



MARITIME
ACADEMY

Year 9 Options
2025 – 2027

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Message from the Principal

As you embark on the journey of selecting your GCSE options, I want to extend my support and encouragement to each and every one of you.

Your GCSE studies mark a significant milestone in your educational journey, offering you the opportunity to tailor your learning experience to suit your interests, strengths, and aspirations.

I urge you to approach this decision-making process with thoughtfulness and consideration. Take the time to explore the wide range of subjects available to you, considering not only your academic interests but also the potential impact on your future career path.

Remember, your choices should reflect a balance between subjects you enjoy, subjects you excel in, and subjects that align with your long-term goals. Resist the temptation to choose subjects simply because your friends are taking them or because of a particular teacher.

Your teachers, as well as your family and peers, are here to support you in making informed decisions. Do not hesitate to seek advice and guidance from those who know you best.

Embrace this opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence, knowing that you are taking an active role in shaping your future.

I wish you all the best as you navigate this exciting chapter of your education.

Mr Evans
Principal

Making Options Choices

All students will study the following core curriculum:

- GCSE English (9 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- GCSE Mathematics (8 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- GCSE Combined Science (9 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- PSHE Careers, Relationships & Sex Education (2 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- Religious Education (2 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- Core PE / Games (2 lessons per 2-week cycle)

Students will then choose 4 subjects from the option subjects outlined in this booklet:

- One from Option Choice 1 - the first box on the options form (5 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- Three from Option Choice 2-4 - the second box on the options form (5 lessons per 2-week cycle)

*subjects will be run based upon pupils numbers/ uptake

Student Leadership

This is the first time since starting school that our students have had the opportunity to take control of a significant part of their curriculum. Year 9 students will continue to benefit from an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum that will allow a range of further and higher education pathways to be followed once they have completed Year 11.

Choosing option subjects for study in Key Stage 4 is an extremely important part of the year for the students involved. We therefore devote significant time to the process and the timeline for this is shown below:

Year 9 Options assembly - February 2025

Year 9 Consultation Evening - Wednesday 12th February 4pm - 7pm

Year 9 Options Evening - Wednesday 5th March 2025

Year 9 options MS Form completed by Wednesday 19th March

The Core Subjects

GCSE English Language

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn how to write for different purposes and audiences and to use interesting vocabulary and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. You will learn how to examine literary and non-fiction texts, commenting on their content, language and structure.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop strategies that help you to read, understand, analyse and interpret different types of texts including drama, poetry, novels and non-literary texts. You will develop writing skills, using descriptive, argumentative and persuasive techniques, organising your ideas and writing fluently and confidently, as well as editing and proofreading your own writing.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the continual practice of reading, writing, and speaking and listening. You will learn through a variety of teacher and student-led activities, home learning and through individual, paired and group work. You will learn by making effective use of thinking tools and thinking maps to help you to work independently.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Paper 1 | You will answer four questions responding to the language and structure in a single literary text and then complete a description or story. | Exam 50% |
| Paper 2 | You will answer four questions on the content, language and writers' viewpoints in two non-fiction texts. You will then argue your point of view on a given topic. | Exam 50% |
| Speaking and Listening | You will give a presentation followed by questions. This does not count towards your final grade and is awarded a separate grade of Pass, Merit or Distinction. | Assessed in school 0% |

Where might this lead?

For most employers and educational institutions, a good pass in English is a clear indication that you can read and write effectively. You will need to achieve at least a grade 4 or you will continue to study this subject after year 11. Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level English Language/Literature and A Level Media Studies.

GCSE English may also develop an interest in A Level Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Journalism, Teaching, Retail, Personnel and Administration.

The Core Subjects

GCSE English Literature

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will develop the ability to analyse and appreciate the written word. You will learn to use literary language and write about texts using critical and imaginative responses. For examination purposes, you will read Shakespeare, texts written before 1914, modern texts, texts from other cultures and poetry, both contemporary and from the past.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop strategies that help you read, understand, analyse and interpret what is read. The focus of analysis will be on character, theme, setting and context whilst exploring language devices, structure and form. You will be asked to make links between texts and understand the social and historical significance of texts.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the continual practice of reading, writing, and speaking and listening. You will learn through a variety of teacher and student-led activities, home learning and through individual, paired and group work. You will learn by making effective use of thinking tools and thinking maps to help you to work independently.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|---------|---|----------|
| Paper 1 | You will answer two questions, both based on an extract from the texts. The current texts are Macbeth by William Shakespeare and The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson | Exam 40% |
| Paper 2 | You will answer one question on the play An Inspector Calls, compare two poems from a collection of fifteen that have been read and examined in an anthology, and finally examine and compare two 'unseen' poems. | Exam 60% |

Where might this lead?

