



Royal Greenwich
Trust School

YEAR 9 PATHWAYS 2023-2024

A guide for students and parents/carers



Introduction

Dear Student,

This year is an important year for you in your career here at RGTS. There are important decisions to be made by you and your parents/carers before you begin your journey into Key Stage 4 in September 2024.

The next two school years are a very important part of your education. This booklet is designed to help you to choose the courses you will study in Years 10 and 11 and support you in making the right choices for you in order to achieve the best possible results in all of your subjects by the end of Key Stage 4. Please read the booklet very carefully.

There are many people you can ask to help you with this, including your parents/carers and teachers. This booklet contains information to help you to learn more about the different subjects on offer and the different pathways that you may wish to take.

By making the right decisions now, it will ensure that you enjoy your time with us and achieve the best results you can. Your success in Year 11 will pave the way for the next steps in your education at the age of 16, whether that is to continue on in education here at RGTS or pursue further education, employment or training elsewhere.

At RGTS, we want you grow into successful, healthy and happy individuals. We hope that you leave school with the qualifications, skills and experiences needed to help you realise your future ambitions, whatever they may be.

The Timeline

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 25th January	Year 9 Pathways Information Evening 5:30-7:00pm
Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th January	Year 9 Taster Day
Thursday 1st February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Monday 5th February	Year 9 Straw Poll
Friday 19th April	Pathways Preference Form deadline



Points to consider in creating your pathway:

- What do you want to do after GCSEs?
If you are planning to take A levels and then go to university, following one of the EBacc pathways is your best choice. It keeps all your options open and develops the skills that you need for further academic study. Top universities will most likely expect you to have at a language and a humanities GCSE.
- Select subjects that you enjoy studying– you are going to be spending a lot of time on them over the next 2 years!
- Focus on subjects that you are good at – you want the best grades that you can achieve.
- Do not be swayed by what your friends are doing or who you think may be teaching a subject – now is the time to start being a strong individual. This is your life and you need to shape it in the best way for you.

The Timeline: Students

DATE	EVENT	WHAT TO EXPECT
Monday 15th January	Pathways Introduction Assembly	Students are introduced to the pathways process.
Monday 15th January to 26th January	Future's Fortnight	There will be a number of workshops outlining some further information and guidance to support students in making their choices.
Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th January	Taster Sessions	Students will get the opportunity to experience mini-taster lessons in subjects that they have not studied before.
Thursday 1st February	Year 9 Parents' Evening	An academic parents' evening that will allow an opportunity for parents and students to speak with subject teachers about the performance of their child in this subject area and further guidance on
Thursday 25th January	Year 9 Pathways Information Evening	Students and families are introduced to the RGTS curriculum offer as well as information about the pathways process and what support is available
Commencing Monday 5th March	Year 9 1 to 1 Guidance Interviews	Each student and their parent will get the opportunity to have a 1 to 1 meeting with a member of RGTS staff to explore what they would like to submit for their year 9 pathways preferences.

Please note that the deadline for all students to submit their pathways choices will be on Friday 19th April. We endeavour to let students know what their final pathways will be in the Summer term, once the timetable for 2024/2025 has been constructed.

The Curriculum

This is how the Key Stage 4 curriculum is constructed :

All students will study the subjects shown in the coloured boxes below. The subjects which go into the grey boxes will come from the preferences you make as part of this pathways process.

Maths	English	Science	Core PE	Core RE	Character Development and Study Skills	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
4 lessons	5 lessons	5 lessons	2 lessons	1 lesson	1 lesson	4 lessons	4 lessons	4 lessons

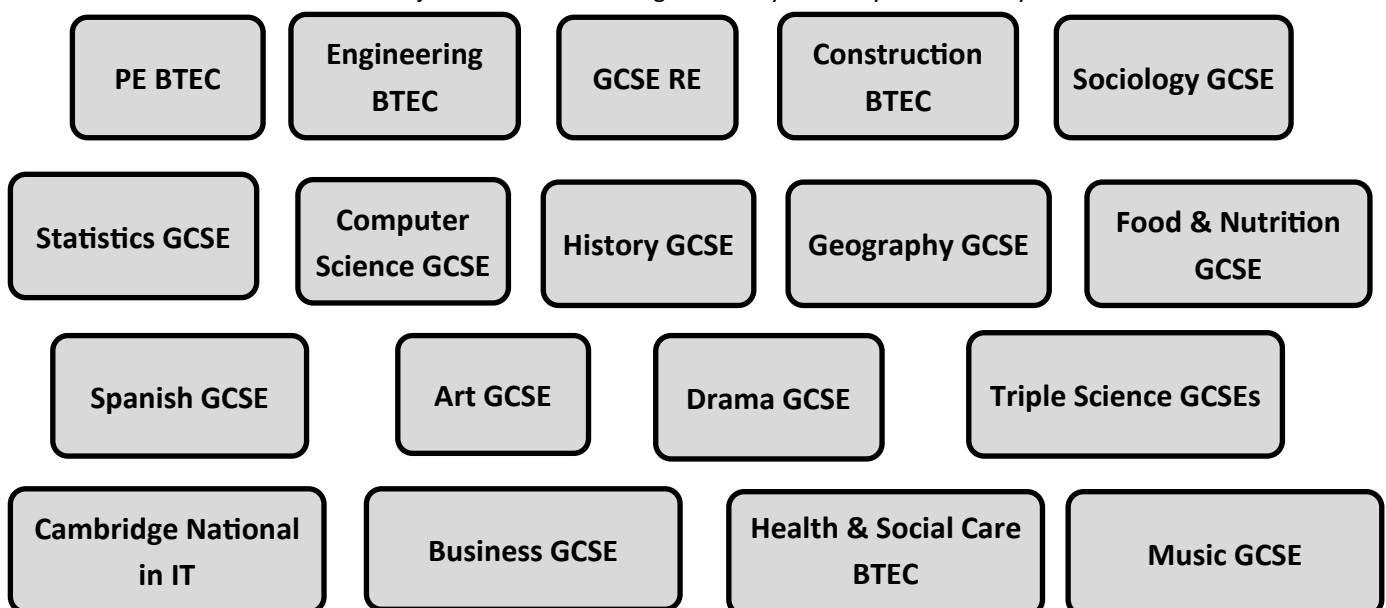
Choosing your pathway

On the pathways form, you will first indicate whether or not you wish to study the EBacc suite of subjects or follow a blended pathway. So what is the difference? First it is important to emphasise that no matter which route you choose you will study all of the subjects in the coloured boxes above.

