

Year 8 Options 2020



SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON
ACADEMY

Welcome

I hope that you will find the information in this booklet interesting and useful. Please read it carefully and make sure that you discuss your choice of subjects with your parents and your teachers.

You will see from the booklet that there are certain courses which you have to take and certain courses which you might choose to take. Think carefully about your choice of courses and try to keep your options open as far as possible. Opting for courses which you know you are good at, or that you particularly enjoy, is always a good starting point! If you enjoy a subject, you are more likely to be successful.

Some of you will have clear plans for what you want to achieve in the future and will know that you need to study particular courses to achieve your goals. We offer a range of GCSE and vocational courses to suit the range of interests, abilities and aptitudes of all students.

I hope that during the next two/three years you will start to think seriously about opportunities to continue your education beyond Year 11. The courses that may be open to you will be influenced by how well you do from now on. You should work hard therefore, as now is the time to make sure that you achieve good results in the future.

Mark Guest
Headteacher



How to Use This Booklet

This booklet is for you

This booklet is intended to be the starting point for discussions with your parents, carers and teachers about the courses you will choose to follow for the next two/three years. The decisions you make now will help to shape your future. It is therefore very important that you look at all of the available courses on offer and that the choices you make are right for you!

For each course, you must find out from your teachers what sort of teaching and learning is involved and consider carefully the demands this will have on you. Be honest about the type of learner you are, your abilities and the sort of things you enjoy or are good at. The choices you make will give you access to future career opportunities and any future courses you may wish to follow beyond the age of 16. Try to find out more about the different progression routes once these courses are completed.

There is a network of support to help you make the right decision. You will already be receiving careers education at the Academy and learning about the range of opportunities that are open to you. You will receive advice on choosing courses, work experience, futures day and how to achieve your goals.

Remember – if in doubt, ASK.

Additional Guidance

The Academy offers a full range of careers information, careers interviews and computer aided guidance packages that can be accessed from the Library.

Work Experience

Work experience takes place during Year 10, and is an exciting chance for you to work within a business setting that interests you for a week. This may not necessarily be the one in which you plan to make a career.

This is an opportunity to spend time in a business environment, and is an important part of the work-related learning programme. As well as providing a wealth of experience it also embeds employability skills, and gives you an insight into working life that will help to develop the skills that are important elements of preparation for working life.

For further information see Miss Gage.

Some useful websites are:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum – Core Subjects

Key Stage 4

During Key Stage 4 you will study towards your GCSE and other examinations. These will consist of CORE subjects and OPTION subjects.

The CORE subjects are those subjects that we believe **all** students in the Academy should study. These subjects are key to your progression into sixth form, colleges, university and employment. For example, if you wish to gain an engineering apprenticeship, most employers will insist on good qualifications in English, Mathematics and Science. If it is your aim to study Business at university, the essential qualifications are good A Level grades in English and Mathematics. GCSE and A Level Business Studies are usually seen as helpful but not essential.

The compulsory Core Subjects are:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Modern Foreign Language** (*Green pathway*)
- **Geography or History**
- **Physical Education**
- **Personal & Social Education** (*delivered through Wow Days*)
- **Careers, Citizenship and RS** (*including GCSE Religious Studies*)

English

All students will take two GCSE qualifications: English Language and English Literature.

Mathematics

All students complete GCSE Mathematics and more able mathematicians are given the opportunity to study towards GCSE Further Mathematics.

Modern Foreign Languages

We strongly believe that studying a modern foreign language increases your potential to secure good offers at college, sixth form and higher education establishments. In today's global economy, a second language is a demonstrable skill that could enhance your employment prospects.

With this in mind, students who are currently in the top set for foreign languages will continue to study GCSE French.

For all other students, studying a modern foreign language is optional but we strongly recommend that this is given serious consideration.

GCSE Science

All students study towards GCSE Combined Science. This award is assessed at the end of Year 11 and counts towards their two science qualifications.

Religious Studies

All students complete the GCSE Religious Studies qualification at the end of Year 10.

Curriculum Pathway

What is a 'Curriculum Pathway?'

A 'Curriculum Pathway' is a discrete programme of study recommended for targeted groups of learners based on their KS2 prior attainment.

Each pathway offers guidance on the mix of courses that best suit a set of learning styles and ability.

Choosing the right pathway will give you the best chance of achieving your maximum potential and attaining the highest possible grades in all subjects.

Please note: We believe all our students to be individual learners and the pathways are simply for guidance purposes. Many students will fit across two or more pathways and it is still possible to pick subjects from each.

You must talk to your parents, teachers and base tutors if you are uncertain which subjects you should be on.

There are three possible pathways on offer at Key Stage 4 which we have called Green, Blue and Red.