If you achieve at least a grade 4 in English Literature or English Language, you no longer need to study English. However, studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level English Literature and A Level Media Studies. The study of GCSE English Literature may also develop an interest in A Level Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts.

This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as: journalism, teaching, retail, personnel and administration.

The Core Subjects

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

You continue to develop your understanding of Mathematics from a real-world perspective as well as the abstract. The six areas of the syllabus; number; algebra; ratio; proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures. Probability and Statistics will have the emphasis on the application of learning.

What skills will I develop?

Amongst the many skills developed throughout the course, the most important are representation (identifying and simplifying), analytical skills (making connections and generalising), interpretation and communication.

How will I learn?

The GCSE curriculum demands that Mathematics is learnt in a way that emphasises using functional maths. Lessons will be a mixture of teacher led activities, individual tasks and collaborative work, with students having the opportunity to review their learning. ICT will be used both as a teaching and learning tool.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Paper 1: Non-calculator | A formal examination consisting of one paper in which a calculator cannot be used (90mins). | External Examination 80 marks |
| Paper 2: Calculator | A formal examination consisting of one paper in which a calculator can be used (90mins). | External Examination 80 marks |
| Paper 3: Calculator | A formal examination consisting of one paper in which a calculator can be used (90mins). | External Examination 80 marks |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Economics, Geography and Psychology. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as Medicine, Accountancy, Insurance, Teaching and Computer Game Design.

Almost every employer will look for Mathematics as proof of ability to think logically and analytically.

The Core Subjects

GCSE Combined Science

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn how to develop practical skills through investigation work followed by standard procedures. You will learn about the importance of Science to society through the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will continue to learn how Science helps us to understand the world around us.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to handle equipment, measure and record, research and select information. You will work in groups, following directions and will also focus on key skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

How will I learn?

You will learn through teacher-led activities, self-directed activities, research, discussions, hands-on practical work and by working collaboratively in small groups.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Biology | Biology Paper 1: Biology topics 1-4 Biology Paper 2: Biology topics 5-7 | 1 hour 15 min exam F and H Tier 70 marks |
| Chemistry | Chemistry Paper 1: Chemistry topics 8-12 Chemistry Paper 2: Chemistry topics 13-17 | 1 hour 15 min exam F and H Tier 70 marks |
| Physics | Physics Paper 1: Physics Topics 18-21 Physics Paper 2: Physics Topics 22-24 | 1 hour 15 min exam F and H Tier 70 marks |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics, BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science. Sixth Form study can lead to a University course to study for a science degree, or will enable you to apply for apprenticeship positions in the STEM industries. This qualification is also useful if considering employment in areas such as Engineering, Healthcare, Environmental work, Architecture, Construction, Catering and Hairdressing.

The Core Subjects

Physical Education

Religious Studies

PSHE (personal, social, health and economic)

Physical Education

All students will follow a course in PE to meet National Curriculum requirements. Students will have the opportunity to take part in a range of team and individual activities including football, sport education, basketball, netball, table tennis and athletics. Students will also follow a fitness theme where they will be involved in a variety of health and sport related fitness activities, designed to increase their awareness of leading a healthy active lifestyle. The emphasis in core PE is on participation, developing cognitive skills, and enjoyment, with all students expected to contribute fully to all lessons regardless of ability or experience.

Religious Studies

All students in Key Stage 4 follow a statutory, non-examined course in Religious Studies. This consists of two fortnightly lessons. Units studied include inspirational people, spiritual aspects of life, the concept of Christ, medical ethics, and the key beliefs and practices of the major world religions. Students will also explore their own views on moral issues and ultimate questions. While this course is separate from the GCSE Religious Studies option it will assist GCSE Religious Studies candidates.

PSHE (personal, social, health and economic)

Personal Development has been developed in line with the PSHE statutory guidelines and National Curriculum Sex and Relationships course of study. The curriculum builds on our Jigsaw Key Stage 3 framework and the Fundamental British Values. It supports and challenges students' Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development (SMSC) to enable them to become responsible, respectful and active members of society. Personal Development also includes Healthy Schools curriculum content, which relates to our school ethos by helping our students develop into successful, well-rounded, confident young people who are equipped to thrive in the modern world.