EBacc Suite —this means you will study Spanish (option 1) and either Geography or History (option 2) as well as one other additional subject from your preferred subject list. You will also make a decision about whether you want to study science as a combined course worth two GCSEs or as three separate sciences (triple science) each worth one GCSE. If you choose triple science, this will take up the third option block.

Blended Pathway—this means you will study three subjects from your preferred subject list but you do not have to study a language or a humanities subject. You will also make a decision about whether you want to study science as a combined course worth two GCSEs or as three separate sciences (triple science) each worth one GCSE. If you choose triple science, this will take up the third option block.

In the chart below are all of the subjects available to select your preferred subjects from. The rest of this booklet contains information about each of those subjects so read it through carefully before you make any decisions as there are some



Pathways

What is a Pathway?

Your Pathway is the programme of study that you choose to undertake in Key Stage 4. Whilst there is no specific pathway that any one student should take, there is the collection of subjects that grouped together are known as the **English Baccalaureate**. This is where you study your core subjects (English, Maths, Science), a humanities subject (Geography, History or RE) and a language (Spanish). The government recommend this as a balanced curriculum that will leave your options open for A levels, university and careers.

GCSE Gradings

In 2017, the GCSE grading system was redesigned, changing grades from letters to numbers. GCSE grades A*-G have been replaced by a new grade scale numbered from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. The new GCSEs are 'linear', which means they are exam focused and that all those exams come at the end of the course. As the infographic below reveals, there is no direct read-across from the old to the new grades. The government's definition of a 'good pass' will be set at grade 5 for the reformed GCSEs.

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

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

What is a GCSE?

The General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE) is the standard national qualification for school leavers at 16. Since 2017, they have undergone a significant overhaul across all subjects to make them more academically rigorous. The new model of GCSEs are predominantly linear, meaning students sit final exams after two years of study and are limited in their coursework requirements. Students study the syllabus for 2 years before sitting their final exams in the Summer of Year 11. GCSEs remain the main qualification that students leave school with at 16 and are accepted at all colleges, universities and employers.

What is a BTEC?

Business and Technology Education Council qualifications or BTECs are practice and work-related qualifications that are suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory. BTECs give students the

skills they need to either move on to higher education or go straight into employment. BTECs can be taken as well as, or in place of, GCSEs and A levels and alongside Diplomas. They are valued by colleges, universities, employers and professional bodies across the United Kingdom and recognised throughout internationally.

What is a Cambridge National?

A Cambridge National is a vocational qualification that is designed for 14-16 year olds. They provide an excellent foundation for progression to Cambridge Technicals and other Level 3 vocational qualifications as well as A Levels and apprenticeships.

GCSE English Language

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

Studying GCSE English Language will help you to read and write fluently and accurately so that you can use language in a more sophisticated way to communicate your ideas and understand those of others.

Through studying a range of non-fiction and fiction texts such as newspaper articles, letters, biographies and extracts from literary works, you will learn how to use English in a variety of real life situations and draw upon your own .



COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exam at the end of Year 11.

All students will sit the same exam. (AQA spec)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

(written exam – 50%) 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

(written exam – 50%) 1 hr 45 mins

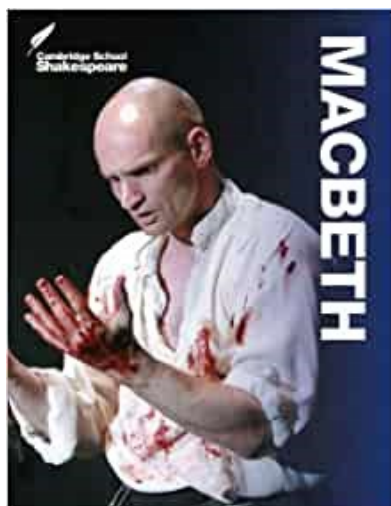
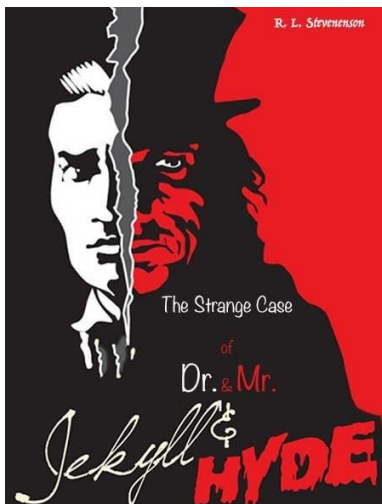
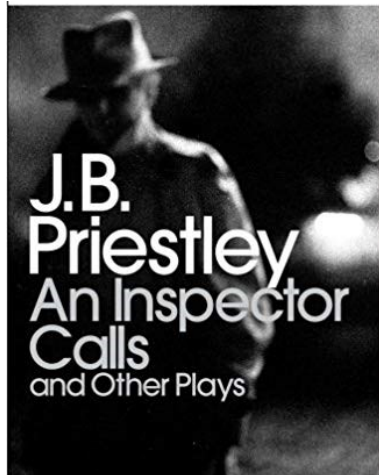
Spoken Language Endorsement:

(in-school recording, graded separately to the 2 external examination elements)

GCSE English Literature

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

GCSE English Literature will give you the opportunity to study classic literature, contemporary novels, plays and poetry. Not only will you learn how the English language can be used for expressive and dramatic effect, but you will also explore the world from a range of perspectives, through different times and cultures.



COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exam at the end of Year 11. All students will sit the same exam. All exams are closed text, which means students will not have a copy of the text with them in the exam.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth-Century Novel (written exam – 40%) 1hr 45 mins

Section A – Shakespeare (Macbeth)

Students will answer one question on Macbeth. They will be required to write about an extract from the play and link it to the text as a whole.

Section B The Nineteenth-Century novel (Jekyll and Hyde)

Students will answer one question on Jekyll and Hyde. They will be required to write about an extract from the novel and link it to the text as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (written exam – 60%) 2hrs 15 mins

Section A – Modern texts (An Inspector Calls)

Students will answer one essay question on An Inspector Calls.

Section B – Poetry (Power and Conflict cluster)

Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the Power and Conflict cluster.

Section C – Unseen Poetry

Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

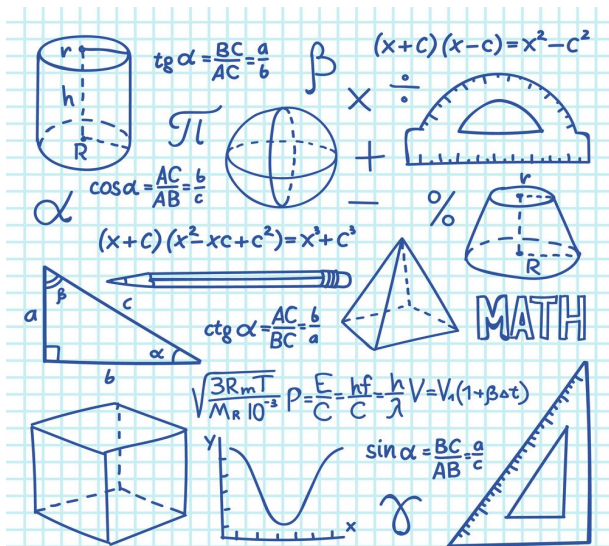
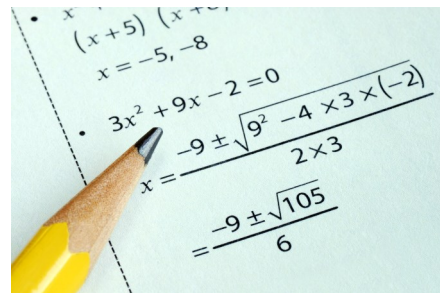
GCSE Mathematics

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

This course will teach you a wide range of mathematical skills and knowledge. Whilst studying the GCSE you will acquire and use problem-solving strategies, select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations as well as reason mathematically to make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. The GCSE also teaches you to interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

The content of the GCSE Maths course is divided into six strands. Topic areas covered are:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry & Measures
- Statistics
- Probability
- Ratio, Proportions and Rates of Change



COURSE OUTLINE

Mathematics GCSE qualification has two tiers: Higher and Foundation

Assessment For both tiers, students will sit 3 exam papers:

- **Paper 1 (Non – Calculator)** 33.3%
- **Paper 2 (Calculator)** 33.3%
- **Paper 3 (Calculator)** 33.3%

Your progress throughout Year 10 and Year 11 will be used to determine the tier for which you should be entered.

GCSE Statistics

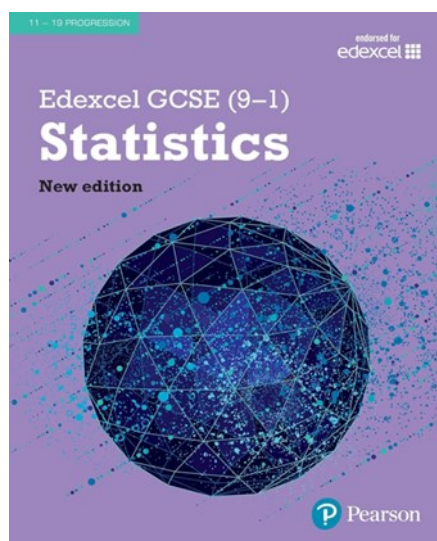
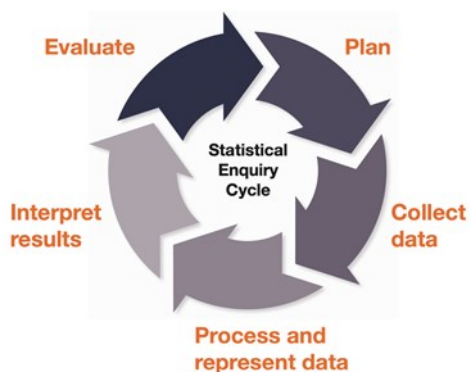
Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of Mathematics, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data. Many jobs and subjects studied beyond GCSE involve the use of data and statistics. Artificial Intelligence, Data Science and Big Data are becoming an integral part of our working lives, and the study and application of Data and Statistics will give students an advantage in understanding and working with these new technologies.

Whilst a separate qualification, there are overlapping topics covered within the GCSE Mathematics course, enabling students to gain an advantage when taking both examinations; there is a strong correlation between studying GCSE Statistics and improved grade outcomes in Mathematics. Statistics also complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers.

Our **Edexcel GCSE (9–1) Statistics** qualification consists of two externally examined papers at each tier. Students must complete all assessments at the same tier in May/June in any single year, and students can be entered for either Foundation tier or Higher tier.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 are equal in time, weighting and assessment objectives	
Written examination. 🕒 1hr 30mins ⚖️ 50% of the qualification (80 marks)	
Both papers focus on the same content and assessment objectives	
Range of content	Assessment overview
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The collection of data. 2. Processing, representing and analysing data. 3. Probability. 	<p>The papers contain short, medium and extended response questions.</p> <p>Questions cover statistical methods, familiar and unfamiliar contexts and the component parts of the statistical enquiry cycle.</p> <p>Calculators may be used in both examinations.</p>

Based on the principles of the statistical enquiry cycle, students gain a rounded understanding of how to interpret and apply data to a number of scenarios, both across subjects and in the real world.