Green Pathway	Blue Pathway	Red Pathway
<p>Who is it for? Students who enjoy a full variety of teaching methods. Students who perform well in tests and exams. Students who achieved a Key Stage 2 score higher than 106.</p> <p>What will I study? 100% GCSE courses: English Language and Literature, Maths, Combined or three separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), a foreign language, History or Geography, plus two <u>GCSE</u> "Option" subjects.</p> <p>What qualifications <u>could</u> it lead to? Up to 11 GCSE 9 - 1 qualifications, including English Baccalaureate</p> <p>Where will it lead? A Level qualification study at sixth form or colleges. Future progression – university and degree level study.</p>	<p>Who is it for? Students who prefer coursework or project work assessed in the classroom and are also able to perform in tests and exams. Students who achieved a Key Stage 2 score between 94 and 106.</p> <p>What will I study? English Language and Literature, Maths, Combined Science GCSE, History or Geography plus three "Option" subjects.</p> <p>What qualifications <u>could</u> it lead to? Up to 10 GCSE or <u>equivalent</u> 9 – 1 qualifications, including English Baccalaureate</p> <p>Where will it lead? Level 3 vocational study or A Level study at sixth form or colleges. Future progression – HND, HNC and degree level study.</p>	<p>Who is it for? Students with a good commitment to learning who would benefit from extra numeracy and literacy lessons. Students who achieved a Key Stage 2 score below 93.</p> <p>What will I study? English Language and Literature, Maths, Combined Science GCSE and support in literacy and numeracy. Up to two other vocational or GCSE subjects chosen through options.</p> <p>What qualifications <u>could</u> it lead to? Up to 9 GCSE or <u>equivalent</u> 9-1 qualifications.</p> <p>Where will it lead? Well-developed life skills and a range of experiences leading to improved employability. Alternative level 1 and level 2 courses at college.</p>

Qualifications

GCSE – Old & New

All GCSE subjects are now graded from **9 to 1** where **9** is the **highest grade** and a **grade 5** is regarded as a **good pass**. Compared to the old A* to G qualification, the new GCSEs contain a greater amount of subject content and this has led to the Academy moving our options process into Year 8.

Most of the new GCSEs no longer have a coursework element. For example, GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics will be assessed by:

- 100% terminal examination
- No controlled assessment
- No coursework



Comparing Number Grades to Letter Grades

Whilst Ofsted state that the new grading system should not be compared to the old one, they have given the following “anchor points” that link the two scales:

- Bottom of grade G – Bottom of grade 1
- Bottom of grade C – bottom of grade 4
- Bottom of grade A – bottom of grade 7



Qualifications

GCSE Old & New

We believe that the GCSE is still the most suitable qualification for most of our students.

If you are considering studying pure A Level courses at sixth form or college, then GCSEs offer the clearest progression route and will best prepare you for the rigours of GCE A Level courses.

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is designed to recognise the achievement of any student who secures good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject such as History or Geography. All students on the green pathway and most students on the blue pathway will study towards this award. It should be noted that in order to gain the English Baccalaureate students must achieve **all six** of the above-mentioned subject qualifications at least GCSE grade 5.

Technical Awards: BTEC and NCFE

Technical awards are vocational qualifications which are widely recognised by employers and colleges. They are usually 60% internally assessed coursework and 40% externally assessed assignment or written paper, which can be retaken if necessary.

These awards assess your ability to perform certain tasks or demonstrate a certain skill and can be more suited to the learning styles of some of our students.

Technical Awards can be both Level 1 and Level 2 and are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. Most colleges offer BTEC and NCFE qualifications from Level 2 to Level 3, and this could be a progression route that suits you if you are considering apprenticeships or a specific career path

The Academy Sixth Form currently offers NCFE Level 3 courses in Business and Enterprise and in Health and Social Care. We also offer a BTEC Sport Level 3 course that can be taken as a standalone course equivalent to 3 A Levels or alongside other A Level subjects as a single qualification.





SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON
ACADEMY

The Core Subjects

Course Title: GCSE English Language & English Literature

About this course

Two GCSEs for the price of one! Students will study linguistic production and reception for English Language and traditional literary texts (poetry, prose & drama) for English Literature. It will extend students beyond the levels possible at Key Stage 3. These are now 100% 3-year terminal examination courses with no coursework.

Who would this course suit?

Students who enjoy reading and writing should enjoy this course. It will stretch and challenge the most able and will help develop the skills of those to whom English and literacy skills do not come as naturally. It is a demanding course and will require a good deal of independent learning. Assessment will be using the 9 - 1 system.

How is this course taught and assessed?

English Language 100% examination

PAPER 1 (1h 45m): Section A – READING (based on extract from 20th / 21st century prose fiction); Section B – IMAGINATIVE WRITING (visual stimulus)

PAPER 2 (1h 45m): Section A – READING (19th century non-fiction); Section B – INFORMATIVE WRITING

English Literature 100% examination

PAPER 1 (1h 45m): Section A – Shakespeare (*Macbeth*); Section B – 19th century novel (*Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde*)

PAPER 2 (2h 15m): Section A – MODERN DRAMA (*An Inspector Calls*); Section B – POEMS PAST & PRESENT (*Power & Conflict* cluster from AQA Anthology); Section C – UNSEEN POETRY

What can you do with this qualification?

A GCSE in English Language or Literature is an essential qualification in modern life and demonstrates to others a level of skill using language that will impress future employers or colleges and sixth forms. Many who do well in these subjects go on to study them at A Level, and beyond.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 2 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr P Fox Goddard

Course Title: GCSE Mathematics

About this course

All students are required to study Mathematics at Key Stage 4 as set out by the Department for Education. The course content has been organised into six broad topic areas and given a reference as follows:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio
- Geometry
- Probability
- Statistics

How is this course taught and assessed?

The courses should enable students to:

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

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 5 - 1) and a Higher tier (grades 9 – 4). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: non-calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 3: calculator (1 hour 30 minutes)

All papers are taken at the end of the three year course and have an equal weighting towards the final GCSE grade.

Who would this course suit?

Maths is for everyone! It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. All employers and trainers value maths as one of the most important functional skills required to increase our readiness for an ever changing global employment market.