Option Subjects

MAKING EXCELLENCE A HABIT



The Option Subjects

GCSE Art and Design

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

This qualification is designed for students who wish to gain an understanding of the Art and Design industry and develop skills across a range of areas within the subject. The GCSE course covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media in order to explore your strengths and preferences.

What skills will I develop?

- Mark-making
- Print making
- Carving
- Graphic communication
- Digital working methods
- Photography

How will I learn?

You will undertake three projects and one externally set exam. You will explore a number of projects, materials, starting points and artists to develop art and design work for your portfolio. Your portfolio is a collection of work that holistically covers the tasks for each unit.

How will my work be assessed?

Pearson GCSE Art and Design is made up of two units.

| | |
|--|---|
| Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Art and Design | Internally set and marked; assessed through controlled assessment. 60% of overall mark |
| Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment in Art and Design | Theme set by Pearson and internally marked. 40% of overall mark |
| Each unit is assessed separately out of 72 marks, is standardised by the Art department and then moderated by a representative from the exam board at the end of the course. | |

Where might this lead?

On completion of your GCSE Art and Design course, you could progress to further education. This course will also demonstrate your dexterity and you will have a portfolio of work that will evidence your ability to pursue a two-year GCSE course in Art and Design, covering different assignments and producing a range of work. This may compliment your applications to take apprenticeships or other courses, in local design offices, graphics companies and retail, web, design and other practical based careers.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

During the course you will learn how to structure programs into modular parts with clear documented interfaces to enable them to design appropriate modular structures for solutions. You will include authentication and data validation systems/routines within their computer programs.

What skills will I develop?

Students will learn a range of practical skills utilising the latest software, developing critical understanding of key concepts before putting them into practice. You will develop your understanding of computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

There will be opportunities to develop transferable skills such as programming which could directly link into future employment within the computing industry. You will build a thorough knowledge of Cyber security, legal and ethical implications relating to society and theoretical knowledge of computer systems and networks and how these can be effectively implemented in the wider world.

How will I learn?

Achieving through group work, analysis, design as well as through practical computer based tasks and written work. Students will learn through teacher-led activities and models, and then through individual, paired and group work.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Paper 1: Working towards this paper you will develop an in-depth understanding of programming using different modern programming languages. You will build on practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.</p> | <p>Examination unit: Externally Assessed Examination 50%</p> |
| <p>Paper 2: Developing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge of a range of different topics including data representation, computer systems, computer networks, cyber security and the wider ethical and legal implications of digital technology on society.</p> | <p>Examination unit: Externally Assessed Examination 50%</p> |

Where might this lead?

This would support progression into a more specialised Level 3 BTEC in ICT or an A-level in ICT before the option of going to study computing at university. The content and knowledge gained through the GCSE Computer Science will give students a great step in career options within the IT industry. Future career paths could include Web Designer, Game Developer or Software Developer to name but a few.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Design Technology

Examination Board: EDUQAS

What will I learn?

The course teaches students how to solve real world problems and be an all-round designer through them learning a tool kit of practical processes, machinery, materials, CAD software and CAM processes. This allows the students to tailor their creative journey by being able to identify the correct processes and materials to solve the problems they set out in their own design briefs. Students will learn about emerging technologies, modern and smart materials, composite materials and technical textiles, electronic systems and mechanical devices.

What skills will I develop?

The specification encourages learners to use creativity and to be confident to explore their own imagination. The course enables learners to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions and make and test prototypes.

How will I learn?

Students are offered a range of design contexts to explore before leading to a personalised design brief. The design brief allows students to take their own creative journey to solve identified problems. It promotes a truly creative path of CAD modelling, rapid prototyping and iterative mix media designing. This leads to a unique outcome that is project managed to a fully operational prototype stage and is supported by precise technical drawings and a progressive evaluation leading to suitable improvement possibilities. They will develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Paper 1: Design & Technology in the 21st Century | Examination unit: 2 hours 50% |
| Paper 2: Design & Make Task | Coursework unit: 35 Hours 50% |

Where might this lead?

Students that achieve a good grade at GCSE will have an excellent foundation for studying Design Technology at A level. Which is the natural next step before progressing onto University or Industry. University and Career opportunities exist in a wide range of areas, including electronic and Mechanical Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Interior and Graphic Design.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Drama

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

Students study drama in an academic setting, interrogating this art form and applying their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and to their own performance work.