GCSE Combined Science

This is a core subject so you don't need to select it as a preference

The skills, knowledge and understanding that you will acquire throughout this course will help you to appreciate how science works and its essential role in the wider world. Most students will study GCSE combined Science which will count as two GCSEs. You will learn about the world around you gaining scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. You will develop a critical approach to



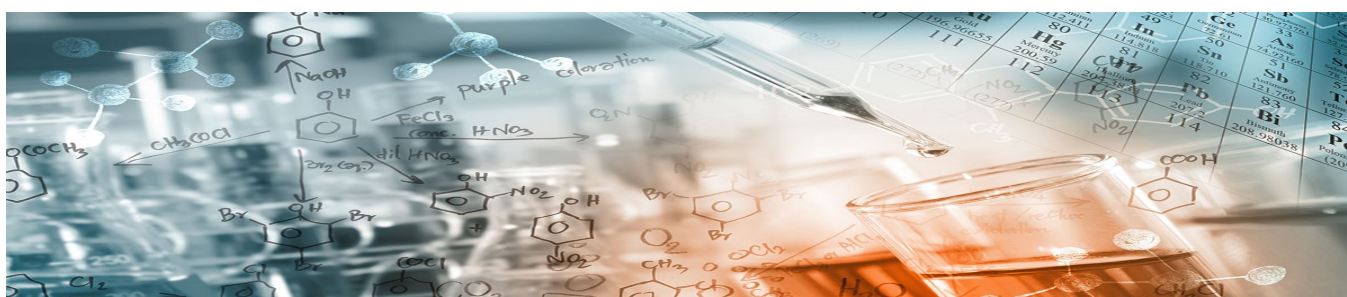
COURSE OUTLINE

For the Combined Science course you will sit a total of six exams, each one being 1 hour 15 minutes long. Each paper is out of 70 and is worth 16.7% of your GCSE. You will sit two papers for each science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Paper 1	Paper 1	Paper 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell Biology• Organisation• Infection and response• Bioenergetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure and the periodic table• Bonding structure and properties of matter• Quantitative Chemistry• Chemical Changes• Energy Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Electricity• Particles model of matter• Atomic Structure
Paper 2	Paper 2	Paper 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homeostasis and response• Inheritance• Variation and Evolution• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The rate and extent of chemical change• Organic Chemistry• Chemical analysis• Chemistry of the atmosphere• Using the Earth's Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces• Waves• Magnetism and electromagnetism

GCSE Triple Science - Biology, Chemistry & Physics

Studying Triple Science results in students gaining three separate Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These separate Sciences are suitable for those who enjoy the hard work and practical activities involved in the study of Science. Studying separate Sciences at GCSE allows students to unpick how the world around them works and consider how advances in Science have led to some incredible breakthroughs. The implications and impact on our world of scientific advances will also be studied. Three Science GCSEs can open the door to many career opportunities. Assessment is by examination at the end of Year 11.



COURSE OUTLINE

There are two 1 hour 45 minute papers for each of the three science subjects, each covers specified topics and is worth 50% of the GCSE in that subject.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Paper 1	Paper 1	Paper 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell Biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding structure and properties of matter • Quantitative Chemistry • Chemical Changes • Energy Changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy • Electricity • Particles model of matter • Atomic Structure
Paper 2	Paper 2	Paper 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance • Variation and Evolution • Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic Chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using the Earth's Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces • Waves • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Space

GCSE Geography

This GCSE qualification enables you to explore the world, the issues we face and our place in them, and to help prepare you to succeed in any future chosen pathway. To be successful in this GCSE qualification, you will need to have an interest in current world events, have strong literacy skills coupled with a thirst for geographical facts and have developed analytical skills. You will need to write in detail whilst showing an understanding of key global and local case studies covering all topics.



COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues (written examination)

1 hour and 30 minutes *37.5% of the qualification*

Content: Hazardous Earth, Development dynamics and Challenges of an urbanising world.

Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues (written examination) 1 hour and 30 minutes *37.5% of the qualification*

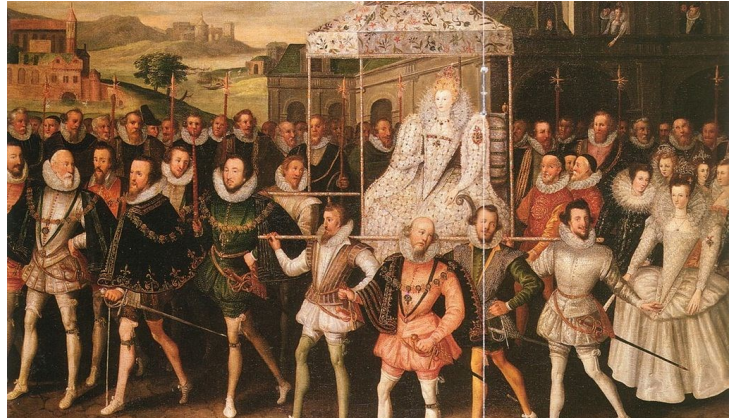
Content: The UK's evolving physical landscape (coastal change and conflict and river processes and pressures), The UK's evolving human landscape (Dynamic Urban areas and changing rural areas) and geographical investigations (including one physical fieldwork – coasts - and one human fieldwork investigations – urban study).

Unit 3: People and Environment Issues - Making Geographical Decisions (written examination) 1 hour 30 minutes *25% of the qualification*

Content: 'People and the Biosphere', 'Forests Under Threat' and 'Consuming Energy Resources'.

GCSE History

In GCSE History, you will acquire the skills and knowledge to engage with and understand a fast changing world. This GCSE qualification will engage you with a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world and give you skills that will support progression to further study of history as well as a wide range of other subjects. To be successful in this GCSE qualification you need to have an interest in historical events, have strong literacy skills and have developed reading skills.



COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000-present Thematic study and historic environment
30% of the qualification.