What can you do with this qualification?

Mathematics GCSE is widely regarded as playing a pivotal role in any future endeavour. The grounding made in this topic will provide the skills required in our everyday lives, demonstrate to employers our ability to solve problems and provide those wishing to progress to higher education with the necessary entrance qualifications. We use mathematics every day of our lives; whether to simply manage our home finances or read a pay slip or a train timetable, or within employment opportunities such as a retail assistant, world leader or space and aeronautical design.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr A Barnes

Course Title: GCSE Combined Science

About this course / Why choose this course?

At the end of Year 11 you will have two GCSEs in Science.

Who would this course suit?

All students will study 'Combined Science' at GCSE unless they show an aptitude to take 'Triple Science'. The decision on who is best suited to this course will be made by the Science department, with the aim of giving pupils the best chance of achieving their potential.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This course is taught from Year 9 through to Year 11. It is made up of modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which will help you to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed for adult life. It will also prepare you for further study in Science post-16. Assessment for this course is linear, with written examinations being held in the summer term of Year 11. Two 1h 15 min papers will be sat for each of the three disciplines. Collectively, these make up 100% of your final grade. You will also carry out a series of 'required' practical work throughout the course which is common to all specifications at GCSE. Although not individually assessed, questions relating to the practical work will contribute to 15% of the total marks in the written examinations. Additionally, at least 20% of the total marks will be based upon mathematical skills. There is no coursework.

What can you do with this qualification?

This 'Combined Science' route through Key Stage 4 Science could enable progression to A Level Science courses for suitable students.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 2 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs L Porter

Course Title: GCSE Languages (French)

About this course / Why choose this course?

With 80% of the world's population being non-English speakers, learning a foreign language is as important as ever. Not only does the MFL GCSE course aim to prepare students for a future living and working within a global community, it also increases opportunities within academia and the workplace. The language GCSE course will support students' knowledge of their own language through analysing grammar. It will also allow them to gain an insight into the people and cultures of other countries and to improve their communication skills, both in English and in the foreign language, for leisure and work.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course covers three themes, which are broken down further into topic areas. The themes are: Identity and Culture; Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest; Current and Future Study and Employment. Students build upon the grammatical awareness and language skills such as translation and transcription which they developed at Key Stage Three. They will broaden the breadth and depth of their knowledge to include the defined content contained within the topic areas.

MFL GCSEs are assessed at the end of Year 11 as follows:

- Listening (25%)
- Speaking (25%)
- Reading (25%)
- Writing (25%)

Who would this course suit?

The course requires an interest in the language and the culture where the target language is spoken. You will need enthusiasm and resilience to work out new language and communicate in the target language. Successful candidates support their learning in the classroom by regularly revising vocabulary, and by finding opportunities in their everyday lives to improve and practice in order to become competent in all four skill areas.

What can you do with this qualification?

Students who are successful on this course can continue their studies post-16 at A Level. This could also lead to a variety of degree courses with language units, including new languages. For example, Business with French or European Law with French/Spanish/Portuguese.

The ability to communicate in another language could lead to a career in: the Foreign Office, teaching, interpreting or even working overseas for multi-national corporations.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:
Miss H Phillips and Miss L Brousse

Course Title: GCSE Geography

About this course / Why choose this course?

Have you ever watched the television and said, “We’ve just done that in Geography!” Well, if you want to know how the earth works and how it changes peoples’ lives, then GCSE Geography is for you.

The course follows on naturally from Key Stage 3. In fact pupils in lower school have already been studying GCSE material in a spiralled curriculum. The GCSE course involves the study of important current issues which appear in the news such as earthquakes, hurricanes, climate change, immigration and how our lives are affected by changes in the world economy.

Who would this course suit?

Geography is suitable for all students who have an interest in the world around them. Students need to be able to look at features and situations and be able to ask who, what, where, how and why? To do this, students should be able to describe and interpret photographs, graphs and of course maps – Geography is about places! Students should also enjoy studying outside the classroom as fieldwork is an important element of GCSE Geography.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Major topics include: the destructive power of natural hazards including volcanoes and earthquakes; how rivers and the sea produce natural landforms and cause flooding; how the world’s business and trade affects the wealth of people and countries; where people live and why they move including why people from other countries have been attracted to the UK; how urban areas grow and change in response to our needs. All topics will be examined at the end of Year 11 and account for 100% of the total mark. Within the exam papers there will be sections on fieldwork which will be undertaken during Year 10 and Year 11. This is a change from the traditional format where pupils would complete coursework in lesson time.

What can you do with this qualification?

GCSE geographers can continue to study at 16+ by taking A Level Geography, and this course provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to do this. It can also open doors for careers in: Travel, Tourism, Leisure and Culture; Environment Studies and Development and Global Issues.

Famous geographers include Prince William, Amy Macdonald, Michael Jordan and Olympic gold medalists Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell. GCSE Geography is also a good subject to give you balance with your other KS4 subjects.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Course code: AQA A

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr M Phillips, Mr D Bensley and Mrs J Pearce

Course Title: GCSE History

About this course / Why choose this course?

This course offers a wide range of exciting topics and time periods. The course will see students whisked on a tour of world and European history as well as an in depth focus on elements of British history. There really is something for everyone – war, medicine, plague, dictatorship, key individuals, religion, monarchs, battles, weapons, science & technology If you like a challenge and want an opportunity to study a subject that will develop your knowledge AND equip you with a wide range of valuable skills, then History is for you!

