

Year 9 Options 2023



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/carers 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 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 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 available to help you make the right decision. You are already receiving careers education and learning about the range of opportunities that are open to you, and you will receive further advice on choosing courses, work experience and how to achieve your goals. A full range of careers information and computer aided guidance packages are available from the library.

Remember – if in doubt, ASK.

Additional Guidance

Work Experience

Work experience takes place during Year 10 and is an exciting chance for you to work within a business environment for a week. This is an important part of the work-related learning programme and will give you an insight into working life and an understanding of the employability skills you will need to develop in preparation for this.

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 we believe **all** students at Sir William Robertson Academy should study. These subjects are key to progression into sixth form, college, 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 it is essential to have good grades in English and mathematics; GCSE and A-level business studies qualifications are usually seen as helpful but not essential.

The compulsory Core subjects are:

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Modern Foreign Language - French** (*Green Pathway*)
- **Geography or History**
- **Physical Education**
- **Personal & Social Education**
- **Careers, Citizenship and RS** (*including GCSE religious studies*)

English

All students will take two GCSE qualifications: English language and English literature.

Mathematics

All students study towards GCSE mathematics. More able mathematicians are given the opportunity to study towards a GCSE qualification in further mathematics.

Modern Foreign Languages (French)

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 will continue to study GCSE French. Studying a modern foreign language is optional for all other students, but we strongly recommend that this is given serious consideration.

GCSE Science

All students study towards GCSE combined science unless they show an aptitude for triple science. The decision regarding who is best suited to each course is made by the Science Department with the aim of giving pupils the best chance of achieving their potential. GCSE combined science is a double award worth two GCSEs; GCSE triple science leads to three separate awards in biology, chemistry and physics.

Religious Studies

All students complete the GCSE short course 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 prior attainment.

Each pathway offers guidance on the mix of courses that best suit different learning styles and abilities.

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/carers, teachers and base tutors if you are uncertain which pathway you should be on.

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

Green Pathway	Blue Pathway	Orange Pathway
<p>Who is it for? Students who enjoy a full variety of teaching methods. Students who perform well in tests and exams.</p> <p>What will I study? 100% GCSE courses: English language and literature, mathematics, combined science or three separate sciences (biology, chemistry and physics), French, 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 college. 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.</p> <p>What will I study? English language and literature, mathematics, combined science, 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 college. 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.</p> <p>What will I study? English language and literature, mathematics, combined science (with support in literacy and numeracy). Up to two other vocational or GCSE 'option' subjects.</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

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

All GCSE subjects are now graded from 9 to 1 where 9 is the highest grade, a grade 5 is regarded as a good pass and a grade 4 is regarded as a standard pass.

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 A-level study.

English Bacallaureate

The English Bacallaureate 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 Bacallaureate 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 made up of 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 certain skills and can be more suited to the learning styles of some of our students.

Technical awards can be awarded at 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





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% 2-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 Fox-Goddard

Course Title: GCSE Mathematics

About this course

All students are required to study mathematics at Key Stage 4. The course content is organised into six broad topic areas as follows:

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

How is this course taught and assessed?

This course 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 (1h 30m)

Paper 2: calculator (1h 30m)

Paper 3: calculator (1h 30m)

All papers are taken at the end of the two-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 skills needed to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. All employers and trainers value mathematics 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?

GCSE mathematics is widely regarded as being central to any future endeavour. The knowledge, understanding and skills developed in this subject are invaluable in our everyday lives and demonstrate our ability to solve problems, make deductions and draw conclusions. This qualification provides a foundation for further academic and vocational study or employment. Students who are successful on the course will be able to continue their studies post-16.

We use mathematics every day, whether to manage our personal finances or to work in environments as diverse as retail, education and aeronautical design.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr 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 for triple science. The decision regarding who is best suited to each 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 10 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 sessions throughout the course. These are not individually assessed, but 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 at 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:

Mr Wigham

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 regarding 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 1h 45m written papers containing a combination of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. This assessment is linear and is carried out at the end of the two years, so in total you will have 6 x 1 h 45m 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 for each science subject. Although not individually assessed, these practical components sit right at the heart of science and are aimed at developing scientists of the future. Questions relating to the practical work 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 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:

Mr Wigham

Course Title: GCSE French

About this course / Why choose this course?