Unit 2: Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 British depth study *20% of the qualification.*

Unit 3: Weimer and Nazi Germany 1918-39 Modern depth study *30% of the qualification*

Unit 4: Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91 Period study *20% of the qualification*

GCSE Religious Studies

In GCSE Religious Studies you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions, investigate religious texts and explore different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and themes, and their impact and influence in the modern world. You will examine a range of areas including authority of scripture, key beliefs, forms of religious expression, diversity within and between Christianity and Islam; and the place of these religions in the 21st century in the context of human relationships, science, conflict and social justice.



GCSE Religious Studies is a perfect choice for anyone who is interested in people's beliefs and values; is fascinated by the nature and impact of religion; and willing to develop critical thinking. You will need to be open minded, willing to engage in debate, and be aware that others may think differently from you. You must be ready to challenge ideas, while respecting and valuing the views of others. You will reflect on, and formulate your own beliefs and values on issues like abortion, the death penalty, science and religion.



RE can lead into direct degree options such as Religious Studies, Philosophy and Theology. However, many people go on to careers in Politics, Law, Medicine, Journalism, Media, Public Services, education but the options are limitless. Universities and the working world value Religious studies as it teaches about how human belief can shape our lives.

COURSE OUTLINE

Paper 1: Study of Religions (written examination) 1 hour and 45 minutes *50% of the qualification*

Content: This paper looks at two religions in depth; Christianity: Beliefs and practices; Islam: Beliefs and practices

Paper 2: Thematic Studies (written examination) 1 hour and 45 minutes *50% of the qualification*

Content: There are 4 topics in this paper which apply both religions to themes: Religion, War and Conflict; Human Relationships; Religion, Crime and Punishment; Religion and life.

GCSE Spanish

Modern Foreign Languages are increasingly important for today's young people. As an integral part of the English Baccalaureate, a GCSE in Spanish will equip you with a skill that can be utilised in countless careers. Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world with over 400 million speakers worldwide. Students with an additional language have a huge range of opportunities open to them and will be well placed in competing for the best university courses. The aim of our Spanish department is to develop competence in oral and written communication, so that you become confident in dealing with a range of authentic listening and reading material and gain a sound working knowledge of basic grammatical structures. You will also learn a huge amount about English through your study of Spanish, as well as gaining an insight into the cultures of Spanish speaking countries. Learning a language happens most effectively where regular exposure takes place and our staff use Spanish for much of the teaching.

COURSE OUTLINE

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Assessments GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9).

Students must take all four question papers at the same tier

Paper 1: Listening (25% of GCSE) Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language. Assessed through a written exam; 35 minutes (Foundation Tier) 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 2: Speaking (25% of GCSE) Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes. The format is the same for both Foundation and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus. Students will have to take part in a role-play (15 marks), a photo card activity (15 marks) and a general conversation (30 marks). Students will speak for 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) and 10 – 12 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading (25% of GCSE) Understanding and responding to different types of written language, including a translation from the target language into English. Assessed through a written exam; 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 60 minutes (Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing (25% of GCSE) Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.



GCSE Drama

If you opt for drama you will have the opportunity to be creative and expressive. Your communication skills will be developed and this will enable you to become more articulate in your speech. You will also hone the skills needed to work co-operatively as part of a team. By the end of the course your confidence will have grown and every successful doctor, lawyer and accountant needs confidence! But, it is not all about performing. There is a written component for the drama course, which is similar to GCSE English Literature, so be prepared to work with the same level of focus and commitment.



COURSE OUTLINE

In drama your practical and written skills will be assessed.

Component One - Understanding Drama

You will have a written examination which is based on a set play and a live theatre production, and is worth 40% of the final mark.

Component Two - Devising Drama

This assessment is both practical and written, you will be required to write a 2500 word devising log about the creative process. This component is worth 40% of the final mark.

Component Three - Texts in Practice

This a practical exam and you will be assessed on your ability to stage and perform extracts from a set play. This component is worth 20% of the final mark.

GCSE Business

Business is everywhere and by studying this subject, you will be able to invest in your future. GCSE Business will enable you to apply your knowledge to contemporary issues and to different types and sizes of businesses. You will gain a solid understanding of the main areas within a business like examining a business' financial position or thinking about the decisions a business can take when they are marketing a new product as well as analysing how global events can affect businesses.

How will it help me with my future?

As a business student, you will be valued for your ability to think commercially and creatively. The world of work will appreciate your business acumen your ability to draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems. GCSE Business is an excellent platform for those considering to enter the world of business management, financial services or law however as discussed earlier, the skills and knowledge you gain can be applied to other career pathways. This subject is also perfect for those thinking about starting their own businesses as well.



COURSE OUTLINE

Unit 1: Investigating Small Business (written exam – 50%)

Unit 2: Building a Business (written exam – 50%)

Please note there is no COURSE WORK.

Cambridge National in Information Technologies Level 1 / Level 2 IT

J836

Cambridge National in Information Technologies will improve your knowledge of the digital environment and your confidence with IT.

This qualification is suitable for students who want to progress onto other related study, such as vocational qualifications in Information Technology, A Levels, T Levels and apprenticeships.

Course Outline

Unit R050: IT in the Digital World (Exam)

Unit R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets (Coursework)

