



# Churchill Academy & Sixth Form

## Year 9 Options Booklet 2025



Kindness

Curiosity

Determination

# CONTENTS

[Introduction](#)

[Your choices](#)

[Timeline](#)

[Core Curriculum Subjects: Compulsory Subjects](#)

[English Language and Literature](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Science: Double Award \(Combined Science Trilogy\)](#)

[PHRE](#)

[Core PE](#)

[Core Curriculum: Options Subjects](#)

[Computer Science](#)

[Philosophy and Ethics](#)

[Geography](#)

[History](#)

[Languages: French/Spanish](#)

[Vocational Studies \(ASDAN\)](#)

[Science: Triple Award \(separate sciences\)](#)

[Personalised Curriculum: Options Subjects](#)

[Art and Design - Fine Art](#)

[Business Studies](#)

[Dance](#)

[Design and Technology](#)

[Drama](#)

[Economics](#)

[Food and Nutrition](#)

[Health and Social Care](#)

[ICT - Creative iMedia](#)

[Music](#)

[Music Technology](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[Sport Science](#)

[Textiles](#)

Dear Student,

You are about to start the most important stage of your education so far. At the end of Year 11, you will sit your GCSEs and these qualifications are the key to unlocking so many of the amazing opportunities that will be available to you. You now get to make some very important choices about which subjects you would like to continue (or start!) studying.

It is important that you work with your family, tutor and teachers to help you to make the right choices to achieve your potential.

### **Qualification Types**

There are a number of different qualifications on offer for you to choose from:

- GCSEs – most of our qualifications are GCSE subjects
- Level 2 BTECs – BTECs are more specialist, work-related qualifications available in different sectors
- Level 2 Cambridge Nationals – these are similar to BTECs and have a strong vocational element

BTECs and Cambridge Nationals typically include a larger amount of coursework than GCSEs, but you should look at individual subject pages for more detail on their exact assessment.

### **Grading Systems**

In 2017, the Government changed the grading system for GCSEs from the A\*-G system to a numerical system using grades 9-1. The table below shows how the new grades are equivalent and also an approximate mapping for vocational qualifications such as BTECs.

Legacy GCSE Grades	New GCSE Grades (from 2017)	Vocational Qualifications	Level Equivalent
A*	9	L2 Distinction* (8.5)	Level 2
	A		
	8		
B	7	L2 Distinction (7)	
	6	L2 Merit (5.5)	
	C	L2 Pass (4)	
D	5	L1 Distinction (3)	Level 1
	E		
	4		
F	3	L1 Merit (2)	
	G	L1 Pass (1.25)	
	2		
U	1	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)	

## **Science**

Based on their performance at Key Stage 3, some students will be **invited** to study Triple Science. The selection process is based on your assessment levels. This will lead to three separate GCSEs being awarded, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students offered this opportunity do not have to choose the Triple Science route. This will fill one of your 4 option slots.

The Trilogy Science (Double Award) is the most suitable course for the majority of students. Studying Trilogy does not preclude any future A-Levels in Science subjects. This is equivalent to two GCSEs and you will be awarded a double grade.

## **Vocational Studies**

Some students will be **invited** to study Vocational Studies. This is an ASDAN Personal Development programme and leads to a national recognised Level 1 qualification that assesses personal qualities, abilities, achievements and work related skills.

## **Prohibited Combinations**

There are some combinations of subjects that you **cannot** choose, either because these are the same qualification or because they are taught at the same time as one another.

Prohibited combinations are:

- Art and Textiles
- Physical Education and Sport Science

## **Making your choices**

It is important that you choose a range of subjects that will match your interests and abilities and are suited to what you hope to do in the future.

When making your choices you will need to consider whether they are giving you as many options as possible for the future.

When you have made your choices, they will be reviewed to ensure that you have a suitable balance.

Good luck! And remember, if you have any questions please ask.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs L James  
Deputy Headteacher

**Your choices**

**CORE CURRICULUM: Compulsory subjects**

*All students will study these subjects*

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science  
PHRE  
Physical Education (Core PE)

**CORE CURRICULUM: Optional subjects**

*You must choose two of these subjects*

Computer Science  
Ethics and Philosophy: Full Course  
French  
Geography  
History  
Spanish  
Vocational Studies / Triple Science\*

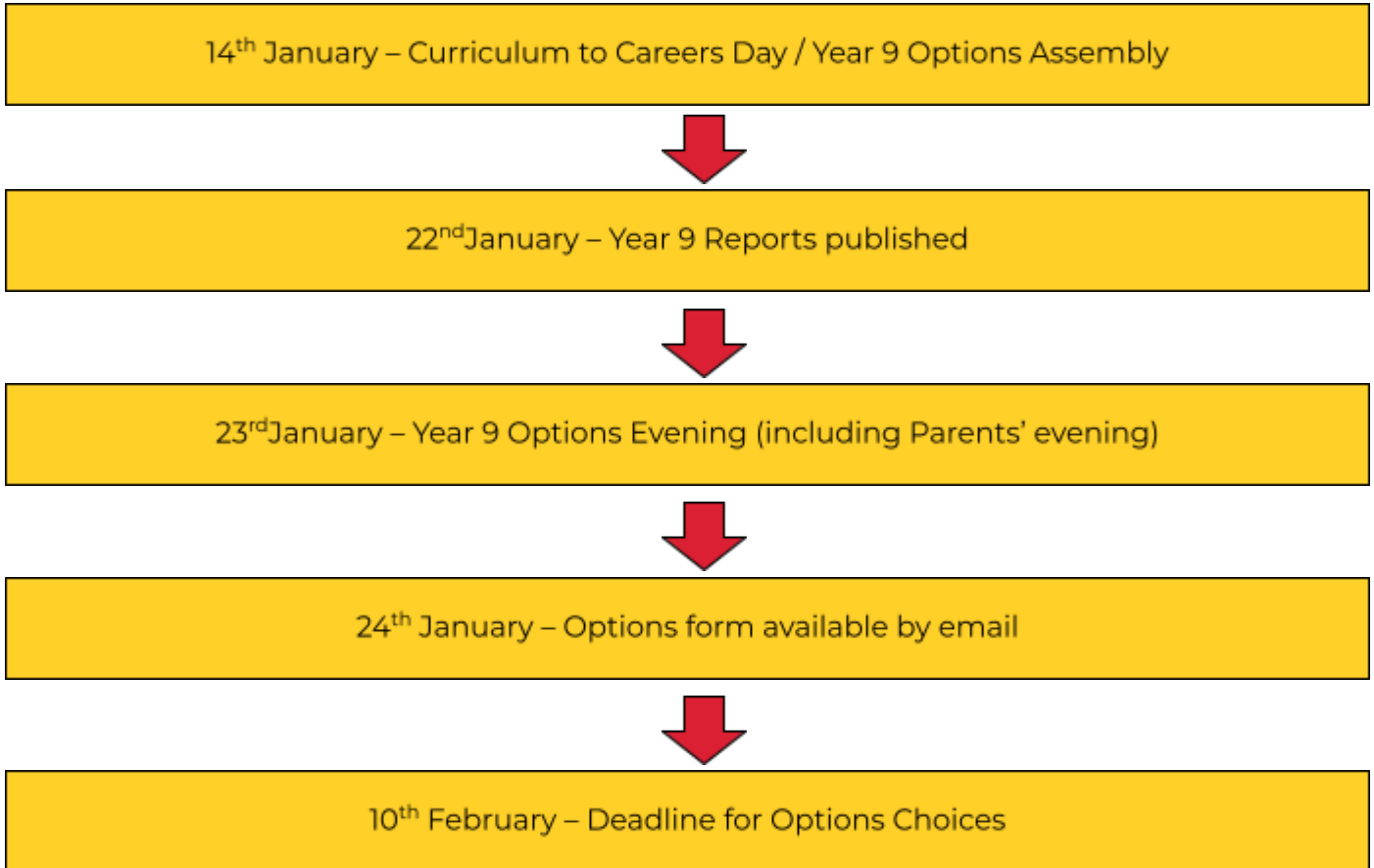
**PERSONALISED CURRICULUM: Optional subjects**