80% of the world's population are non-English speakers, and so learning a foreign language is as important as ever. Not only does the GCSE French course aim to prepare students for a future living and working within a global community, it also increases opportunities within academia and the workplace. This 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 French, for leisure and work.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course covers three themes which are broken down further into topic areas:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Study and Employment

During the course students build upon the grammatical awareness and language skills, such as translation and transcription, which they developed at Key Stage 3. They will broaden the breadth and depth of their knowledge to include the defined content contained within the topic areas.

GCSE French is 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 French language and culture. You will need enthusiasm and resilience to work out new language and communicate effectively. 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 lead to a variety of degree courses with language units, including new languages, such as European law with French/Spanish or Portuguese.

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

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Miss Phillips, Miss Brousse & Mr Reed

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.

This course follows on naturally from Key Stage 3. In fact, pupils in lower school have already been studying GCSE material in a spiral curriculum. GCSE geography involves the study of important events and issues that often feature in the news, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, climate change, immigration and how changes in the world economy can affect our lives.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Major topics include: the destructive power of natural hazards such as 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, accounting for 100% of the total mark. The examination papers will include sections on fieldwork, which is undertaken during Year 10 and Year 11.

All students will sit three exams at the end of Y11:

Paper 1

Physical Geography: Natural Hazards, Living World, UK Landscapes (1h 30m)

Paper 2

Human Geography: Urban, Changing Economic World, Resources (1h 30m)

Paper 2

Geography Skills and Issue Evaluation (1h 30m)

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 ask who, what, where, how and why? They 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 the course.

GCSE geography also offers a good balance with your other Key Stage 4 subjects.

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 to a wide range of careers including travel, tourism, leisure and roles within the environmental and development sectors.

Famous geographers include Prince William, Amy Macdonald, Michael Jordan and Olympic gold medalists Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Course code: AQA A

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:
Geography Department Staff

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, and also offer 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 GCSE history is for you!

Some of the 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 GCSE history 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 who 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:

- If you are interested in events of the past, and how they have shaped the world we live in
- If you genuinely wish to engage intellectually with some of the most extraordinary, notorious, brilliant and original people in the history of our planet
- 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 Squire, Mrs Rawding, Mr Mounsey & Miss Tooze

Course Title: GCSE Religious Studies – AQA Short Course

About this course

The GCSE 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 examinations in Year 10.

Who would this course suit?

This short course programme is suitable for all students. Religious studies is a subject that allows individuals to develop an understanding of their own and others' sense of self, thus enhancing empathy and the ability to relate. These skills are not just of value to students now; they will be relevant and applicable in the future 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 is 100% examination based, taken in the summer term of Year 10.

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).

Assessment is via one written exam (1h 45 m). 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?

This course will help pupils to understand our society. Religious studies makes students ask questions; it makes the familiar strange and the strange familiar, and it enables and develops students. This allows 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: Short course 0.5 X GCSE

For further information speak to:
Miss Earle & Miss Mitchell

Course Title: Core PE

About this course

Irrespective of whether you decide to choose physical education as a GCSE or BTEC option you will all take part in core PE in Year 10 and Year 11.

During Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 your activities were selected by the PE department to ensure you developed the knowledge, tactics and strategies for an active lifestyle across a broad range of physical activities. The PE Department created a sequenced curriculum based on the following RASCAL principles:

- Respect
- Activity
- Sustained Resilience
- Confidence
- Applied Competition
- Leadership

In Year 10 and Year 11 you will tackle complex and more demanding activities. The main aim is for you to further develop your RASCAL 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.



For further information speak to:
PE Department





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. Studying art will encourage you to explore your imagination and to express and communicate thoughts and feelings. Art develops your capacity for creative and independent thought and your ability to make critical judgements; it encourages key skills that are important in many areas of work, not just in the creative sector.

