



# OPTIONS BOOKLET 2021



**PLUME**  
*Maldon's Community Academy*



## Letter from the Assistant Vice Principal



Dear Student

### YEAR 10 OPTIONS 2021

Having the opportunity to choose the subjects, that will make up your curriculum for Key Stage 4, is a positive experience, but one that could be quite daunting. It is important to make sure you choose subjects that allow you to pursue your interests, post 16 choices and your career aspirations in the future.

I am delighted that Plume, Maldon's Community Academy can offer courses, which are enjoyable and enriching and include GCSEs, BTEC courses and other vocational options including Flexible Learning options.

Please be aware that we will support you in making the right decisions about your options. There will be information shared in form time and assemblies to assist you with the knowledge and understanding of each subject that is available to you for your GCSE studies. Engaging in the information being shared will be paramount to ensuring you make the correct and appropriate decisions for your GCSE / KS4 options.

Your parent/carers involvement in this process is important and at Options' Evening on **Thursday 14 January** you will be able to find out information about the courses and the way they are assessed. On **Thursday 28 January** at the Parents Consultation Evening, you will be able to discuss potential options with subject specialist teachers, who can give you greater depth in your understanding of these subjects. Using the progress review report you received at the end of the autumn term, you can discuss the progress you are making in each subject and this assist with your selection of KS4 options.

Faculty leaders and subject staff will be happy to provide individual guidance about appropriate choices and your form tutor will also play an important role in supporting your selection of options.

I hope that you enjoy choosing your options and deciding your future KS4 study programme however please do not hesitate to ask for further advice and guidance, if and when required. I look forward to working with you during the KS4 option process.

Yours sincerely

**Mr A. Stoneman**  
**Assistant Vice Principal – Campus Lead for Fambridge Road**

## Contents

Introduction to the Options Process	4
Pathways	5-9

## Core subjects

GCSE English Language and Literature (2 GCSEs)	10
GCSE Mathematics	11
GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (2 GCSEs)	12
GCSE Triple Science (3 GCSEs)	13
Physical Education (Non-GCSE)	14
GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	15

## Non-Core Option Subjects

### Modern Foreign Languages Faculty

GCSE French	16
GCSE Spanish	17

### Humanities Faculty

GCSE Geography	18
GCSE History	19

### Business, Computing, and ICT Faculty

GCSE Business Studies (9-1)	20
OCR Cambridge Nationals in Information Technology	21
GCSE Computer Science (9-1)	22

## **Design and Technology Faculty**

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Engineering	23
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	24
GCSE Design Technology	25-26

## **Expressive Arts Faculty**

GCSE Art and Design (9-1)	27
BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)	28
GCSE Drama (Eduqas)	29
BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production	30
OCR GCSE Music	31

## **Physical Education Faculty**

GCSE Physical Education FULL COURSE	32
OCR Cambridge National Level 1/2 in Sports Studies	33

## **Social Sciences Faculty**

OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 in Child Development	34
GCSE Media Studies	35
GCSE Psychology	36
GCSE Sociology	37

## **Flexible Learning Faculty**

Flexible Learning Pathway	38-39
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## Introduction to the Options Process

This booklet contains all the information that you need to use to make the important decisions about your KS4 options.

The initial pages are linked to two pathways, the 'traditional' and the 'flexible learning' pathway. Both are unique and you will need to carefully read the guidance enclosed to ensure you select the correct KS4 study programme based on your progress, attainment, interests, and long-term aspirations. The online document you are required to complete will depend on which specific pathway you are interested in undertaking.

Each pathway is composed of an element of compulsory and optional subjects, as well as differing characteristics that make each study programme bespoke to every student.