Examples of skills and qualities you will learn and develop are:

Independence, communication, critical thinking, research, evaluation, using evidence, interpretation, analysis, objectivity, literacy, numeracy, thinking skills, working to deadlines, personal organisation and revision skills, empathy and resilience.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The History GCSE course is divided into four units. Each unit covers a specific era detailing key events and people that helped shape the world as it is today. Two GCSE examinations will assess your learning at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1

Section A is a period study, with a focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50 year period: **Germany, 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship.**

Section B is a wider world depth study, focusing on international conflict and tension: **Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918.**

Paper 2

Section A is a thematic study which looks at key developments in Britain over a long period: **Britain, Health and the People, c1000 – the present day.**

Section B is a British depth study incorporating the study of a specific historic site: **Norman England, c1066-1100.**

Who would this course suit?

This course would suit students that are interested in unravelling the mysteries of history around us, as well as those interested in what drives change. It covers issues such as conflict, key triggers of change and how the past influences the present.

This course will suit you:

- a) If you are interested in events of the past, and how they have shaped the world we live in.
- b) If you genuinely wish to engage intellectually with some of the most extraordinary, notorious, brilliant and original people in the history of our planet.
- c) If you wish to study a subject that will open many doors for you and provide you with a lifelong thirst for knowledge.

What can you do with this qualification?

History provides young people with a wealth of skills that support many other subjects in the curriculum, but also valuable skills that will increase their employability, whatever their chosen career. The transferrable skills, abilities and attitudes developed through the study of history make young people highly attractive to employers. History is valued in most fields, especially occupations such as law, accountancy, public relations, marketing, research, journalism, education, business and government. History is a fantastic “all round” subject that keeps your future options open!

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA GCSE History 8145

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to: Mr Davies, Mrs Rawding & Mr Mounsey

Course Title: GCSE Religious Studies – AQA Full/Short Course

About this course

The Religious Studies syllabus is wide and varied. Students study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Buddhists and Christians alongside ethical topics such as relationships/families and peace/conflict.

Pupils complete the course and sit the examination in Year 10.

Who would this course suit?

The full and short course programmes are suitable for all students. Religious Studies allows students to develop an understanding of their own sense of self and of others - enhancing empathy and the ability to relate. Such skills will not just be of value to students now, but are relevant and applicable as members of a diverse Britain and a global community. Within the lessons, group work is of importance, but so too is personal reflection.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course commences in Year 9 and continues into Year 10. The course is 100% examination based, taken in the summer term of Year 10.

In full course GCSE students will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions (Christianity and Buddhism) and four philosophical and ethical themes (relationships and families; religion and life; religion peace and conflict; religion, human rights and social justice). This will be assessed via two 100% written exams (each 1hour 45minutes). Each section has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

In short course GCSE students will study the beliefs and teachings of two religions (Christianity and Buddhism) and two philosophical and ethical themes (relationships and families; religion peace and conflict). This will be assessed via one 100% written exam (1 hour 45 minutes). Each section has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

What can you do with this qualification?

These courses will help pupils to understand our society. Religious Studies will make students ask questions. It will make the familiar strange and the strange familiar, yet it will enable and develop students. This will allow them to prosper in both the school community and wider society, where awareness and understanding of beliefs makes for successful, confident and responsible citizens. Pupils who are successful on this course can further their study at 16+ by studying Religious Studies or Philosophy at A level.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA A

Value: Full Course 1 X GCSE. Short Course 0.5 X GCSE

For further information speak to:

Miss S Earle or Miss N Mitchell

Course Title: **Core PE**

About this course

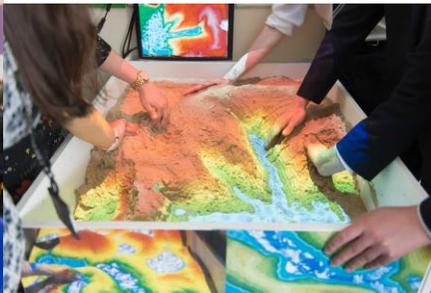
In Year 9/10, you may decide to take Physical Education as a GCSE or BTEC option. Irrespective of the route you choose, you will all take part in Year 9, 10 and 11.

During Year 7 & 8 your activities were selected by the PE department to ensure you developed basic techniques to become more confident across a broad range of physical activities. The PE Department created a curriculum plan based on aspects of GCSE PE or strands of leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication.

In Year 9/10 you will tackle complex and more demanding activities. The main aim is for you to further develop your LORIC skills and personal fitness to ensure you have an active healthy lifestyle. You will devise tactics and strategies to overcome opponents, develop techniques in competitive sports and undertake an outdoor and adventurous activity. Within these boundaries we will also give you the option to select your activity group so that you have a strong focus on competitive games, recreational activities or health and wellbeing. In all these activities pupils will engage in physical activity to ensure their resilience to fatigue increases.



For further information speak to: PE Staff





SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON
ACADEMY

The Option Subjects



Course Title: GCSE Art & Design – Fine Art

About this course / Why choose this course?

Art is a comprehensive area of visual, emotional, expressive and tactile concepts. It will encourage you to explore your imagination, to express and communicate thoughts and feelings. Art develops your capacity for creative and independent thought and the ability to make critical judgements and appreciate art. You will have the opportunity to visit important galleries. This subject encourages many of the key skills that are important in many areas of work, not just in the creative sector. Students will have the opportunity to use a broad range of media depending on their skills, aptitude and areas of interest. For example, techniques and approaches will include: drawing, painting, printing, collage, mixed media, textiles and 3D work (wire, clay, plaster, card etc.)