What skills will I develop?

The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as theatrical skills, you will learn how to meet deadlines, work and co-operate with others, listen and create drama as a practical art form.

How will I learn?

Lessons will be delivered through a variety of methods. These range from independent work, group work to verbal and visual presentations. You will be given support and practical advice on how to approach exam questions successfully.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|--|---|
| Component 1: Understanding drama Section A: (4 marks) Section B: (44 marks) Section C: (32 marks) | Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes Open book 80 marks 40% of GCSE |
| Component 2: Devising drama (practical) | Devising log (60 marks) Devised performance (20 marks) 80 marks in total 40% of GCSE |
| Component 3: Texts in practice (practical) | Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks) 40 marks in total 20% of GCSE |

Where might this lead?

Study of A level Drama/ Performing Arts prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, as an Actor, Teacher, Holistic Therapist, Technician, Costume & Make-Up Designer or Director. Drama is also welcome on a CV where the job applied for involves working with others, addressing members of the public and negotiating with others.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board: OCR

What will I learn?

You will learn about food nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choices and food provenance. You will develop a wide range of practical skills as well as ICT skills. The course is designed to encourage you to become an independent learner, team worker as well as being a creative thinker.

What skills will I develop?

Practical food skills

- Knowledge of how nutrition and health are linked
- Knowledge of culture and other factors that help decide our food choices
- Food product design through adapting existing recipe ideas and designing our own ideas
- You will be equipped with important practical skills that will enable you to progress onto a variety of skilled jobs

How will I learn?

You will complete a number of task-based activities that are designed to develop your food preparation skills. As you progress, you will be expected to complete two tasks set by the exam board. Task one consists of a report including photographic evidence, whilst task two is a portfolio with a timed practical assessment and photographic evidence.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Unit 1: This will be an examination at the end of year 11 | 2 hours 50% |
| Unit 2: This is internally assessed. | 35 Hours 50% |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as Food Science and Nutrition at Diploma and Degree level. This qualification is also useful if considering employment in areas such as Health and Social Care, Catering, Dietitian, Research, Marketing and Food Product Design.

The Option Subjects

GCSE French (Foundation)

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

This course consists of three main themes:

1. People and lifestyle
2. Popular culture
3. Communication and the world around us

What skills will I develop?

You will develop the skills to interact with French native speakers both orally and in writing. The aim is to enable you to communicate in everyday situations.

How will I learn?

You will follow this course using realistic, work related contexts and many authentic French documents.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Paper 1: Listening | Section A – listening to comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally. Section B – Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list. | External Examination 25% |
| Paper 2: Speaking | 7–9 minutes A role-play, a photo card to describe, a reading aloud task followed by a short conversation. | Recorded with class teacher but externally assessed 25% |
| Paper 3: Reading | Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally Section B – translation from French into English. | External Examination 25% |
| Paper 4: Writing | Description of a photo + a short grammar task + translation from English into French + structured writing (responding to bullet points) | External Examination 25% |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A-Level French. This qualification is highly regarded by employers; people with a language will earn more and are seldom unemployed. This qualification would be useful in the Trade, Business, Leisure and Tourism industry.

The Option Subjects

GCSE French (Higher)

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

This course consists of three main themes:

1. People and lifestyle
2. Popular culture
3. Communication and the world around us

What skills will I develop?

You will develop the skills to interact with French native speakers both orally and in writing. The aim is to enable you to communicate in everyday situations.

How will I learn?

You will follow this course using realistic, work related contexts and many authentic French documents.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Paper 1: Listening | Section A – listening to comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally. Section B – Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list. | External Examination 25% |
| Paper 2: Speaking | 10–12 minutes A role-play, a photo card to describe, a reading aloud task followed by a short conversation. | Recorded with class teacher but externally assessed 25% |
| Paper 3: Reading | Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally Section B – translation from French into English. | External Examination 25% |
| Paper 4: Writing | 1 hour 15 minutes Translation from English into French + structured writing (responding to bullet points) | External Examination 25% |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A-Level French. This qualification is highly regarded by employers; people with a language will earn more and are seldom unemployed. This qualification would be useful in the Trade, Business, Leisure and Tourism industry.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Geography