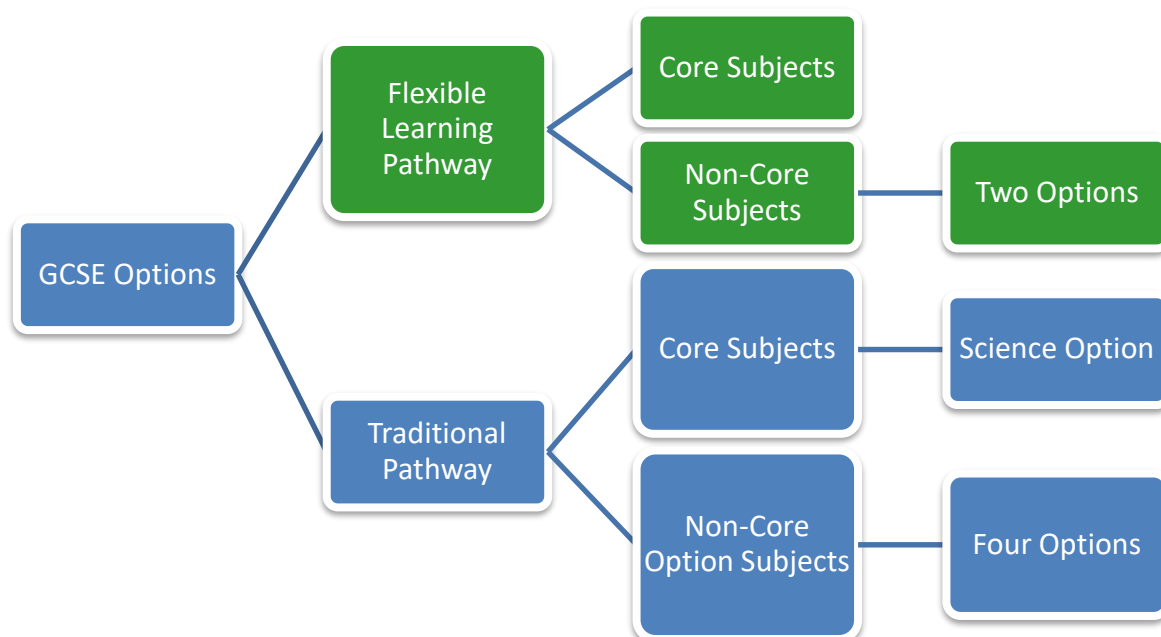
Alongside the support from your pastoral team and form tutors, you will be provided with the opportunity to complete a 'Guidance Discussion Meeting' (GDM) where you can discuss your option choices with a member of staff and feel confident in selecting the correct options for your GCSE's.

Enclosed in this booklet you will find detailed and informative information about each of the subjects available at KS4. You will find a brief summary of each course and the specific assessment requirements. Please also note the short description of the qualities you require to be successful in each subject area. You will, of course, be supported to ensure you can select the correct GCSE options through your 'Guidance Discussion Meeting' (GDM) which will take place in the Spring term.

Your subject teachers can also provide you with more information about the courses you can study in Years 10 and 11. Do ensure you ask your teachers to explain any aspect of a course that you are uncertain about. They are happy to help!

We hope that you will find this booklet helpful and informative and it will complement the extensive videos you have watched during form time in the autumn term.

## Pathways



## GCSE Options

### Traditional Pathway

#### Core Subjects

In Years 10 and 11 there are a number of compulsory subjects that each student studies which form part of a **traditional pathway**. These are **core subjects**, and you are required to study these options as part of your KS4 study programme.

The **CORE** subjects are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education\*
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

*\*(Core) Physical Education will not provide you with a GCSE unless you select this option as one of your 4 subjects via the online options form. Physical Education is a core lesson and enables students to partake in sport, exercise, health, and fitness lessons throughout their KS4 academic studies.*

## Science Options

For Science, students are required to choose between Trilogy Science and Triple Science.

### Science AQA (GCSE)

All students will follow a balanced science course. This means they will continue to study topics from all three science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). We believe there is no better way to learn about science than through purposeful, practical activities as part of day-to-day teaching and learning, therefore, we have incorporated this as an integral part of the course. Students will start all GCSE Science qualifications in Year 9 and will complete them by the Easter of Year 11.

#### Option: Combined Science Trilogy

This course will provide two GCSEs in Combined Science. During the 3 years of study, Year 9, 10 and 11, all three subjects will be studied, and students will take 6 examinations which are all taken during the summer of Year 11.

<b>Combined Science Trilogy</b> (worth <u>two</u> GCSEs) Total: 6 papers	Physics 2 papers 1 hr 15 minutes	Biology 2 papers 1 hr 15 minutes	Chemistry 2 papers 1 hr 15 minutes
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#### Option: GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Triple Science)

Students that study this course will gain separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will take 6 examinations which are all taken during the summer of Year 11 and they will be awarded a GCSE qualification for each science discipline.

<b>Triple Science</b> (worth <u>three</u> GCSEs) Total: 6 papers	<b>GCSE Physics</b> 2 papers 1 hr 45 minutes	<b>GCSE Biology</b> 2 papers 1 hr 45 minutes	<b>GCSE Chemistry</b> 2 papers 1 hr 45 minutes
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## Future Options

Students will need to carefully consider if they wish to study A level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. If they undertake Triple Science, students will need to achieve at least a '5' grade in the Science subject they are opting for at A Level. Other entry requirements also apply however, Trilogy Science may struggle to access the individual Science A-levels at KS5 therefore undertaking 'Trilogy Science' may hinder progress into A level science at KS5.

## Non-Core Subjects

At Plume, Maldon's Community Academy we offer a broad and diverse curriculum. The curriculum will provide you with an opportunity to select GCSE's that are reflective of your future aspirations, career pathways and potential post-16 pathways.