This course will give you the opportunity to use a broad range of media depending on your skills, aptitude and areas of interest. Techniques and approaches include drawing, painting, printing, collage, mixed media, textiles and 3D work (wire, clay, plaster, card etc). You will also have the opportunity to visit important galleries.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The coursework portfolio is work developed during the course by the student from a starting point given by the teacher. It includes a lot of preparation work (i.e. drawing and other studies, looking at the work of artists, developing ideas through practice and experimentation) and a final piece. The portfolio work is both creative and challenging, and the development of 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.

GCSE Art & Design – Fine 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, students will have plenty of opportunity to improve and develop their observational skills. Given the wide variety of materials and approaches available it is good for students to have an open mind and to be willing 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 also be of benefit.

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 choosing 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 Lawson, Mrs Norman & Miss 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 graphic communication is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects, and it can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

Throughout this 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 a variety of different media, techniques and materials. Alongside improving your practical expertise you will 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) and 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: This is a separate externally set paper featuring seven tasks. You have to complete one of these tasks, and will be given preparation time plus ten hours of supervised time in which to do so. This is worth 40 % of your total marks.

GCSE Art & Design – Graphic Communication is assessed:

60% Coursework

40% Terminal examination

Who would this course suit?

Studying GCSE graphic communication gives you access to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is an excellent foundation for whatever you choose 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 the wide variety of materials and approaches available it is good to have an open mind and to be willing to explore ideas in a number of ways.

As coursework is worth 60% of the total grade it is important that you 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 also be of benefit.

What can you do with this qualification?

This course will enable you to continue your studies post-16. If you decide not to take your 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 alongside the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

Art and design opens the door to many exciting careers. Try these for starters: fashion design; graphic design; art; theatre design; illustration; video game design; photography; architecture; product design; teaching; textile design; advertising; publishing; interior design; hair and make-up design or retail design.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs Davie

Course Title: NCFE Level 1/Level 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 is at an immediate advantage. This course will give you the opportunity to explore real business issues and understand how businesses work. The course is a technical alternative to a GCSE qualification 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 eight themes: entrepreneurship, business organisations and stakeholders; market research, market types, market orientation and marketing mix; human resources requirements; operations management; business growth; sources of funding and business finance; impact of the external environment; business 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 and to make reasoned judgements and justified business decisions

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

Coursework Component: consists of 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:

Mrs Francis

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 childcare sector. It has been designed to meet the needs of learners from the age of 14 years, and 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, study skills, childcare settings and working with children aged 0-5.

Who would this course suit?

Anyone who wishes to pursue a career in childcare or a student on the Orange Pathway.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This qualification consists of two assessments graded Distinction * to Level 1 Pass.

Learners must achieve one non-exam assessment. This is an assignment that is set by the examination board (CACHE) and internally assessed. It is then externally moderated.

Learners also take an external assessment in the form of an examination at the end of Year 11. The marks for both assessments are combined to form the overall grade.

What can you do with this qualification?

Pursue a career in childcare through apprenticeship or continued studies in childcare at a higher level.

Course Details:

Exam board: NCFE CACHE

Value: Equivalent to 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs Davies, Miss Franklin & Mrs 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 changed at a fast pace in recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees.

This course covers a range of topics. These include: 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; 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

Assessment:

Computer Systems (1h 30m examination) – 50%

Computational Thinking and Programming (1h 30m examination) – 50%

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 the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Computing offered at SWRA.

Course Details:

Exam board: OCR

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mrs Pavey

Course Title: GCSE Dance

About this course / Why choose this course?

This course offers students the opportunity to work collaboratively with others, build resilience and enrich creativity. Welcoming all abilities, our dance curriculum encourages students to become disciplined and reflective artists whilst also developing dance techniques in a range of styles. The onus is on students to express themselves through movement, which has been proven to develop emotional intelligence and have a wider, positive impact on intellectual wellbeing as well as self-confidence. We believe that it is crucial for students to build a level of cultural capital through learning about dance, and therefore offer schemes of work that explore different cultures through workshops and live performances.

If you are interested in dance and the art of performing then this is the course for you. Students will learn choreography from a wide range of dance styles and find out about the physical, technical and expressive skills which are appropriate to each one. They will also be taught how to create their own choreography and have the opportunity to study a wide range of performances and gain ideas from trips to see live dance.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Component One – Performance – 80 marks

Performance 30% (40 marks)

Choreography 30% (40 marks)

Component Two – Written Exam – 80 marks

Written Exam 40%

Section A: Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills

Section B: Critical appreciation of own work

Section C: Critical appreciation of professional works

Who would this course suit?