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

You will investigate many different aspects of our world. This will include extreme environments, your role as a global citizen, how our world is changing from a human and physical perspective as well as how other countries differ from the UK.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop information processing skills and methods of investigation for use within the classroom and in a practical fieldwork setting. You will develop an understanding of analysis as you will be expected to explain how different processes link together. A number of traditional geographical skills will be developed including source interpretation and analysis, map skills, data collection, evaluation and the use of visual information.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a series of focused case studies to develop detailed knowledge and understanding. There will be an element of independent learning, including field skills where you will put learning and theory into practice. You will also develop skills in geographic information systems. During the course you will be supported to develop the skills you need to be successful.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|--|---|
| Unit 1: The Physical Environment | Written Exam: 1 hour 30 min 37.5% |
| Unit 2: The Human Environment | Written Exam: 1 hour 30 min Exam 37.5% |
| Unit 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges | Written Exam: 1 hour 30 min 25% |

Where might this lead?

Geography is a desirable subject by many employers as it teaches and enables you to develop a wide variety of skills. Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Geography, Sociology and Psychology. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as working within the Armed forces, Environment Agency, Surveyor, Town planner, Travel Agent, Climatologist, Meteorologist, Teacher/Academic, Developing digital mapping, Police, Criminal mapping. The list of potential jobs is endless and the skills you learn studying Geography will last a lifetime and be useful in your chosen career.

The Option Subjects

GCSE History

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

The first unit you will investigate is crime and punishment, this is a fantastically topical investigation which focuses on how crime and punishment evolved over time. For Paper 2 there are two topics. Early Elizabethan England and American West. Last, but not least, we will be looking at USA conflict at home and abroad.

What skills will I develop?

- Critical reasoning and analytical skills, including problem solving and thinking creatively
- Independent learning skills - including doing your own research
- Ability to construct an argument and communicate clearly, both verbally and written

How will I learn?

Lessons will be delivered through a variety of methods. These range from role-play, group work to verbal and visual presentations. You will be given support and practical advice on how to write essays and how to approach exam questions successfully.

How will my work be assessed?

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Paper 1: Crime and Punishment | A thematic study and an historic environment | External Exam 30% |
| Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 & The American West, C1835-1895 | A British depth study & A period study | External Exam 40% |
| Paper 3: USA: conflict at home and abroad | A modern depth study | Written Exam: 1 hour 30 min 25% |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level History, Psychology, Sociology, Media or Business Studies. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as archaeology, accountancy, heritage site manager, engineering, curator, journalist, law/police force, politics, business, media or teaching. In fact, the list is endless; the skills you learn studying history are useful for just about any career you can think of.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Music

Examination Board: OCR

What will I learn?

Students examine musical skills and techniques. They will develop musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance.

What skills will I develop?

The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production and their personal skills, such as self-development, planning and time management through a knowledge and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

How will I learn?

Lessons will be delivered through a variety of methods. These range from independent work, group work to verbal and visual presentations. You will be given support and practical advice on how to approach exam questions successfully.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|--|---|
| Unit 1: Performance on the learners chosen instrument. Composition to a brief set by the learner | Integrated portfolio 60 marks 30% |
| Unit 2: Ensemble Performance Composition to an OCR set brief | Practical component 60 marks 30% |
| Listening and appraising: A written paper with audio recording. Aural recognition and context unheard/unfamiliar music from within the areas of study 2, 3, 4, and 5. | Listening and appraising 80 marks 40% |

Where might this lead?

Study of A level Music which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the music sector.

The Option Subjects

BTEC Level 2 Award: First Certificate in Sport

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

Students will develop an understanding of the fitness requirements integral to sports performances, how these components are tested and the methods of training to improve fitness and performance. They will also improve their practical expertise in a variety of sports and analyse theirs and others' performances

What skills will I develop?

IT skills will be improved as all assignments are completed on the computer. Furthermore, students will develop their leadership skills by planning and delivering a sports session to younger students.

How will I learn?

You will be asked to prepare written reports and leaflets, complete practical assessments, use analysis systems to assess others and lead activity sessions. You will be working in small groups and individually to complete tasks which are compiled to produce an overall portfolio of your work.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|---|--|
| Externally Examined Unit | Fitness for Sport and Exercise |
| Internally assessed units through completion of assignments | Unit 2 – Practical Sport (performance and knowledge in 2 chosen sports) Unit 3 – Applying the Principles of Personal Training |
| Optional Units | Unit 4 – The Mind and Sport performance Unit 5 – Leading Sports Activities (planning, organising and running sports sessions) Unit 6 – Training for Personal Fitness |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as Level 3 Sport.