How is this course taught and assessed?

The coursework portfolio is a set of work which is developed during the course by the student, from a starting point given by the teacher. It will include lots of preparation work - such as drawing and other studies, looking at the work of artists and developing ideas through practice and experimentation - and a final piece. The portfolio work is both creative and challenging and the development of your ideas into a successful outcome is very rewarding. The terminal task, set by the exam board, is conducted in a similar way to a coursework project, although the final piece is completed under exam conditions. Students have a number of starting points to choose from, which they then develop according to their interests and creative strengths.

Art is assessed:

60% coursework

40% terminal examination

Who would this course suit?

It is vital to have an interest in art and design. Although an ability to draw is important, you will have plenty of opportunity to improve and develop your observational skills. Given that you will have the chance to use a wide variety of materials it is good for students to have an open mind and to explore ideas in a number of ways. As coursework is worth 60% of the total grade, it is important that students have a mature attitude and are willing to work hard. There is an element of critical analysis worth 25% of the marks, so a good understanding of English language would be of benefit to students.

What can you do with this qualification?

Students who are successful on this course can further their study at 16+ by studying Art at A Level, or vocational qualifications at college. The range of careers available in the creative sector is vast, one of the largest nationally. The skills gained are transferrable and the ability to think divergently, independently and creatively is a skill valued by employers, colleges and universities, irrespective of the area of further study undertaken.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs J Lawson, Mrs F Norman or Miss N Crook

Course Title: GCSE Art & Design - Graphic Communication

About this course / Why choose this course?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities then Art & Design - Graphic Communication is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art & Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

Throughout the course you will learn how to design visual materials to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief. Areas of study include communication graphics, advertising, branding, packaging design, typography and motion graphics. You will look at different approaches and use lots of different media, techniques and materials. Alongside improving your practical expertise you'll learn how to: develop, refine and record your ideas; present a personal response that realises your intentions; improve your creative skills through the effective and safe use of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies; successfully use visual language and the formal elements e.g. colour, line, form, shape, tone, texture; use drawing skills for different needs and purposes.

How is this course taught and assessed?

There are two components:

Component 1 Portfolio: produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60 % of your overall marks.

Component 2 Externally set assignment: there is a separate externally set task paper featuring seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You will get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time in which to complete your final piece. This is worth 40 % of your total marks.

Art is assessed:
60% coursework
40% terminal examination

Who would this course suit?

Studying Art & Design helps to create a broad and balanced curriculum, which is an excellent foundation for whatever you want to do afterwards. The transferable skills you will gain, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of other subjects and careers.

It is vital to have an interest in art and design. Although an ability to generate and record ideas is important, you will have plenty of opportunity to improve and develop your observational skills. Given that you will have the chance to use a wide variety of materials, it is good for students to have an open mind and to explore ideas in a number of ways. As coursework is worth 60% of the total grade, it is important that students have a mature attitude and are willing to work hard. There is an element of critical analysis worth 25% of the marks, so a good understanding of English language would be of benefit to students.

What can you do with this qualification?

You can continue your art and design studies at A-Level. If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You will develop problem-solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

Art and design opens the door to lots of exciting careers. Try these for starters: fashion design, graphic design, theatre design, animator, video game designer, illustrator, museum curator, photographer, architect, product design, textiles design, ceramics, advertising, publishing, interior design, fashion and media journalism, hair and make-up design, retail design, exhibition design, jewellery design, artist, visual media, teaching.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA
Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to: Mrs C Davie

Course Title: NCFE Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Business & Enterprise

About this course / Why choose this course?

Business is a major part of everyone's life, and anybody who has a good idea about how businesses work are at an immediate advantage in the future. This course will give you the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. The course is a technical alternative to GCSEs with equivalent levels of rigour and challenge. You will investigate, analyse, and evaluate different business environments ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals operating in local, national and global contexts. The course subject content is made up of two units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to Business & Enterprise
- Unit 2: Understanding resources for Business & Enterprise planning

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course should enable students to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of business concepts, issues and terminology.
- Apply knowledge and understanding of concepts and issues to business context and to interpret business information.
- Analyse and evaluate business information and issues to demonstrate understanding of the impact of these on business activity, to make reasoned judgements and justified business decisions.

Unit 1 consists of a 1hr 30m externally assessed examination worth 40% of the overall grade.

Unit 2 involves an internal coursework project worth 60% of the overall grade that will be completed within a 21 hour time frame.

Who would this course suit?

Are you interested in the real world of business and want to understand how it all fits together? Do you like making decisions and think you could spot a business opportunity like an entrepreneur? Would you like to know how a real business is set up and then developed into being successful? Do you want to develop your communication skills in essay writing and business presentations? Are you independent and able to meet deadlines? If you have answered yes to these questions you could well be suited to the course.

What can you do with this qualification?

This course provides an excellent insight into the real world of business and how it operates at all levels, from the smallest firm to the largest global corporation. As a result, the skills you acquire and develop will be in great demand and form an excellent foundation for A Levels, apprenticeships and university courses.

Course Details:

Exam board: NCFE

Value: Equivalent to 1 x GCSE (Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*)

For further information speak to:

Mr A Barnes

Course Title: NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development & Care

About this course / Why choose this course?