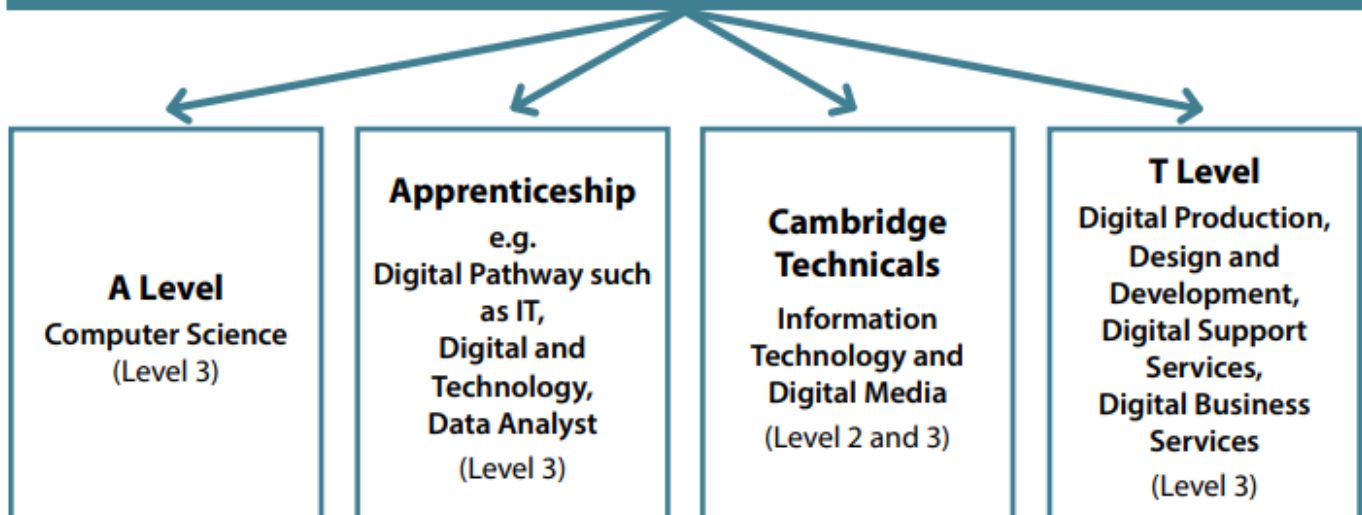
Unit R070: Using Augmented Reality to Present Information (Coursework)



ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals



Cambridge National in IT (Level 1/Level 2)



GCSE Computer Science

This course will encourage you to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.



COURSE OUTLINE

This course is 100% exam at the end of Year 11. All students will sit the same exam.

Paper 1: Computer System

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of total GCSE

80 marks

This paper consists of multiple choice ques-



Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes

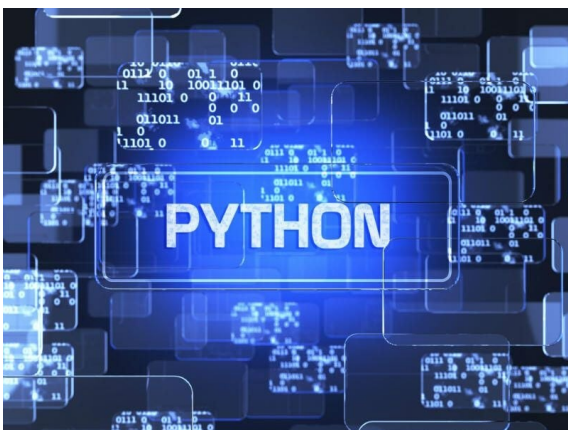
50% of total GCSE

80 marks

This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B.

In section A, Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in paper 1

In Section B, questions assessing students'



BTEC TECH AWARD SPORT (Equivalent to a Level 2)

If you enjoy PE and are interested in challenging yourself to study the subject at a more advanced level, then this is the course for you! As you would expect, there is a strong practical element where you will have the opportunity to develop your sporting and fitness skills. There is also a significant theoretical component where you will extend your knowledge and understanding of physical education and physical activity in relation analysing sporting performance, barriers to sport participation , coaching and leading sports activities .

This is a level 2 qualification (Equivalent to 1 GCSE). It provides students with a route to carry on with studying sport at Level 3 which is A Level study. The opportunities then become enormous, students can continue their journey in sport in ways such as; sports therapy, sports coaching, sports analysis or even a PE teacher!



COURSE OUTLINE

The course is split into 3 components:

Component 1—Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (split into 4 tasks, which is internally assessed 30%).

Component 2—Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (split into 4 tasks which is internally assessed 30%).

Component 3—Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (externally assessed, exam format 40%).

GCSE Sociology

Sociology is a chance to study a brand new subject, broadening your horizons and introducing you to different ways of thinking.

Sociology offers a different perspective from what you have studied

so far, helping you to develop the skills to look at the world in a critical sense and develop ideas to change and improve our society.

You will study four units, built upon a foundation of knowledge of **Sociological Theory and Methods**. You will learn about **Crime and Deviance**; the factors within society that lead people to crime and how we can control it. You will compare different **theoretical perspectives** on criminal explanations and argue their case, investigating the underreported crimes and the impact on our communities. *You will learn to develop a critical argument, bringing in both sides to reach a conclusion.*

You will also study the functions of **Education**, and what it brings to our society. We will investigate questions such as: why do girls achieve better than boys? What impact does poverty have on academic achievement? How can school culture affect our futures? *You will choose appropriate research methods to investigate key areas of Sociology, making ethical decisions and further your research understanding.*

We will investigate the role of the **Family** in society and how it has changed over the years, the changing rates of marriage and divorce and what families do that enhance or limit our opportunities to succeed. *Within this, you will learn key skills such as essay writing and interpreting sources of information to enhance your written work.*

The final module of study is **Social Stratification**, investigating different factors within society that affect our life chances such as gender, race and ethnicity. This module will give you a rounded understanding of the way our society function, expanding your understanding of the functions of different societies, comparing Capitalism to Communism and beyond.

Sociology builds key skills that can be applied to many different A levels, Level 3 study and beyond. Many people who study Sociology at GCSE go on to careers in Politics, Law, Journalism, Media, Public Services, Research and Health and Social Care, but the options are limitless. Universities and the working world value Sociology as it teaches about the running and functioning of society and the importance of key institutions within it.



COURSE OUTLINE — AQA GCSE Sociology

Two years of study with two final exams in the Summer of the second year of study

Modules include: Sociological Theory, Research Methods, Social Stratification, Family, Education and Crime & Deviance.

Paper 1: The Sociology of Family, Education, Social Theory and Methodology

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE grade

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance, Social Stratification, Social Theory and Methodology

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of GCSE grade

BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care

Health and Social Care is best suited to students who want to work with people in a helping capacity, be that children, elderly people, people with disabilities or any other group with additional needs. It is a hands on subject with learning that is directly relevant to your life at many different stages. Health and Social Care will help you to develop skills that are useful for your academic studies and more practical learning that you can take into your life and future careers.