*You must choose a further two of these subjects*

Art  
Business Studies  
Computer Science  
Dance  
Design & Technology  
Drama  
Economics  
Ethics and Philosophy  
Food & Nutrition  
French  
Geography  
Health & Social Care  
History  
ICT – Creative iMedia  
Music  
Music Technology  
Physical Education  
Spanish  
Sport Science  
Textiles  
Triple Science\*  
Vocational Studies\*

*\* by invitation only*

**The timeline**



**How to complete your options form**

An electronic form will be emailed to your school email address on 24<sup>th</sup> January. You will have **two weeks** to complete the form. You must complete the form with your parents as it will ask them to confirm that they are happy with the choices you have made. Your tutor will also be asked to check your choices and sign them off.

**Reserve choice**

You will be asked to pick a reserve choice in each section. There are occasionally problems with your chosen options, in which case, you will be contacted as soon as possible to discuss alternatives.

# Core Curriculum: Compulsory Subjects

*All students will study these subjects*

**CORE CURRICULUM: Compulsory subjects**

*All students will study these subjects*

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science  
PHRE  
Physical Education (Core PE)

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## Core Curriculum: Compulsory Subject

### English Language and English Literature

Exam board: Eduqas  
[English Language](#)

Qualification: GCSE  
[English Literature](#)

Head of subject: Mr D Grimmett

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English provides two GCSEs; English Language and English Literature. They enable students to develop their ability to communicate effectively and to be able to read and engage with complex texts of fiction, non-fiction, plays and poetry.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

##### English Language Course Content:

- Component 1: 20th Century Literature and Creative Prose Writing (50%)
- Component 2: Non-fiction Reading and Persuasive Writing (50%)
- Spoken Language Endorsement

##### English Literature Course Content:

- Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry (50%)
- Texts - 'Romeo and Juliet', Eduqas Poetry Anthology
- Component 2: Post 1914 Prose / Drama; 19th Century Prose; Unseen Poetry (50%)
- Texts - 'An Inspector Calls', 'A Christmas Carol'

#### Why should I study English?

English is an essential subject at Key Stage 4. All apprenticeship and college applications require a grade in either English Language or English Literature.

The subject gives a grounding in some key aspects of life: social structure, morality, ethical considerations, ideas of power and wealth, as well as, providing a means for students to be able to articulate their ideas clearly in response to challenging themes and concepts. It's a subject that allows students to develop their skills of inference and analysis.

#### Where will English take me?

English A-Levels are a natural progression from these GCSEs but the skills of English will support you in all subjects and provide the necessary skills for a wide variety of career pathways including Journalism, Copywriting, Law and Underwriting, Linguistics, Editor, Web Content Manager, Media Research, PR, Arts Administrator, Marketing, Political Advisor, Civil Servant.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

There is opportunity to attend plays and theatre productions and writing workshops.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is there any coursework?** Technically, no, but all students need to complete the Spoken Language Endorsement which is given a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade. The assessment requires students to give a speech (3-5 minutes) about a subject of their choice and then answer questions about the content.

**How many exams are there?** Four. You will sit two exams for Language and two exams for Literature.



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## Core Curriculum: Compulsory Subject

### Mathematics

Exam board: [Pearson](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mrs J Turner

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Our Year 10 and 11 curriculum builds on all of the mathematics that you have learned in Years 7 to 9. You will learn how to be a problem-solver: to persevere, to be curious, and to learn from your mistakes. We help you to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions. You will also learn to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course will cover the following content headings: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures, Probability and Statistics.

There are two tiers available: Foundation and Higher, you will study the appropriate content depending on where we believe you will achieve the greatest success. The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. The exam papers are structured as follows:

- Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment, a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5. Higher tier: grades 4 to 9.
- There is no coursework element to this exam.

Maths teaches critical thinking and problem-solving skills. These skills are valuable in almost every area of life and are highly sought after by employers. A strong foundation in maths provides you with flexibility in choosing your career path.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Our highest-achieving students are entered for the UKMT Maths Challenge. They may also be selected to study for AQA's Further Maths GCSE alongside their Maths GCSE.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Setting:** Students are taught in sets. We take care to ensure that each student is placed into the set where they will make the most progress. In-class assessments help us to track students' progress, we regularly review set placement and move students accordingly.

#### Revision:

- [Sparx Maths](#) provides homework and extra practice.
- [Corbett Maths](#) provides quick practice to do every day.
- [Maths Genie](#) provides GCSE questions organised by topic.
- The [Churchill Academy Maths Youtube channel](#) provides videos created by us!

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## Core Curriculum: Compulsory Subject

### Science: Double Award (Combined Science Trilogy)

Exam board: [AQA](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mrs Chadwick

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The Key Stage 4 Course builds on the Key Stage 3 curriculum and covers the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Science. It encourages you to explore, explain, theorise and model in science and develops a critical approach to scientific evidence.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

There are six papers, two for each Science subject, covering key topics as follows:

- **Biology Paper 1:** Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
- **Biology Paper 2:** Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- **Chemistry Paper 1:** Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
- **Chemistry Paper 2:** The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.
- **Physics Paper 1:** Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
- **Physics Paper 2:** Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

#### Why should I study GCSE Combined Science Trilogy?

It provides an excellent choice if you are intending to study Science at Advanced level. It will also provide the basis for degree level study and extensive employment opportunities.