- You will need to have focus and concentration
- You will need to be able to dance in front of an audience
- You will need to be willing to take risks
- Be willing to work collaboratively with other

What can you do with this qualification?

This course could help you pursue a career as a professional dancer, opening many doors, including a career in the theatre or film/ television industries. You could also become a teacher, dance therapist or a personal trainer. For those who are unsure about which direction to follow, GCSE dance helps to develop transferrable skills such as creative thinking, co-operating well with others, communication and confidence which are an asset in any professional role.

Course Details:

Exam board: AQA

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Miss Scorrer

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

About this course / Why choose this course?

This GCSE course enables students to explore, create and evaluate a range of design processes 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. This qualification gives students the opportunity to apply knowledge from other disciplines including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.

During this course students will acquire knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make with confidence. They will learn the theory of the core subjects and the specialism (timbers) through mini practical projects and written research and will learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. They will also develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries and examine the impact of design and technology on daily life and the wider world, both historically and in the present day. As such 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.

How is this course taught and assessed?

This qualification consists of compulsory and optional topics. Students will study one compulsory topic (the core content) and one optional topic – in this case timbers. The assessment will consist of two separate components:

Externally examined paper: 2 sections (1h 45m) - 50% of qualification

Section A covers the core content

Section B covers the material category you have chosen.

Non-examined assessment: Project – 50% of qualification

Assessed on skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype product. 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.

Who would this course suit?

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

Alongside a passion for the subject you will need to have a good imagination and to 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.

What can you do with this qualification?

This GCSE 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

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr James

Course Title: GCSE Drama

About this course / Why choose this course?

SWRA's drama curriculum offers students opportunities for personal development, nurturing self-assurance and building resilience. Our actors become articulate and confident communicators – essential attributes for success in whatever profession they choose. The aim of this 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?

Post-16: Students can further their study post-16 by studying drama and theatre at A-level, or through vocational qualifications at college.

Career Routes: A GCSE in drama would be beneficial for anyone wishing to pursue a career in theatre or film (the third largest industry in the UK). Students who are still unsure about the career they would like to pursue will find that GCSE drama will still be beneficial to them. Most professional job roles advertise for someone who is a creative problem solver, a team player and a good communicator. These transferable skills will all be gained over the 2 years of study.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel

Value: 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Miss Burrough & Miss Scorrer

Course Title: GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

About this course / Why choose this course?

This course equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to feed themselves and others better. Students develop practical cookery skills and techniques as they explore the underlying principles of food science, nutrition, food traditions and food safety.

At the heart of the qualification is the development of strong practical cookery skills and techniques, as well as a good understanding of nutrition. We believe that learners who learn to cook well are more likely to make better food choices and understand healthy eating. Students will discover the essentials of food science, nutrition and how to cook, as well as gaining an understanding of the huge challenges that we face globally to supply the world with nutritious and safe food.

How is this course taught and assessed?

The areas you will be studying are:

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

The course comprises three units and is assessed as follow

Task 1: Food Investigation - worth 15% (approximately 10 hours)

Task 2: Food Preparation Task - worth 35% (approximately 20 hours)

Examination: 1h 30m - worth 50%

Who would this course suit?

This 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.

We see this qualification as another step towards creating a healthier society and improving the nation's cooking skills, as well as setting some learners on the path to careers in the food and hospitality industries.

What can you do with this qualification?

This qualification is suitable for students seeking a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress on to further education. It also offers valuable preparation for 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 Clayton

Course Title: NCFE Level 1/Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology

About this course / Why choose this course?

The course will give you the opportunity to learn how music is composed and created, as well as how it is recorded and produced. You will be able to create music however you like, be it on your own chosen instrument or using a Digital Audio Interface (DAI), and recording both your own and others' pieces of music.

Who would this course suit?

Students who:

- Enjoy music at any level
- Have a drive to complete coursework-based tasks
- Play a musical instrument or sings
- Are creative and interested in how music is created across all aspects of the music industry

How is this course taught and assessed?