BTEC subjects are mostly based on assessed tasks that are completed at the end of each period of study and will spread the pressure of GCSE study over time. This gives students many opportunities to showcase their knowledge and build up a strong foundation before sitting an externally assessed task. You will cover a range of units that look at the **human development** and factors that may impact on development from birth to death. You will gain a greater understanding of **health and social care services and values** and the provision that supports people with a range of needs in our communities, with the potential to use those skills in practical engagements with service users. Finally you will learn about physical and mental **health and wellbeing** and how to improve it. This is the exam unit which will also draw on the knowledge you have gained in the previous two units. This will act as a taste of the many careers where you can use Health and Social Care, such as nursing & midwifery, childcare, care assistance, speech and language therapy, disability support, social work and many more.



COURSE OUTLINE

Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care—Level 2

Three components studied over two years:

Component 1—Human Lifespan Development (30%)

Internally assessed task, externally moderated

Component 2— Health and Social Care Values and Services (30%)

Internally assessed task, externally moderated

Component 3—Health and Wellbeing (40%)

Externally assessed synoptic exam, 2 hours & 60 marks

GCSE Art

In this course you will study drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and various sculpture techniques. You will also learn about artists from other times and cultures through visiting galleries and museums in London. You will learn to work with a wide variety of media, developing your techniques. This course, therefore, is an excellent base for students wishing to pursue a career in art or design-based industries. These could include gallery/museum management, architecture, fashion, advertising, animation, games designer, photo journalism, 3-D industry, illustration, printer, studio painter. Much of the work you do in this course will already be familiar to you as it leads on (at a much higher level) from the work you completed in KS3.



COURSE OUTLINE

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (coursework – 60%)

This portfolio contains all your artwork produced during Years 10 to 11. You will be expected to research your work and show evidence of how you have explored your ideas and developed your skills. Your supporting studies are as important as the finished pieces and so your books should be packed! You will be expected to research themes, develop personal ideas and make observations relating to artists that you have studied. Independent research is a key element of this and it is essential that your work is presented to a high standard at all times.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (exam – 40%)

The assignment consists of a broad based thematic starting point set by the exam board. The topic will be given to you in early February of Year 11 and you will have eight weeks of preparation time before a final ten-hour exam. Again, your preparatory material, sketches and research are as important as your final piece of work.

GCSE Food & Nutrition

Food Preparation and Nutrition helps you to understand the physical, chemical, nutritional, biological and sensory properties of foods. The aim of studying GCSE Food is to learn all about food in its widest sense and to help you to develop a wide range of food preparation skills.

Studying Food & Nutrition will give you the opportunity to understand the theoretical knowledge of Food Commodities, Principles of Nutrition, Food Spoilage, Diet and Health, Science of Foods and Food Provenance.



COURSE OUTLINE

Studying GCSE Food & Nutrition you will be assessed on two Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) elements worth 50% of the final grade. The NEA is made up of two distinct tasks.

1. The **Food Investigation task** which is worth 15% of the GCSE grade.
2. The **Food Preparation task** which is worth 35% of the GCSE grade.

The assessments involve carrying out scientific investigation on the functional properties of ingredients, a practical task demonstrating your technical skills by planning, preparing, cooking and presenting three dishes within 3 hours.

3. The **Written Examination Food and Nutrition** is designed to give you the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of nutrition, to apply your knowledge of cooking and food preparation and to analyse different aspects of nutrition, food, cooking.

Section A: This is worth 20 marks. It consists of 20 multiple-choice questions.

Section B: This is worth 80 marks.

Engineering

OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National

This qualification will enable you to learn about the process of engineering design, and understand how it can be used to design effective solutions for a given design brief. You will develop the ability to communicate your design ideas through the use of sketches and engineering drawings and computer aided design. You will also be able to evaluate the design of a product, through the disassembly of existing products or the use of modelling for new designs. These skills will help you progress onto further study in the engineering design and development sector.



You will study the key aspects of engineering design, and have the opportunity to apply what you learn through a number of practical experiences. This will involve you studying three mandatory units:

R038: Principles of engineering design

Designing processes

- o Designing requirements
- o Communicating design outcomes
- o Evaluating design ideas

R039: Communicating designs

- o Manual production of freehand sketches
- o Manual production of engineering drawings
- o Use of computer aided design (CAD)

R040: Design, evaluation and modelling

- o Product evaluation
- o Modelling design ideas



Construction and the Built Environment

Construction, and the study of the construction, is based on the idea of practical problem solving.

For centuries, the construction industry has been at the heart of solving society's problems, and creating innovative solutions to the basic problems we encounter every day.

The construction industry plays the most hands on part in shaping the future of society and the community in which you live.



Course Outline

Course Length: 2 Years

What does the qualification cover?

- The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

There are 3 components

- Construction technology
- Construction in practice
- Construction and design



Futures Fortnight

This term we launched our 'Future's Fortnight' programme. This was a two-week programme of events that aimed to provide our students with a wide range of information and guidance on careers for the future. This was part of our wider, whole school careers education strategy and we hoped to contribute to supporting our year 9 students in realising their future career ambitions. Please find a reminder of the programme below.

	Week 1	Week 2
Monday	Futures Fortnight Launch	Spanish & Art
Tuesday	Maths, Statistics & English Language and Literature	Triple Science & Core Science
Wednesday	Humanities: RE, Geography & History	Social Sciences: Health and Social Care & Sociology
Thursday	Performing Arts: Music and Drama	BEC: Business Studies, IT and Computer Science
Friday	BTEC Sport	Engineering, Construction & Food & Nutrition

The programme involved a series of assemblies, use of external supportive platforms and opportunities for students to reflect, ask questions and investigate careers in more depth.

Reflection

Our students were then asked to fill out their reflection sheets at the end of the programme and we encourage you as parents/carers to review their reflection sheets and use them as a prompt for further conversation about careers and future aspirations at home too.