#### Where will GCSE Combined Science Trilogy take me?

You will be able to undertake further study at A-Level and continue onto university or employment. The skills acquired in science apply to many careers including engineering, life sciences, forensic investigation, biomedical research, veterinary sciences and more.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

##### ***Does Double Science prepare me for A-level or other post-16 Science courses?***

Yes! You can take A-level or Level 3 BTEC Science no matter whether you have done double or triple at GCSE. The **grade** is more important than whether you have taken triple or double.

This is the Science course which most students will follow. Some students are invited to select the Triple Science pathway, which is outlined in the [Options Section](#) of this booklet.

If you would like to find out more about this, please talk to your Science teacher in the first instance.

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## Core Curriculum: Compulsory Subject

### PSHE/RE

Head of subject: Mrs A Crocker

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#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In our Key stage 4 PSHE and RE programme builds on the topics covered at KS3.

#### PSHE

The PSHE programme follows the PSHE association guidance, covering the three core themes:

##### **Living in the wider world:**

The Living in the wider world core theme of PSHE education prepares young people for adulthood, by covering learning about economic well being; career pathways and choices, including GCSE options and work experience; digital and media literacy; young people's rights in the community; and social issues such as extremism and radicalisation.

##### **Health and wellbeing:**

The Health and wellbeing core theme of PSHE education teaches knowledge and skills related to healthy lifestyles, including food choices, exercise, sleep and dental health; mental health; drugs and alcohol; first aid and emergency life-saving skills; sexual health and fertility; managing risk and personal safety.

##### **Relationships:**

The Relationships core theme of PSHE education includes learning about positive friendships; bullying and unsafe relationships; relationships values; marriage and parenting; consent; and how to safely engage in relationships online.

An overview of the PSHE curriculum plan for KS3 and KS4 can be found [here](#).

#### RE

The RE program of study will give you the skills and knowledge to discuss, explore and evaluate different opinions about key philosophical questions.

- What happens when we die?
- Is Morality a social construct?
- What is the meaning of life?

#### Why study PSHE/RE?

Both of these subjects are linked to how we live in the world today. RE looks at what it means to be human and explores issues of tolerance and understanding. PSHE will help prepare you for adulthood.

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## Core Curriculum: Compulsory Subject

### Core PE

Head of subject: Miss H James

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#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In our Key Stage 4 Core PE programme, you will tackle complex and demanding physical activities. You will get involved in a range of activities that develop personal fitness and promote an active, healthy lifestyle.

You will be taught to:

- use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games
- develop your technique and improve your performance in other competitive sports or physical activities
- take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges
- evaluate your performance compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve your personal best.

#### Why should I study Core PE?

The national curriculum for physical education aims to ensure that all students:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives.

#### Where will Core PE take me?

Physical education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before. Some careers that you could consider doing with PE include:

- Sports science
- PE teacher
- Professional sportsperson
- Sports coach/consultant
- Sports policy at local and national level
- Diet and fitness instructor
- Personal trainer

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

You will have the chance to take up some of the Sports covered in lessons and continue to play regularly in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs and NSPEA events.

# Core Curriculum: Optional Subjects

*You must choose two of these subjects*

**CORE CURRICULUM: Optional subjects**  
*You must choose two of these subjects*

Computer Science  
Ethics and Philosophy:  
French  
Geography  
History  
Spanish  
Vocational Studies / Triple Science\*

*\* by invitation only*

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## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Computer Science

Exam board: [OCR](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mr P O'Connor

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#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Computer science is an academic discipline with its own body of knowledge that can equip pupils to become independent learners, evaluators and designers of new technology. In studying computer science, you will gain skills, knowledge and a unique way of thinking about and solving problems: computational thinking.

Assessment breakdown - 2 exams.

- Paper 1 - Computer Systems. 50% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming. 50% of the final grade.

***You will be required to be working at a grade 6 in Maths in order to be able to take Computer Science.***

#### Why should I study Computer Science?

You should study Computer Science to understand the digital world in a deeper way, just as physics equips pupils to better understand the physical world and a modern foreign language equips pupils to gain a richer understanding of other cultures. Computational thinking also enables students to understand the world more generally.

You will learn how computers, smartphones and other digital devices work. You will understand how data is stored and shared between them. You will learn how computers work together in building networks like the internet, how teams of people build systems worth hundreds of millions of pounds, and how computers can be made to behave like people, among many other topics.

#### Where will Computer Science take me?

Computer science skills form the basis of careers in many dynamic and exciting sectors, such as technology, business, finance, health and the games industry.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

You need to be keen to learn and practise your programming skills at home. The way to get better at writing code, and to become an excellent coder, is to research and practice writing code.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Will this course allow me to become a games designer?*** Computer Science is not about designing and developing games. It is much broader than this, although it will give you some of the understanding and skills a games developer needs.

***Is Computer Science difficult?*** Yes. Computer Science is a highly academic subject. The concepts are complicated, and coding is hard to learn. If you do this subject then you need to embrace hard work.

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## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Philosophy and Ethics

Exam board: [AQA](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mrs A Crocker

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#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

##### **Section A: The study of religions: beliefs and teachings from Buddhism and Christianity.**

50% of the course. Students will answer questions on Buddhism and Christianity.

Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes.

##### **Section B: Thematic studies: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies:**

50% of the course. Students will study issues surrounding four themes. These themes are relationships and families, religion and life, religion, peace and conflict and religion, crime and punishment.

Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes.

#### **Why should I study Philosophy and Ethics?**

Philosophy and Ethics is about finding out what people believe and why. It looks at those trying to answer the big questions that we all think about now and again like 'what is the meaning of life?' or 'what happens to us after we die?' Philosophy and Ethics will help develop your key skills in communication, working with others, problem solving and improving your own learning.

#### **Where will Philosophy and Ethics take me?**

This GCSE is a stepping stone to a wide range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment. The skills taught in this course are vitally important in all careers especially professions such as law, teaching and the armed forces, in fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people.

#### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

***What if I don't believe in God?*** Lots of Buddhists don't believe in a God either. It is not about making you religious, it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues. You do not need a 'faith' to enjoy this course - atheists are just as welcome as curious believers.