The course has 5 areas of study that are listed below:

AO1: Introduction to music technology and the music business

This area of study looks at the history of the music industry and how today's standards of music recording have evolved, both in professional studio environments and home recording studios

AO2: Using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW)

This area of study will teach you what a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) is and how to use one. You will get to create a short 2-minute piece of music that uses digital and audio sounds and then write a self-reflective review on your process.

AO3: Musical elements, musical style and music technology

This area of study examines how music is created in different styles, as well as looking at some of the fundamental forms of music. Pupils will undertake workshops that focus on different tonality of music and how harmony works, and will apply this to different genres of music

AO4: Sound creation

This unit of work looks at sound creation for different media such as video games, films and TV adverts. You will then produce your own piece of music for one of these media types, incorporating elements such as Foley and underscores

AO5: Multitrack recording

This unit will task you with setting up a recording session and recording live music in a professional studio environment. You will have to mix your multi-track to a professional level using EQ, Balance, Effects and Automation.

What can you do with this qualification?

This qualification allows you to pursue further education qualifications in music and music technology such as the NCFE Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology, A level music or A level music technology.

The course gives you a broad overview of key areas within music technology and music creation and is designed for people who wish to pursue careers in studio recording, radio, live music performance or teaching music.

Course Details:

Exam board: NCFE CACHE

Value: Equivalent to 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:

Mr 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 assessments 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 Wellbeing.

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 because the theory weighting of the course now overshadows the practical. On top of this, you will 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 10. Following these assessments, the PE Department will look at which course you 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 1h 15m. Within these two examinations there will be a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions. 60% of the marks for this qualification are based on theory and 40% are based on your competence in performing as an individual and in a team in three different sports.

During the course you will have four lessons of PE per week. Two of these will be theory lessons and two will focus on practical elements. The anatomy and physiology unit will be taught within a practical setting where you 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 you will be assessed in individual sports like athletics, trampolining and table tennis as well as team sports such as lacrosse, handball and football. An analysis of performance module will also count towards your final practical grade.

What can you do with this qualification?

Some of the careers this award could lead to are: the armed forces, sports assistant, pool lifeguard, gym/fitness assistant, sports scientist or sports coach.

The qualification could also lead to further study, such as 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 Department Staff

Course Title: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

About this course / Why choose this course?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport requires learners to complete 3 components:

1. Preparing participants to take part in sport and activity
2. Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performances
3. Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity

Who would this course suit?

This new BTEC in sport requires you to lead, perform and coach in practical situations, attend all external assessments throughout the course and have the ability to apply knowledge in the examination taken at the end of Year 11.

How is this course taught and assessed?

Units are assessed throughout Year 10 and Year 11, and attendance for internal assessments is essential otherwise a zero grade is recorded. Pupils are expected to lead warm-ups and plan and run practical sessions, and are assessed on their ability to communicate and lead with confidence.

The final assessment at the end of Year 11 is a 1 hr 30m examination where the ability to recall and apply learning from the two-year course is essential. A full knowledge of components of fitness, fitness training principles, fitness testing and identifying appropriate training programmes for a variety of individuals is essential.

What can you do with this qualification?

Some of the careers this award could lead to are: the armed forces, sports assistant, pool lifeguard, gym/fitness assistant, sports scientist or sports coach.

The course could also lead to further study, such as Alevel PE or the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate and Extended Diploma delivered at SWRA. This qualification will give you direct access to university courses.

Course Details:

Exam board: Edexcel
Value: Equivalent to 1 x GCSE

For further information speak to:
PE Department 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 two-year course students will explore a range of media concepts and study aspects of crime drama, 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: 1h 30m

40% of qualification

Component Two: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1h 30m

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 evaluating. In addition, there is a creative element where pupils plan and design their work and then create what they have studied on a computer. This means that they will need to have a good 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:

Mrs Mallowney

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science

French

Geography

History

Religious Studies

Physical Education

Art & Design

Graphic Communication

Business & Enterprise

Child Development & Care



Computer Science

Design & Technology: Timbers

Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Music Technology

Sport

Media Studies

Triple Science



SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON
ACADEMY

