice-2022-spec-PPD1-190721.pdf>

NCFE V-Certs Creative Design and Production:

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/creative-design-production/>

NCFE V-Certs Food and Cookery

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/food-cookery/>

Having read the description of all the courses you are now ready to start thinking about which courses you would prefer to follow. The questions below will help you:

Which subjects interest me? Which subjects do I like? Why do I like them? Which are my best subjects? How do I know? Where do teachers say my strengths lie? In what ways are the subjects different in years 10 and 11?

Useful Careers Advice and Information:

1. You should consider the subjects you think you will be good at and enjoy. You may wish to consider possible careers; however a balanced range of subjects will ensure many options are open to you.

2. Remember, very few employers expect specific GCSE passes (with the exception of English, Maths and Science, which are core subjects). However, your choice of GCSE subjects and grade achieved CAN affect your ability to study some A Level subjects.

3. It is very unwise to follow a course in order to be with your friends or a specific teacher; make your choices based on what you want to study.

4. If you are thinking of Higher Education at University, remember that competition is much tougher for some courses than for others. For example there are five or six good applicants for every place in Veterinary, Science, Accountancy, Law and Medicine. The competitive courses usually require very high grades at GCSE and 'A' Level. Make sure you take the 'right' subjects at GCSE now.

5. In some subjects like History and Geography it may be possible for you to start an A-level course without first having taken it at GCSE level.

When students complete a vocational course such as Level 2 BTEC National, OCR Cambridge National or NCFE V-Certs qualification, the grade they achieve is equivalent to a GCSE grade as per the table below.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	
6	B
⑤ STRONG PASS	C
④ STANDARD PASS	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

For several years now GCSE qualifications have been operating under the new grading structure with students being awarded a grade 9 - 1. In the table above you can see how these grades compare to the historic grading of A* - G.

A GCSE is a Level 2 qualification. Progression onto a Level 3 course after Year 11 at a college, sixth form or apprenticeship will often require a minimum of 5 GCSEs at a grade 4 or above including English and Maths. Many courses, such as A-levels, require students to achieve a minimum of a grade 5 - 7 depending on the course.

L1 Pass	L1 Merit	L1 Distinction	L2 Pass	L2 Merit	L2 Distinction	L2 Distinction*
1.25	2	3	4	5.5	7	8.5