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## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Geography

Exam board: [Pearson B](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mr M Sharp

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Geography provides a unique perspective with which to examine the issues facing our planet. As a geographer you gain an understanding of these issues, along with an appreciation of the diversity of people and places that make up our world.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

- Component 1: **Global Geographical Issues** – Climate, Hazardous Earth (Tectonics, Climate Change, Tropical Storms), Development Dynamics (Development and Global Inequality and Globalisation), and Challenges of an Urbanising World (Urban growth, Megacities, Migration, plus a detailed study of a developing country megacity).
- Component 2: **UK Geographical Issues** – The UK's Evolving Physical landscape (Geology and Landscapes, Coastal Geomorphology and Management, River Processes and Management), and The UK's Evolving Human Landscape (economic geography, urban and rural issues plus a detailed study of one inner city area).
- Component 3: **People and Environmental Issues- Making Geographical Decisions** (People and the Biosphere, Forests under Threat, Consuming Energy Resources). Maps, locational knowledge and geographical information skills will also be key elements.

#### Why should I study Geography?

We live in a rapidly changing world where traditional ideas about the environment, the way we live our lives and the world in general are being rewritten daily. In Geography we will investigate these changes and consider the implications for us as individuals, evaluating the possible solutions and their effects.

#### Where will Geography take me?

Geography will provide you with vital knowledge about some of the greatest challenges (and potential solutions) in the world today. It will also provide you with the tools to investigate these complex issues; as geographers we aim to bring together aspects of different disciplines to tackle these challenges. Finally, geographers develop skills which are useful in a huge variety of professions in sectors such as business, engineering, education and the environment.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Two pieces of compulsory fieldwork will be required in two contrasting locations, which are examined as part of Component 2. The trips will cover the UK's physical environment through rivers, visiting the River Holford on the Quantocks and the UK's human environment through cities, visiting Bristol. You can also represent Churchill in an inter-school geography competition held at Bristol University called the WorldWise Quiz.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Can I do further study?** We have a very high number of students choosing GCSE and A-Level Geography. A significant number of our students go on to study Geography at University.



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## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### History

Exam board: [Pearson](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mr A Logan

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GCSE History will help you explore relations between Superpowers and how the lives of ordinary people have changed throughout our past to explain the world that you live in today.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

- **Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1990:** An in-depth enquiry about the Cold War starting with its origins towards the end of World War Two leading to the creation of 'The Iron Curtain'. Then the escalation of the crisis including The Berlin Wall and The Cuban Missile crisis and finally looking at the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 1990's.
- **Elizabethan England 1558-1588:** A depth study looking at Religion, the challenges to the crown and Elizabethan society. This popular and well known time period always captures the imagination with interesting topics including Pirates, spies and The Armada.
- **Crime and Punishment c1000 – present day:** The study of crimes and punishments over the last 1000 years. This is a thematic unit that tests students' ability to analyse change and continuity. Topics include Law & Order, policing and modern day punishment methods such as ASBOs.
- **Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city:** A case study looking at the problems of policing a specific locality, highlighting the case of Jack the Ripper.
- **Mao's China 1945-76:** A in-depth study of this tumultuous time in Chinese history, focusing on the Civil War and consequent Communist rule under Chairman Mao. Students will also study the reasons for and the effects of The Cultural Revolution.

#### Why should I study History?

It's fun! Who wouldn't want to learn about Jack the Ripper and Tudor tortures? The Crime & Punishment course answers some big questions about our freedoms and whether the Government should be allowed to take those away.

#### Where will History take me?

Academically, history is a subject that is well respected by universities and employers alike. It teaches you the ability to question what you are told and to search out the truth. This is a valuable skill in all walks of life.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Your teacher will provide details of articles and books that you can research to widen your knowledge of the subject.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I need to write lots of essays?** Not really. We will do lots of active learning lessons using all the latest technology. Obviously you do have to write but there are few extended essays and we will show you how easy it can be to write a good answer. Many of the exam questions are broken down so that they are easier to access.

**Is there any coursework?** No, there are three exam papers and no coursework.

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## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Languages: French/Spanish

Exam board: [AOA](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Miss C Monard

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Languages play a key role in fostering relationships and sparking new dialogue across the world today. Why wouldn't you want to join a world community of 310 million French and 559 million Spanish speakers world-wide?

#### Why should I study French/Spanish?

Currently nearly half of businesses (41%) in a recent survey (CBI) acknowledged a need for language skills, with the most sought after languages being **French, German and Spanish**. Languages are important in setting the foundations for communication across a wide variety of cultures and building a bridge of understanding.

#### Where will French/Spanish take me?

In the world of work, language speakers are highly sought after nowadays. Careers include: Lawyer, Barrister, Writer, Creative media producer, Civil servant, MI5/MI6, GCHQ language Analyst, Business language translation and interpreting, International blogger, Marketing and sales, Journalism, Conservation, Medicine, Engineering, Architecture.

Having a GCSE in a language will help your application to university, if that is the route you are planning on taking. Many universities consider a language qualification as a valuable indication of your ability to communicate with others; be highly independent and a problem solver.

If university is not for you, languages link to lots of apprenticeships because many job roles require individuals to be able to communicate with other people who speak a different language, both within their own company and with external customers. If you are planning on staying in the UK – working in the NHS, going into teaching, joining the police or armed forces you could be required to use your language skills in future to support others.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

We try to offer trips to France or Spain for students to practise your language skills. We also run a highly successful Language Leader Award programme open to all students in year 8-10.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Are languages difficult?** It is true that language exams are challenging but you will always have the support of super teachers, who will know you really well and help you as much as possible.

**How will studying languages help me in life?** Learning languages at GCSE is the start of a lifelong journey and the GCSE course will help you learn how to deal with everyday situations you may find yourself in if you travel abroad or decide to live in France/Spain or any of the many French/Spanish speaking countries around the world.

After GCSE, you may want to pick up another language, visit that country during your year abroad from university or even take a gap year. Don't forget, being able to speak another language will also make you really marketable in our global society.

## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Science: Triple Award (separate sciences)

### BY INVITATION ONLY

Exam board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE x 3

Head of subject: Mrs Chadwick

Examination board links: [Biology](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[Physics](#)

Triple Science provides a more in-depth study of the three separate Sciences - Biology, Physics, and Chemistry - for dedicated and committed students of Science. This is a rigorous, demanding course which is only suitable for the highest-achieving scientists with a real enthusiasm and interest in the subject.

### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<b>There are two exams in each subject (six in total).</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cell biology</li> <li>2. Organisation</li> <li>3. Infection and response</li> <li>4. Bioenergetics</li> <li>5. Homeostasis and response</li> <li>6. Inheritance, variation and evolution</li> <li>7. Ecology</li> <li>8. Key ideas</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Atomic structure / the periodic table</li> <li>2. Bonding, structure, properties of matter</li> <li>3. Quantitative chemistry</li> <li>4. Chemical changes</li> <li>5. Energy changes</li> <li>6. Rate and extent of chemical change</li> <li>7. Organic chemistry</li> <li>8. Chemical analysis</li> <li>9. Chemistry of the atmosphere</li> <li>10. Using resources</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Energy</li> <li>2. Electricity</li> <li>3. Particle model of matter</li> <li>4. Atomic structure</li> <li>5. Forces</li> <li>6. Waves</li> <li>7. Magnetism and electromagnetism</li> <li>8. Space physics</li> </ol>

**Why should I study Triple Science?** By taking sciences separately at GCSE level you will cover more science content, with theoretical and practical Science at the highest GCSE level, separated out into Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

**Where will Triple Science take me?** The study of three science subjects equips students for further study at A-level, leading to university study in the broad range of scientific subjects.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How much curriculum time will I have if I take Triple Science?** You will have an extra five lessons of science on top of the core science lessons that all students have.