PE lends itself effectively to career development in a range of fields including sports coaching/teaching, psychology, physiotherapy, medicine, sociology and personal training.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Photography

Examination Board: Edexcel

What will I learn?

The GCSE course covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a personal portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment.

What skills will I develop?

You will have the opportunity to specialise in one discipline of your preference after being introduced to many processes and approaches through workshops. All workshops will explicitly or subtly develop you to become the photographer you wish to be.

How will I learn?

Lessons will be delivered through a variety of methods. These range from independent work, group work to verbal and visual presentations. You will be given support and practical advice on how to approach exam questions successfully.

How will my work be assessed?

| | |
|--|--|
| Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Photography | Internally set and marked; assessed through controlled assessment. 60% of overall mark |
| Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment in Photography | Theme set by Pearson and internally marked. 40% of overall mark |
| Each unit is assessed separately out of 72 marks, is standardised by the Art department and then moderated by a representative from the exam board at the end of the course. | |

Where might this lead?

This may compliment your applications to take apprenticeships or other courses, in local design offices, graphics companies and retail, web, design and other practical based careers.

The Option Subjects

GCSE Religious Studies

Examination Board: AQA

What will I learn?

Students examine a number of the core beliefs held by Christians including those about the nature of God; the person of Jesus; creation; salvation; and the problem of evil. They will explore the impact these beliefs have on Christians through exploring practices such as worship; pilgrimage and celebrations and the role of the Church in the modern world. Students will also learn Muslim teachings, beliefs and practices. Topics considered will include beliefs about the nature of Allah; prophethood; books; angels and life after death. The five pillars of Islam, Muslim festivals and public and private acts of worship will also be explored.

What skills will I develop?

Students do not need to be religious to succeed in and enjoy Religious Studies at GCSE, but should enjoy examining their own views and those of others; analysing and interpreting religious beliefs and practices and evaluating different philosophical and ethical arguments.

How will I learn?

Students will learn through key concepts of Christianity and Islam in order to develop knowledge and understanding of the basis of teachings, beliefs and practices of both Religions and where available external speakers are utilised to give students first-hand experience of faith in the modern world.

How will my work be assessed?

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| <p>Section A: The study of religions: beliefs and teachings Students should study two of the following: Christianity Islam Judaism Buddhism</p> | <p>How it's assessed Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) 100% of GCSE Short course</p> |
| <p>Section B: Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies Students should study both Theme A: Relationships and families and Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict.</p> | |

Where might this lead?

You could follow into an A Level Philosophy, Ethics & Theology (Religious Studies). With a qualification in Religious Studies students could go on to Higher Education, at college or university. Skills developed in this subject including interpersonal skills, communication and evaluation, are valuable in a wide variety of careers including law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration, public services, the media and many more.

The Option Subjects

'Triple Science' GCSE's Separate Sciences (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics)

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What will I learn?

You will learn how to develop practical skills through investigation work followed by standard procedures. You will learn about the importance of Science to society through the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will continue to learn how Science helps us to understand the world around us.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to handle equipment, measure and record, research and select information. You will work in groups, following directions and will also focus on key skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT.

How will I learn?

You will learn through teacher-led activities, self-directed activities, research, discussions, hands-on practical work and by working collaboratively in small groups.

How will my work be assessed?

| | Types of Questions Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response. | How's it assessed? |
|------------------|---|--|
| Biology | Biology Paper 1: Biology topics 1-4 Biology Paper 2: Biology topics 5-7 | 2 x 1 hour 45 min exam F and H Tier |
| Chemistry | Chemistry Paper 1: Chemistry topics 1-5 Chemistry Paper 2: Chemistry topics 6-10 | 2 x 1 hour 45 min exam F and H Tier |
| Physics | Physics Paper 1: Physics Topics 1-4 Physics Paper 2: Physics Topics 5-8 | 2 x 1 hour 45 min exam F and H Tier |

Where might this lead?

Studying this course can lead to further areas of study such as A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics, BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science. Sixth Form study can lead to a University course to study for a science degree, or will enable you to apply for apprenticeship positions in the STEM industries. This qualification is also useful if considering employment such as a Pharmacist, Researcher, Forensic Scientist, Hairdresser, Chef, Engineer, Healthcare or the Police.