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the Child Care sector. It has been designed to meet the needs of learners from the age of 14 years. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development for children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

We study units such as: health and hygiene in children, food and diet, growth and development of children, first aid, study skills, child care settings and working with children age 0-5.

Who would this course suit?

Anyone who wishes to pursue a career in Child Care or a student on the Red Pathway.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This qualification consists of three units: two graded A*- D assessed by a graded Assessment Task and a Synoptic Assessment unit which is assessed via a Short Answer Question Paper. The Award is graded from A* to D.

Learners must achieve three units:

Units 1 and 2

Assessment Tasks which are assessed internally

Guided Learning Hours: 120

Unit 3

Short Answer Question Paper which is assessed externally.

Guided Learning Hours: 5

What can you do with this qualification?

Pursue a career in Child Care through apprenticeship or continued studies in Child care at a higher level. We are currently offering Level 3 Health and Social Care at this centre.

Course Details:

Exam board: NCFE CACHE

For further information speak to:

Mrs S Davies, Miss R Franklin or Mrs K Corbitt

Course Title: GCSE Computer Science

About this course / Why choose this course?

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself (and as an 'underpinning' subject across Science and Engineering) is growing rapidly.

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly, and the way in which technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees.

The course covers a range of topics including; how processors work, modern network layouts and how they function, how types of software are used within computer systems, fundamental algorithms, how we store data within computers in binary form and using new-found programming skills on an independent coding project by solving a real-world problem.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Students studying this course will:

- develop a good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding;
- develop a deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions;
- acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming;
- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work, applying this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts;

50% Computer Systems (1.5 hour exam)

50% Computational thinking and programming (1.5 hour exam)

Who would this course suit?

The course is suitable for any student who is interested in computer technology and programming, or is thinking about a career in the computing industry. The course has a great deal of academic rigour, particularly in the study of algorithms and binary coding.

A sound grasp of mathematics is required.

What can you do with this qualification?

Successful completion of this course can lead to Level 3 courses in ICT at colleges. Alternatively, it can lead to A Level Computer Science courses at sixth form or BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Computing offered at SWRA.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE (Grade 9 - 1)

For further information speak to:
Mr A Barnes

Course Title: GCSE Design and Technology - Product Design with Timbers Specialisation

About this course / Why choose this course?

The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to explore, create and evaluate a range of design process and outcomes. Students will use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.

Students will acquire knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make with confidence and to respond to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. Students learn the theory of the core subjects and the specialism Timber through mini practical projects and written research. Students learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. They should develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

Students will develop an understanding of Design and Technology and its impact on daily life and the wider world, both historic and present day. They will develop an understanding that high-quality Design and Technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.

Who would this course suit?

The course is ideally suited to learners who enjoy both the practical and theoretical elements of learning, and with a desire for greater focus on creativity.

Alongside a passion for the subject, you will need a good imagination, enjoy making items in 3D and working with timber. You will also need to be able to present ideas clearly using CAD, ICT and traditional drawing skills. You need to have a logical way of thinking, be able to plan out step-by-step how to make things, be creative, be able to imagine things in 3D and be hard-working and self-motivated.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This qualification consists of compulsory and optional topics. You will study one compulsory topic (the core content) and one optional topic – in this case Timbers. Your assessment will consist of two separate assessments: an externally examined paper and a non-examined component (coursework).

Externally examined paper: 2 sections

Section A covers the core content

Section B covers the material category you have chosen (1DT0/1F Timbers)

1 hour and 45 minutes

100 marks – 50% of overall qualification – Externally assessed

Non-examined assessment: project

Assessed on skills in investigating designing, making and evaluating a prototype product
100 marks – 50% of overall qualification – Internally assessed and externally moderated.

The project theme will be released by Edexcel one year before certification, to be completed during the final year of this GCSE course.

What can you do with this qualification?

The GCSE Design and Technology course ensures clear progression of knowledge, understanding and design/making skills to A Level qualifications.

This course gives learners a whole host of easily transferable skills. It enables them to develop a wide range of practical making skills, an understanding of commercial processes and an in-depth knowledge of materials and their properties. Additionally learners will gain transferable skills such as communication and teamwork that will benefit them in the workplace.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

For further information speak to: Mr J James

Course Title: GCSE Drama

About this course / Why choose this course?

The aim of the course is to introduce you to the basics of theatre craft and performance. You will gain an understanding of what is dramatically effective and how to convey meaning on stage.

If you are interested in drama and performance, then this is an option for you. From the start of the course you are challenged in all areas of performance and are expected to be able to discuss ideas and interpret what you see on stage. You will be taken to see professional pieces of theatre which will improve your understanding of the subject at work and provide you with ideas for your own drama. It is a very exciting course, full of opportunities to explore complex ideas and to learn how to communicate meaning through drama.

Who would this course suit?

- You will need to have focus and concentration
- You will need to perform in front of audiences
- You will need good speaking and listening skills
- You will need to be imaginative
- You will need to be willing to take risks
- You will need the ability to laugh at yourself

How is this course taught and assessed?

Component 1: Devising

Coursework 40% – 60 marks

- Students will create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus
- Performance of this devised piece
- Portfolio – Students will analyse and evaluate the devising process & performance

Component 2: Performance from Text

Coursework 20% – 48 marks

- Students will perform two key extracts from a performance text (Monologue/duologue and a group piece)

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 40% – 60 marks 1 hour 30 minutes

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text
- Live theatre evaluation

What can you do with this qualification?