**How many teachers will I have on the Triple Science course?** You will have three specialist subject teachers, one for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics

**How are students selected for the Triple Science pathway?** Your assessments in terms 1 and 2 of year 9 are used to assess your aptitude towards science. Students with the top scores are invited to choose Triple science. Your teachers will also be asked if you have expressed an interest in taking triple science, especially if your assessment scores are not as you expected.

**If I am offered Triple Science, do I have to take it?** No, it is your choice whether to choose triple science or not. You would still be able to follow A level science courses if you decide triple science is not for you but you are interested in pursuing science in sixth form.

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## Core Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Vocational Studies (ASDAN)

### BY INVITATION ONLY

Exam board: ASDAN

Qualification: [ASDAN Personal Development Programme](#)

Head of subject: Miss K O'Malley

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ASDAN's Personal Development Programme (PDP: Bronze, Silver and Gold) is a broad activity-based course that will develop your literacy, numeracy, problem solving, personal, social and employability skills.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

You will complete challenges from the PDP student book. There are a range of challenges from 12 modules. The modules are: • Communication • My community • Sport and leisure • Independent living • My environment • Number handling • Health and wellbeing • World of work • Science and technology • The wider world • Expressive arts • Beliefs and values. There is also a Combined studies module, which allows you to mix and match challenges across modules. You will gain 1 or 2 credits for each section that you complete, with each credit representing about 10 hours of activity.

- 6 credits are needed to achieve the Bronze Award
- 12 credits are needed to achieve the Silver Award
- 18 credits are needed to achieve the Gold Award

#### Assessment

You must present a portfolio to demonstrate evidence of your achievements, containing supporting evidence for each challenge. You must also complete a skills self-assessment and reflection form and a personal review at the end of the course. You will not complete an examination in this subject.

**Why should I study the ASDAN Personal Development Programme?** It is a nationally recognised qualification that offers imaginative ways of developing, recording and certifying your personal qualities, abilities, achievements and work related skills.

**Where will the ASDAN Personal Development Programme take me?** This broad, activity-based course has a track record in developing learners' personal, social and employability skills. It will boost your confidence by helping you to and develop your personal qualities and abilities.

**Extra-curricular and Enrichment** The time that you spend doing your work experience in Year 10, will count towards one credit for this course.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Will it matter that I am not likely to get a GCSE from this?** Very unlikely, most employers and colleges are very pleased to see that you have practical experience in an area you are interested in. It is a valuable qualification to have sitting alongside your GCSE subjects.

# Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subjects

*You must choose two of these subjects*

## PERSONALISED CURRICULUM: Optional subjects

*You must choose a further two of these subjects*

Art  
Business Studies  
Computer Science  
Dance  
Design & Technology  
Drama  
Economics  
Ethics and Philosophy  
Food & Nutrition  
French  
Geography  
Health & Social Care  
History  
ICT – Creative iMedia  
Music  
Music Technology  
Physical Education  
Spanish  
Sport Science  
Textiles  
Triple Science\*  
Vocational Studies\*

*\* by invitation only*

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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Art and Design - Fine Art

Exam board: [Pearson](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Miss K Brockington

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This is a practical course that will allow you to develop visual skills to allow you to independently express ideas about the world around us.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In Studying Fine Art you will develop two course work units based on the general themes of Portrait and Landscape. You will:

- **Develop ideas** through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. This will involve researching and responding to the work of artists and designers.
- **Refine work** by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. This will be done using a sketchbook process.
- **Record ideas**, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. The use of photography and drawing skills will play a major part in the initial development of each project.
- **Present** a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language. This will take the form of final outcomes.

**Coursework Unit 60% of marks** based equally on the 4 Assessment Objectives - Research, Develop, Record and Realise Intentions. Coursework takes place from Term 1 in year 10 to Term 2 in year 11.

**Exam Unit 40% of marks** based on the 4 Assessment Objectives - Research, Develop, Record and Realise Intentions. The exam unit takes place in Terms 3 and 4 in year 11, when preparatory work is developed and culminates in a practical exam over two days (10 hours)

#### Where will Fine Art take me?

Many students complete GCSE before moving on to take A Level Art, Textiles or Photography at A Levels. Some students will follow HND courses at college in specific areas, such as Graphics or Illustration. There are many degree courses that range from animation and gaming design, to theatre design, architecture or art therapy.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I have to be able to draw?** It is always an advantage to have drawing skills but it shouldn't necessarily stop a student from opting for Art. In Year 9 we aim to teach drawing skills to extend the ability of all students. We also use photography and Photoshop as a way of recording observation and ideas.

**Is there a lot of writing?** About 5% of work is written.

**What materials will I need?** At the start of each year a voluntary contribution letter is sent out. This enables the school to purchase two good quality journals and materials per student each year. It is always useful to have basic equipment like paint, brushes, pencils and coloured pencils for homework.

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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Business Studies

Exam board: [Pearson](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mrs Z Turner

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#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

**Theme 1: Investigating Small Business** concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in **starting** and **running a small business**. It provides a framework for you to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

**Theme 2: Building a Business** examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of **marketing, operations, finance** and **human resources**. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Assessment overview

- Theme 1 - Paper 1 - Written Examination (sections A,B & C), 105 minutes, worth 50%
- Theme 2 - Paper 2 - Written Examination (sections A,B & C), 105 minutes, worth 50%

Both papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

#### Why should I study GCSE Business?

You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur.

#### Where will GCSE Business take me?

It's a great step preparing you for further and higher education such as A levels. A GCSE Business course could help you to gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, like accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

You are encouraged to keep up to date with current Business news and issues.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What is the difference between Business and Economics?** GCSE Business looks at how a business functions internally, whereas Economics studies the external environment affecting a business.



## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Dance

Exam board: [Pearson](#)  
Head of subject: Mrs S Lippe

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Technical Award

**Studying dance develops creativity, teamwork, confidence, critical thinking, self-discipline, physical health and the ability to work collaboratively—all beneficial in any career path and quality of life.**

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Component	Content	Assessment
1 - Exploring the Performing Arts 30%	During Component 1 you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore different performance styles and creative intentions</li> <li>• Investigate how practitioners create their work</li> <li>• Discover different performance roles, skills, and techniques</li> </ul>	Internal
2 - Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts 30%	During Component 2 you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part in workshops, classes and rehearsals</li> <li>• Gain technical, interpretative and rehearsal skills</li> <li>• Reflect on your development and progress</li> </ul>	Internal
3 - Responding to a Brief 40%	During Component 3 you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work as part of a group to contribute to a performance as a performer in response to a set brief and stimulus.</li> </ul>	External

#### Why should I study BTEC Dance?

This course is ideal for you if you wish to develop and extend your knowledge of dance; refine your skills and gain a greater understanding of the dance industry. You will have many opportunities to watch the works of professional dance companies, create your own choreographies and perform to an audience.

#### Where will BTEC Dance take me?

BTEC Dance allows you to explore further opportunities such as the 'Level 3 BTEC in Performing Arts' currently offered as an option at 6th form. It is also an excellent way to build up desirable employability skills such as teamwork, communication, confidence, creativity, analysis and critical evaluation.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

The course provides many opportunities to enrich your education including trips, workshops and performances.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I need to have studied dance outside of school?** No, however, we would encourage you to join a class or group for the added experience and the chance to develop skills.

**Do I need a special kit?** Yes, you will be required to purchase the KS4 dance t-shirt to be worn each lesson.



## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Design and Technology

Exam board: [Eduqas](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Miss J Cox

Design and Technology is a course where we unleash our creativity through practical projects. Throughout the course you'll blend hands-on learning with knowledge-building theory sessions.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The units in year 10 will be delivered to the following schedule:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Storage tray practical project	Onshape (CAD) practical project	Polymer lamp practical project	Onshape (CAD) practical project	Programmable music box practical project	Design and make portfolio (NEA)
Natural and manufactured timber (in-depth knowledge and understanding)	Design and Technology and our world (Core knowledge and understanding)	Materials (Core knowledge and understanding)  Smart materials (Core knowledge and understanding)	Mechanical components and devices (Core knowledge and understanding)	Electronic systems and programmable components (Core knowledge and understanding)	

#### Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century - Written examination: 2 hours 50% of qualification

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of:

- Technical principles, designing and making principles and their ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

#### Component 2: Design and make task - Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities, design and make prototypes and analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology

#### Why should I study Design and Technology?

Design and Technology is a fantastic choice for GCSE. You will have the opportunity to develop your creativity, problem solving abilities and practical skills such as 3D printing and modelling.

#### Where will Design and Technology take me?

There are many exciting career paths that stem from Design and Technology! The GCSE leads to careers in product design, architecture, engineering, graphic design, trades and more!

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How many practical lessons will we have in a fortnight?** Across the year you will roughly complete 50% practical lessons and 50% theory lessons

Kindness

Curiosity

Determination

## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Drama

Exam board: [Pearson](#)

Qualification: BTEC Tech Level 2 Award

Head of subject: Miss K Bones

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Component	Content	Assessment
1 - Exploring the Performing Arts 30%	During Component 1 you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore different performance styles and creative intentions</li> <li>• Investigate how practitioners create their work</li> <li>• Discover different performance roles, skills, and techniques</li> </ul>	Internal
2 - Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts 30%	During Component 2 you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part in workshops, classes and rehearsals</li> <li>• Gain technical, interpretative and rehearsal skills</li> <li>• Reflect on your development and progress</li> </ul>	Internal
3 - Responding to a Brief 40%	During Component 3 you will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work as part of a group to contribute to a performance as a performer in response to a set brief and stimulus.</li> </ul>	External

#### Why should I study BTEC Acting?

This course is ideal for you if you want to develop and extend your knowledge of Acting and Theatre and gain a greater understanding of the Performing Arts industry. You will examine the roles and responsibilities of different practitioners as well as different roles: actor, designer and director; as well as the different approaches and styles.

You will have many opportunities to watch the works of professional theatre companies, create your own work and perform to an audience. It is a truly vocational qualification and will be beneficial if you are wishing to pursue a career in the acting industry.

#### Where will Drama take me?

BTEC Acting gives you the opportunity to explore further opportunities within the performing arts. It is also an excellent way to build up desirable employability skills such as teamwork, communication, confidence, creativity, analysis and critical evaluation.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

The course provides many opportunities to enrich your education including trips, workshops and performances. This is alongside the opportunities offered by Churchill Dance Department such as 'Dance Live!', Dance Fever and the whole school musical.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I need to have studied drama outside of school?** No, however, we would encourage you to join a class or group for the added experience and the chance to develop skills. We also recommend that you visit the theatre on a regular basis.

**Will I be required out of school time?** Yes, trips, workshops, shows and rehearsals happen in and outside of school time.

Kindness

Curiosity

Determination

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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Economics

Exam board: [OCR](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mrs J Davey

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Economics is about people and their economic choices. This course enables you to appreciate that we are all part of the economy and economics relates to every aspect of our lives.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

- In Component 1 you learn about 'microeconomics'. This covers markets and how the market forces of demand and supply work to determine prices; competition; labour markets; and financial markets.
- In Component 2 you learn about 'macroeconomics'. This covers economic growth, unemployment, inflation and inequality of income. You will also learn about the harmful effects of goods such as tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy foods and alternative government solutions. You will see how the UK economy fits into the global economy and key issues such as globalisation, international trade and development.

Learning is formally assessed at the end of year 11 through two written papers, each lasting 90 minutes, representing 50% each of the final GCSE. There will be a range of questions including multiple choice and higher mark questions. There will be no controlled assessments.

#### Why should I study Economics?

Economics equips you with the skills and confidence to explore how consumers, producers and governments make decisions and interact in markets nationally and internationally. You get to discuss the big topics of the day that impact us all.

#### Where will Economics take me?

The GCSE is an excellent foundation for A level Economics. Thereafter, it provides a strong grounding for a wide range of professions including: Economist; Management consultant; Accountant; Financial executive; Politician; Journalist; and Charity advisor. Opportunities are available for most of these professions via an apprenticeship after A levels or after university.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Students are expected to take a wider interest in the subject through watching the news and reading up on relevant real world news stories.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Can you explain the difference between Business Studies and Economics?*** Business Studies focuses on understanding how businesses operate and is ideal if you want to run your own business. Economics on the other hand deals with the bigger issues and is concerned with how businesses together operate in markets and how the economy as a whole works. Economics is ideal if you want to run the country!