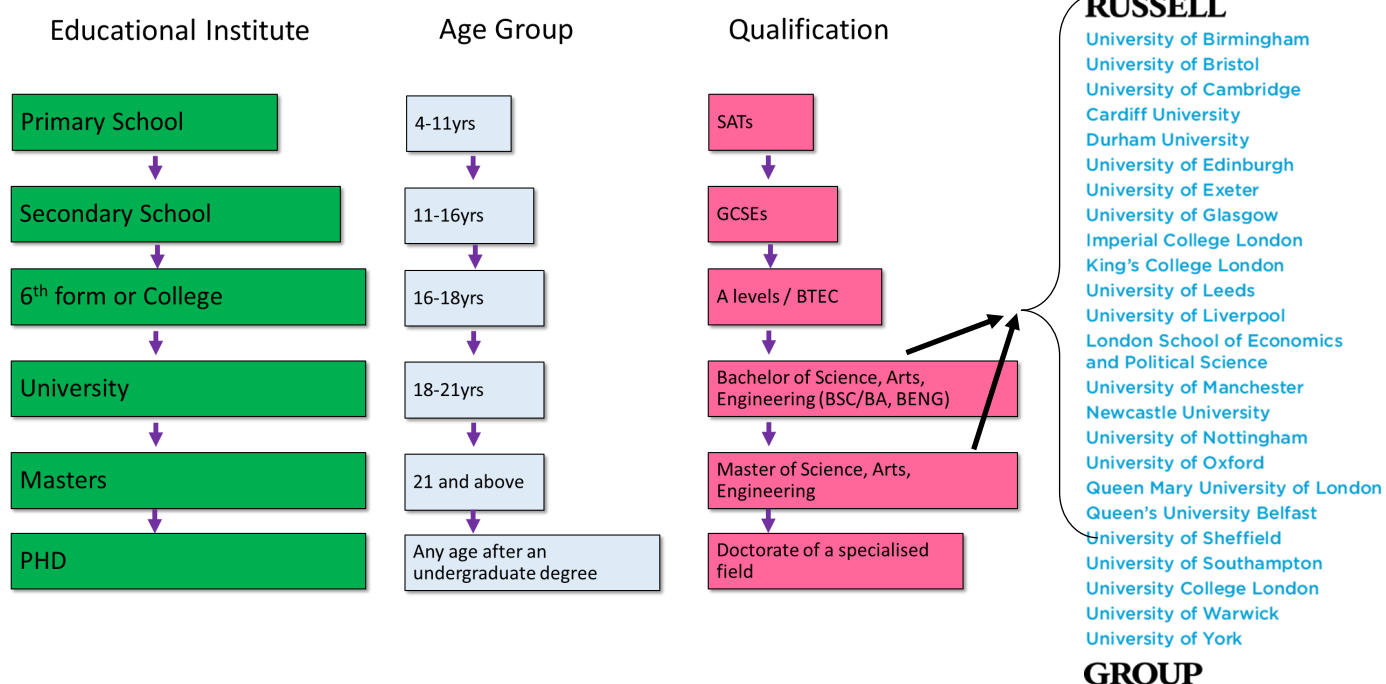


Day/Date	Activity	What did I find interesting?	How has this influenced my career ambitions?
Thursday 26 th November	STEM Alternatives to medicine with Jennifer Spence from 'School'		
Monday 30 th November	Careers in MRI with Mr. Tate		
Tuesday 1 st December	Ask former students - what was your career choice like? Why?		
Wednesday 2 nd December	BEC - career prospects with Mr. Matheson/with Mrs. Clarke		
Thursday 3 rd December	Careers in Tech, Food Tech, IT and Art with Mr. Houston, Mr. Brown and Mr. Brown		
Friday 4 th December	Learn from former Humanities students with Mr. Cooper, Mr. Call and Mr. Callaghan		
Monday 7 th December	Careers in Maths with Mr. Elankannan and Mr. Hagan		
Tuesday 8 th December	Apprenticeships - what are they?		
Wednesday 9 th December	Careers in Performing Arts with Mr. Patten		
Thursday 10 th December	Careers in English with Mr. Carter		
Friday 11 th December	Changing careers - personal experiences		

Destinations

During our tutor time sessions on 'educational journey and careers' we encouraged our students to begin thinking about planning their journey towards their desired careers. Tutors engaged in discussions around well known universities as well as prestigious apprenticeships.

Is your journey academic?



Is your journey skill based?

Many of our students may feel that they are better suited in taking an apprenticeship journey to a chosen career. On an apprenticeship, you're employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification, usually for one day a week either at a college or training centre. By the end of your apprenticeship, you'll hopefully have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in your chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level. What you'll learn depends on the role that you're training for. However, apprentices in every role follow an approved study programme, which means you'll gain a nationally-recognised qualification at the end of your apprenticeship. Please visit the prospects website on www.prospects.ac.uk for more information on apprenticeships.



Participation

In addition to your academic courses, you will also have the opportunity to participate in a range of other activities. These will complement your GCSE courses, offering you new experiences and teaching you a variety of skills. These activities will help you to write distinctive and detailed applications for future study and employment. Everyone will have GCSEs, but what additional experiences can you write about that will help you to stand out from the crowd? There are many opportunities for you to get involved for example in music, drama, sports and debating.

Student Voice

The school council is a fantastic way to show that you are mature and have the ability to develop your skills as a leader. Through representing the views of your peers on the council, you will be able to lead projects in school and have an important role in moving the school forward.

Business Links

In Year 10, all students will take part in a wide range of careers related activities, including work with our university and business partners. There are further opportunities for students in smaller groups to take part in workshops, programmes and visits throughout the year relating to their subjects and interests .

Volunteering

Throughout the year, there are numerous opportunities to volunteer and show that you can make a positive contribution to the school and wider community. Events such as Open Evening, Winterfest and Sports Day are all opportunities for you to show that you can be proactive and support the school community.