Students can further their study post-16 by studying Drama and Theatre at A Level, or through vocational qualifications at college. The skills gained are transferrable and the ability to think independently and creatively is a skill appreciated by employers and universities, irrespective of the area of further study undertaken.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: 1 x GCSE

Course Title: GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

About this course / Why choose this course?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will benefit anyone with an interest in food preparation, cooking, nutrition, processes and techniques. It is ideal as a base for further study in this area or for those who may wish to go directly into employment. This is a new course which replaces the old courses of Home Economics: Food and Nutrition, Food Technology and Catering.

Who would this course suit?

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition Course is suitable for any pupil who has a genuine interest in food and cooking. You will need a mature attitude and a commitment to providing ingredients for the practical lessons. The course requires pupils to prepare, cook and present food showing skill and accuracy.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This three year course is taught over three periods during Year 10 and two periods during Year 11.

The areas you will be studying are:

- Nutrition
- Food provenance and food choice
- Cooking and food preparation
- Preparation and cooking techniques

The course comprises of three units and is assessed as follows:

Task 1: Food Investigation worth 15% (approximately 10 hours)
Task 2: Food Preparation Task worth 35% (approximately 20 hours)
Examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes worth 50%

What can you do with this qualification?

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition qualification is suitable for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress on to further education. It will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work. Possible areas of employment include: chef, food technologist, nutritionist, product development, hotel work and the hospitality industry.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to: Mrs E Cooke

Course Title: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

About this course / Why choose this course?

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by exploring and developing their musical skills and techniques. The Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice covers:

- Development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music industry
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the music industry
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as musical skills and styles

Who would this course suit?

Students who:

- Enjoy music
- Thrive with coursework tasks (there is no examination for this course)
- Can play a musical instrument to a grade 3 level (see Mr Talbot about this if you are unsure)
- Are creative, interested in the music industry and how music is created

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course has 3 components, two internally assessed components and one external synoptically assessed component. The course is taught with the aim of improving your own musicianship on a chosen instrument and developing confidence in performing.

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Weighting: 30%

Aim: explore musical styles and techniques, and gain an understanding of roles in the industry.

Students will • *Explore* different styles and genres of music. • *Take part* in practical workshops to understand the music creation process. • *Learn* about the different roles within the music industry. • *Investigate* different genres of music and the skills that are used to make these unique.

Component 2: Musical Skills Development

Weighting: 30%

Aim: develop knowledge, skills and techniques and apply them to a music product.

Students will • *Reflect* on their progress, and on areas for improvement. • *Develop two musical disciplines through engagements in practical tasks.* • *Develop* a range of skills. • *Apply* skills and techniques in a music performance, creation or production.

Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

Weighting 40%

Aim: put skills into practice by responding to a brief as a composer, performer or producer.

Students will: • *Explore* the brief and come up with possible responses and ideas. • *Use* relevant resources, skills and techniques to develop and refine musical material. • *Present* their final response (solo or in a group). • *Review* and reflect their approach to the brief and their final outcome.

What can you do with this qualification?

With a BTEC Tech Award in Music, students are able to explore, challenge and realise their potential. During the course students can see whether the industry is one they want to be in, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps.

This qualification, like GCSE music, can lead to studying A Level Music/Music Technology or a college BTEC Level 3, and then on to a university degree in Music/Music Technology.

What's more, the transferable skills students master during their studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support their progress.

Course Details:

Exam board: Pearson

Value: Equivalent to one GCSE

For further information speak to: Mr A Talbot

Course Title: GCSE Physical Education

About this course / Why choose this course?

The GCSE PE qualification is a linear qualification, meaning that you will sit all your exams and submit all your practical assessment at the end of the course. GCSE PE has become more academic, and much of the new material has been taken from the first year of the old A Level PE course. Units covered include: 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 well-being. Within the new GCSE PE 60% of the marks are now based on theory whilst 40% will be based on your competence in performing as an individual and in a team in three different sports.

Who would this course suit?

This course is aimed at students who have a strong academic ability, purely because aspects of A Level PE have been included in the course and the theory weighting of the course now overshadows the practical. On top of this you would be required to show competence as a performer in three sporting activities. All students who have selected the GCSE PE and BTEC Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness will undertake six weeks of academic and practical assessments at the start of Year 9. Following these assessments the PE Department will look at which course each child will be best suited to.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The theory aspect of the course will be assessed by two written examinations at the end of Year 11, each lasting 1 ¼ hours. Within these two examinations there will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended answer questions. During the course you will have four lessons of PE per week. Two of these will be theory and two of these will focus on practical.

An analysis of performance module will also count towards your final practical grade. The anatomy and physiology unit will be taught within a practical setting where students will be given opportunities to work independently and apply knowledge to sporting situations. The practical activity list on the new GCSE PE is limited, and pupils will be assessed in individual sports like athletics, trampolining and table tennis as well as team sports such as lacrosse, handball and football.

What can you do with this qualification?

Some of the career opportunities this award could lead to are: the armed forces, sports assistant, pool lifeguard, gym/fitness assistant, sports scientist or sports coach. The course also leads on to A Level PE or the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Diploma delivered at SWRA.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to: PE Staff

Course Title: BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness

About this course / Why choose this course?