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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Food and Nutrition

Exam board: [Eduqas](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mrs C Coman

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Food and Nutrition is a course that allows you to explore a range of topics from health and nutrition to food science as well as sensory investigations and practical skills. It is a fast paced course that combines a mixture of practical, written and external assessments.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In studying Food and Nutrition at Churchill Academy you will:

- Learn and use safe cooking skills
- Plan, prepare and cook a variety of foods
- Practise a range of cooking techniques
- Use a variety of food preparation and cooking equipment

All learning will be formally assessed in Year 11 through two non-examination assessments;

- One food science experiment, worth 15% GCSE.
- One practical based on making 3 dishes on a given brief, worth 35% GCSE.

There will also be one written paper lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes at the end of the year, worth 50% GCSE. There will be a range of questions including multiple choice and higher mark questions, requiring extended writing skills.

#### Why should I study Food & Nutrition?

Food and Nutrition is a life skill that has an important role in the way we live. Food and Nutrition not only prepares students for the life skills of understanding a balanced diet, the practical skills needed to cook fresh and healthy dishes but also opens a number of doors with the skills it provides.

#### Where will Food & Nutrition take me?

Food manufacturing is the largest manufacturing industry in the UK, there is a job time bomb in the form of older people retiring and limited skills to replace, in other words high demand, many different job roles in manufacturing from production to new product development to scientists and senior managers. There are so many possibilities within the Food Industry, not just cooking! Food Technologist, Dieticians, Product Developers and Tasters, Buyers, Personal Trainers and teachers to name a few. The food industry is one of the largest across the globe!

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How often will I cook?** You will need to bring ingredients from home every week. Sometimes we will cook more often. If you feel you are unable to provide your own ingredients, this maybe isn't the subject for you. Assistance with the provision of ingredients is available for students eligible to receive Pupil Premium.

## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Health and Social Care

Exam board: [Pearson](#)  
Head of subject: Ms G Culley

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Technical Award

Health and Social Care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with a demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. If you select to study this course at Key Stage 4 it will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for post-16 progressions in this important sector.

<b><u>Component</u></b>	<b><u>Description of Pearson Set Assignment</u></b>
<b>Component 1: Human Lifespan Development</b>	<i>You will learn about the human life cycle, how people develop and what factors can affect a person's growth. <b>60 marks</b></i>
<b>Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values</b>	<i>You will learn about the different types of healthcare professions and problems associated with accessing correct care. <b>60 marks</b></i>
<b>Component 3: Health and Wellbeing</b>	<i>You will learn about the importance of good health and well-being and the problems and treatments associated with poor health. <b>60 marks</b></i>

**Why should I study Health and Social Care?** Health and Social is an interesting and practical course. This course is a good choice if you wish to explore a course with scientific elements as well as a caring and nurturing focus.

**Where will Health and Social take me?** Upon completing the course, you could apply to study A-Level Health and Social Care or study a course such as Child Development, this is also a good stepping stone if you are applying to study Science A-levels or a Science related course.

**Extra-curricular and Enrichment** You could apply for work experience alongside a Health and Social Care course (out of school hours). We also have some guest speakers and visitors throughout the year including an occupational therapist and a carer of elderly people.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What textbooks do we need to support the course?** The main textbook needed is available online via a school subscription package called **Pearson Health and Social Care** which enables you to access this outside of school as well. There is also a revision guide for Component 3 this is called **Revise BTEC Tech Award Health and Social Care Revision Guide**.

**Can I work on the computer to complete my controlled assessments?** All lessons are taught in a computer room for this subject throughout the two years of the course, so all of the Controlled Assessment tasks are completed on the computer. Notes to assist this can be typed or written up in students' workbooks.

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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### ICT - Creative iMedia

Exam board: [OCR](#) Qualification: Cambridge National Head of subject: Mr P O'Connor

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Creative iMedia is hands-on, creative and fun. You will learn and develop a range of computer content creation skills.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Students opting for ICT will complete the Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia course. This modern, relevant and robust qualification has a focus on ICT as an empowering tool for businesses, and also on digital media and creative media skills. Unit 1 is assessed by an exam, to be completed in Year 11, which examines students' knowledge of skills required in the production of digital media. Other units are coursework assessed. The coursework units involve students creating a number of digital products for scenarios relating to clients who are businesses. As well as the digital skills, these units also develop the skills of research, planning, resourcing and evaluating.

- Unit 1 - Exam - 40%
- Unit 2 - Developing a Visual Identity (coursework) - 25%
- Unit 3 - Interactive Digital Media (coursework) - 35%

#### Why should I study Creative iMedia?

ICT has never been as relevant as it is today, and these skills and knowledge are a requirement for any career path. Technology will continue to become more and more entrenched in our lives as time progresses. With the current digital skills gap in the workplace, an ICT qualification will allow more doors to be open for you than if you leave education without one.

#### Where will Creative iMedia take me?

The course is designed to give you a broad understanding of a range of media technologies and their applications. Future careers in ICT, digital marketing, game design and graphic design would all benefit from this course.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

An interest in technology and applications will help you in this qualification.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Is the course a GCSE?** The course is a Cambridge National. It's not a GCSE because it has a coursework element, although the grades are directly equivalent to GCSE grades.

**Will I need specialist software on my computer at home?** No. All of the coursework is completed at school, and we have all of the software on the school computers.

## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Music

Exam board: [Eduqas](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Mr J Spencer

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum) to help businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Component 1 Performing 30%	Teacher assessed
A minimum of two pieces, lasting a total of 4-6 minutes, recorded in the year of assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute</li> <li>One piece linked to an Area of Study (see below)</li> <li>Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly</li> <li>You can use any instrument or voice, or choose a technology option</li> </ul>	
Component 2 Composing 30%	Teacher assessed
Two pieces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One in response to a brief set by EDUQAS – there are 4 to choose from each year</li> <li>One free composition – ANY style you want to write in</li> </ul>	
Component 3 Appraising 40%	Externally assessed examination
Listening examination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 questions, 2 on each area of study:</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>AoS 1: Musical Forms and Devices</p> <p>AoS 2: Music for Ensemble</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>AoS 3: Film Music</p> <p>AoS 4: Popular Music</p> </div> </div>	

#### Why should I study Music?

Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. You will gain a deep understanding of a number of transferable skills and practice applying these to new situations, developing analytical and problem solving skills. Through studying music, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

#### Where will Music take me?

The possibilities are endless. Music will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

You will need to play an instrument or use your voice as your instrument to access the performance part of the course. We will develop skills in performing, composing and listening to music throughout the course; you do not need to have formal musical skills prior to starting the course in Year 10. Participation in our music extra-curricular activities is strongly encouraged.



## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Music Technology

Exam board: [NCFE](#)

Qualification: Level 2 Award

Head of subject: Mr J Spencer

New technologies and techniques are changing the world. Today's audio and music industry whether studios, production companies, or tech firms look for practitioners who think outside the box but also know what goes on inside it. Studying Music Technology opens music career pathways as well as more general software development options.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

**One** creative coursework component (60% - teacher assessed) and **one** listening exam component (40% - externally assessed examination) that comprise **five content areas of study**:

<p><b>Content area 1: Introduction to Music Technology and the Music Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roles and responsibilities within the music business, and developments in music technology.</li> <li>How music technology has developed over time and how this has affected creative practice, music production and consumer access.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Content area 2: Digital Audio Workstation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How hardware and software work in combination as a digital audio workstation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Content area 3: Musical elements, musical style and music technology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How music is stylistically composed using musical elements such as structure, melody, harmony and rhythm. There will also be study of musical styles and how technologies affect the style.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Content area 4: Sound creation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How sound creation is used in media and how to apply sound creation. You will study different types of media - video games, TV, film, radio etc., and different types of sound creation for these - Foley, ambience, underscore, voice-overs etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Content area 5: Multitrack recording</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recording studio environment, how to use it safely, and how to plan, record and mix a multitrack recording.</li> </ul>

#### Why should I study Music Technology?

Music Technology encourages you to use knowledge and practical tools to focus on specific creative and technical outcomes. You will develop significant skills that can be transferred to further study or employment, specifically gaining an understanding of hardware and software used in computers, and in digital audio workstations (DAW).

#### Where will Music Technology take me?

In today's world, the technical expertise with audio hardware and software gained through the study of music technology, is invaluable to all companies working within the IT and music industries. Choose from careers in audio and sound engineering, music performance, composition and concert management. Work in creative areas where there is a heavy reliance on technology such as film, theatre and the arts. Apply your technical knowledge in designing new musical instruments and digital technologies or as an acoustician, designing new spaces and concert halls.



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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Physical Education

Exam board: [AQA](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Miss H James

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GCSE Physical Education is a great choice for learners who have a passion for sport, health and exercise. This unique qualification allows students to learn through both theory and practical. This GCSE suits strong practical performers who can demonstrate their preferred sport to a high standard.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

1. Applied anatomy and physiology 2. Movement analysis 3. Physical training 4. Use of data  
5. Sports psychology 6. Socio-cultural influences 7. Health, fitness and wellbeing

#### HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

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

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

**30% Paper 2:** Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

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

**40% Non-exam assessment:** Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- 40% of GCSE
- Assessed by teachers
- 100 marks
- 3 chosen sports - Individual and Team sports (2 of 1 and 1 of the other).

#### Why should I study GCSE PE?

If you are passionate about Sport, Exercise and Health this course is perfect for you.

#### Where will GCSE PE take me?

Previous students that have completed this course are now working in the sport and leisure industry. Alumni have found themselves with careers in sport that include, Coaching, S&C, Teaching, Physiotherapists, Analysis and many more.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Do I need to play sports outside of school?*** Yes, by playing sports outside of school you will access a higher level on the sport specification.

***What if my sport is not on the specification?*** Unfortunately, you cannot be assessed in a sport that is not on the specification.

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## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Sport Science

Exam board: [OCR](#)

Qualification: Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate

Head of subject: Miss H James

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#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Sports Science is a great choice for learners who have a passion for sport, health and exercise. This unique qualification allows students to learn through both theory and practical lessons only 1 exam at the end 66% Course work.

**There is no practical grade assessment for your ability to play sport.**

Three Units Covered.

- R180: Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions (external exam 70 marks 1hr 15mins)
- R181: Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance (NEA 80 Marks)
- R183: Nutrition and sports performance (NEA 40 Marks)

#### Why should I study Sports Science?

You will be both taught in both the classroom as well as in a practical setting. You'll develop a range of skills to help you succeed not only in the workplace but in other subjects too. These skills include: analytical skills, creative thinking, research and planning, problem solving, verbal communication, leadership, team working.

#### Where will Sports Science take me?

Taking this course will set pupils up to study sport or PE at Level 3, including A-Level PE, BTEC Sport or Cambridge Technical: Sport and Physical Activity, with the potential to study a sport related degree at University level. Alternatively this could lead to a career or apprenticeship in teaching, coaching in sport, performance analysis, nutrition, personal training to name a few.

#### Extra-curricular and Enrichment

Pupils will be expected to be actively involved in core PE lessons to support classroom learning, as well as potentially attending extra-curricular sport activities and representing the academy in fixtures and events. Taking part in sporting activities outside of school would also be a bonus.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Do I have to be good at sports or play sports outside of school?** No. There is no practical assessment of your ability to play sports as part of this qualification. You will need to have an interest in physical activity, the principles of fitness training and sports performance.

## Personalised Curriculum: Optional Subject

### Textiles

Exam board: [Pearson](#)

Qualification: GCSE

Head of subject: Miss K Brockington

This is an exciting, practical course that allows you to develop practical skills in Textiles, learning about Fashion and Design and independently creating garments and Textiles outcomes.

#### COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

In studying Textiles, you will develop two coursework units based on the general themes of Portrait and Landscape. You will:

- **Develop ideas** through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources. This will involve researching and responding to the work of artists and designers.
- **Refine work** by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. This will be done using a sketchbook process.
- **Record ideas**, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses. The use of photography and drawing skills will play a major part in the initial development of each project.
- **Present** a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language. This will take the form of final outcomes.

**Coursework Unit 60% of marks** based equally on the 4 Assessment Objectives - Research, Develop, Record and Realise Intentions.

**Exam Unit 40% of marks** based on the 4 Assessment Objectives - Research, Develop, Record and Realise Intentions. The exam unit takes place in Terms 3 and 4 in year 11, when preparatory work is developed and culminates in a practical exam over two days (10 hours)

#### Where will Textiles take me?

Many students complete GCSE before moving on to take A Level Art, Textiles or even Photography at A Levels. Some students will follow HND courses at college in specific areas, such as Fashion Textiles or Printmaking. There are many degree courses that range from Textiles Design and Fashion, to Theatre Design.

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How much practical work is there?** The majority of the work is practical. This will range from drawing, sampling, designing and making final outcomes. You will develop skills through teacher led activities in Year 10, leading to more independent work at the end of Year 10 and 11.

**What do I get to make?** A number of final pieces will be made. You will make at least one handbag and one garment, you may also create pieces independently as homework. You will also make a final piece under timed examination conditions, following eight weeks of planning and development. 20

**What materials will I need?** It is a good idea to start collecting interesting materials, threads, buttons, etc. as these will be very handy and interesting to use. See what you can find when you rummage at home, there is no need to spend money on these. Other than this we ask for a voluntary contribution which helps us to provide you with sketch books and the more expensive materials that might be beyond our budget. There may be the need to buy material for the final pieces that you make, depending on the design and availability of materials.