The new BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness is an exciting qualification as it is aimed at anyone who wants to develop their knowledge of sport. The new course has three distinct modules which are designed to increase student knowledge and prepare students for further education or work by developing leadership skills, team work, communication, decision-making, problem solving skills and resilience.

The course is made up of three units:

Unit 1 – Body Systems, Sports Injuries and Technology in Sport (this unit will examine how the skeletal, muscular, respiratory and circulatory systems work together during physical activity) – students will be required to submit written coursework and undertake a mini-presentation.

Unit 2 – Principles of Training, Nutrition and Psychology in Sport (this unit looks at the components of fitness, methods to test fitness and then the creation of a training schedule to improve fitness. A unit on sports psychology is also taught which looks at personality, information processing and stress in sport. This unit is assessed at the end of Year 10 through a written external assessment.

Unit 3 – Sports Leadership (this unit gives students the chance to increase their confidence and communication skills by leading a mini sports session).

How is this course taught and assessed?

These lessons will be taught using a variety of methods including: classroom-based study, practical work, oral presentations and practical project work. Units 1 and 3 are both internally assessed by teachers while Unit 2 is an external written assessment.

Who would this course suit?

This technical award is aimed at all students who are passionate about sport and are perhaps interested in a career in the sporting industry. You will need to be able to work independently on written assignments and possess the ability to work with others as well as part of a team during the practical leadership activities. You will need to keep up to date with all internal assessments and be prepared to give presentations in small groups.

There is a requirement for this course that pupils are prepared and willing to engage in leadership activities through practical sport. There is no requirement to have experience in sports leadership but there is a need to be prepared to improve your leadership, organisational, resilience, initiative and communication skills through taking part and leading through physical activity.

All students who have selected the BTEC Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness and GCSE PE will undertake six weeks of academic and practical assessments at the start of Year 9. Following these assessments the PE Department will look at which course each child will be best suited to.

What can you do with this qualification?

Some of the career opportunities this award could lead to are: the armed forces, sports assistant, pool lifeguard, gym/fitness assistant, sports coach or PE teacher. The course also leads on to A Level PE or the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate and Extended Diploma, which are both delivered at SWRA. This qualification will gain you direct access to university courses.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

For further information speak to: PE Staff

Course Title: GCSE Media Studies

About this course / Why choose this course?

This GCSE offers students the chance to develop the skills necessary to analyse media texts, understand who produces them and how, explore how the media influences audiences and compare and contrast contemporary media texts with legacy texts. This course also gives students the opportunity to create a media product of their choice and explore the common conventions surrounding the products they are creating

During the three year course you will experience a range of media concepts and study aspects of television sitcoms, magazines, newspapers, radio broadcasts, music videos, video games, film posters and print advertising.

The core concepts taught are:

1. Media language
2. Media representations
3. Media industries
4. Media audiences

How is this course taught and assessed?

Component One: Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

40% of qualification

Component Two: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

30% of qualification

Component Three: Creating Media Products

Non-Exam Assessment

30% of qualification

Who would this course suit?

This is quite an intensive course with several aspects to it. Pupils will need to have a strong grasp of English as a large part of the subject involves analysing and evaluating pieces of media text. We also study theorists and how certain theories apply to the media texts that we are studying. There is also a creative element where pupils will plan and design their work and then create what they have studied on a computer. This means that they will need to have an understanding of ICT, especially of Publisher and PowerPoint.

What can you do with this qualification?

The media is an important part of our everyday lives and in order to use and access it fully we need to be media literate. Pupils who want to work in any part of the media industry will find this GCSE invaluable.

Course Details:

Exam board: EDUQAS

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr P Fox Goddard

Course Title: GCSE Triple Award Science

About this course / Why choose this course?

This route through Key Stage 4 Science leads to three separate awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It offers greater breadth and depth of study for those aspiring to follow a career in medicine, dentistry or related disciplines.

Who would this course suit?

This course is aimed at students who are currently working at Grade 6 and above, and who show the potential to achieve the higher grades (7 - 9) at GCSE. The final decision on who is best suited to this course will be made by the science department, with the aim of giving students the best chance of achieving their potential.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Each of the three subjects is taught by a subject specialist, which means that you will have three science teachers throughout the three-year course - one each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each subject is assessed by two 1 hour 45 minute written papers, containing multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. This assessment is linear and is carried out at the end of the three years, so in total you will have 6 x 1 hour 45 minute examinations for your three science disciplines as part of your Year 11 examinations. For each of the sciences the two papers account for 100% of your final grade. You will also carry out a series of 'required' practical sessions throughout each GCSE which is common to all specifications at GCSE. Although not individually assessed, this essential component sits right at the heart of science and is aimed at developing practical scientists of the future. Questions relating to the practical work will contribute to 15% of the total marks in the written examinations. Additionally, at least 20% of the total marks will be based upon mathematical skills. There is no coursework.

What can you do with this qualification?

This 'Triple Science' route through Key Stage 4 allows you to study each of the three sciences in detail, and will enable you to progress to A Level courses in any or all three of the science subjects.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 3 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs L Porter

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science

Languages

Geography

History

Religious Studies

Physical Education

Art & Design

Drama

NCFE Business & Enterprise

CACHE Child Development & Care

BTEC Music

Graphic Communication



Media Studies

Triple Award Science

BTEC Sport, Activity & Fitness

Computer Science

Design & Technology: Timbers

Food Preparation & Nutrition







SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON
ACADEMY

www.swracademy.org