Some students will make their choices from four different curriculum areas. However, alongside the guidance given in your GDM's, you should choose subjects that you feel will benefit your interests, passions and future opportunities as well as being open to the prospect of completing a subject that you may not have studied before at KS3. For students who have a clear career driven aspiration they may choose to focus upon a specialised programme that is based upon certain subjects within a particular curriculum area.

The main curriculum areas within the option subjects are as follows:

- Modern Foreign Languages
- Humanities
- Business, Computing, ICT and Technology
- Expressive Arts and Physical Education
- Social Sciences

All subjects listed in this booklet are offered on the basis that they will require a certain number of students to select them in order to be viable. If a course does not meet this quota, then please do expect your reserve option to be utilised and allocated in replacement of the course previously selected.

## Four Options

**Option 1** – Has to be one of the following EBACC subjects; French, Spanish, geography, history or computer science

**Options 2-4** – These can be selected from the following option subjects which give a wide variety of choice due to the diversity of our five main curriculum areas. Students can choose four EBACC subjects however they must choose one in option 1 and then decide from the remaining options for options 2-4.

The option subjects that you can choose from are as follows:

Modern Foreign Languages	Humanities	Business, Computing, ICT and Technology	Expressive Arts and Physical Education	Social Sciences
French	Geography	Business Studies	Art and Design	Media Studies
Spanish	History	Information Technology	Dance	Sociology
		Computer Science	Drama	Psychology
		Engineering	Creative Media Production	Child Development
		Food Preparation and Nutrition	Music	
		Resistant Materials*	Physical Education*	
		Graphics*	Sport Studies*	
		Textiles*		
		<i>*Only one of these can be selected within this area</i>	<i>*Only one of these can be selected within this area</i>	



## Flexible Learning Pathway

### Core Subjects

In Years 10 and 11 there are a number of compulsory subjects that **all** flexible learning students' study. These are **core subjects**, and you are required to study those as part of your GCSE studies.

The **CORE** subjects are:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education\*

*\*(Core) Physical Education will not provide you with a GCSE unless you select this option as one of your 4 subjects via the online options form. Physical Education is a core lesson and enables students to partake in sport, exercise, health, and fitness lessons throughout their KS4 academic studies.*

### Non-Core Subjects

The options for non-core lessons on the flexible learning pathway will be revealed later in the academic year once numbers have been agreed with the respective stakeholders. The options will be slightly limited in comparison to the traditional pathway and students will be required to select two options from the following:

- History
- Geography
- Technology
- Drama
- Art
- Child Development
- Business
- Sport Studies

### Work Based Training

There are a variety of ways in which you can include work-based training in your option package. If you have a specific career in mind, prefer learning practical skills to academic study and have the maturity to cope with learning in the workplace, do review the opportunities that outlined on pages 37 and 38. Most of these courses will involve attending College for one or two days per week.

Not every student is suitable for a work-based training programme and we will work with your parents/carers to ensure that the choice to study a work-based training programme is the correct option choice for you. You will be required to outline why this pathway is the best option for you and attend a special interview with your parent/carers.

You will also have an interview at College to assess your suitability for this KS4 study programme.

## Guidance on the English Baccalaureate

Students aspiring to study A levels at post-16 and beyond are encouraged to consider taking the broad set of academic subjects which constitute the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate is composed of English, Mathematics, the Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language, and a Humanities subject.

Whilst the English Baccalaureate is highly regarded by University and Higher Education Colleges, we would encourage any student that is considering this option to discuss this further with their subject teachers and relevant staff during their GDM in terms of likely workload and relevance to preferred post-16/post-18 pathways.

## Guidance Discussion Meetings

A 'Guidance Discussion Meeting' will enable students to review their preferred option choices with a relevant member of staff to ensure students are making a logical and informed decision regarding the most appropriate KS4 study programme for each student based on individual needs and aspirations. Parents /carers can request the specific notes relating to each GDM and this can be achieved by liaising specifically with Mr Meadows (Head of Year 9).

## Conclusion

I hope that these initial pages have enabled you as stakeholders to have clarity regarding the 2021 KS4 option process that available to you. If you need any further advice and guidance, please do not hesitate to ask any questions that you may have ([a.stoneman@plume.essex.sch.uk](mailto:a.stoneman@plume.essex.sch.uk)) as I will be happy to help.

## GCSE English Language and Literature (2 GCSEs)

### WHAT WILL THESE COURSES ENABLE ME TO DO?

These courses will develop your ability to communicate as effectively as possible in both spoken and written English, matching your style of expression to audience and purpose. You will also develop your ability to read, understand and respond to all types of texts, including texts from different centuries and media texts, recognising, and appreciating themes and attitudes and the ways in which writers achieve their effects. It will also enable you to understand the rich heritage of English Literature.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSES CONTAIN?

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE:** The course will develop your ability to read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, including fiction and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. You will use the knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve your own writing. Also, the course will help you improve your listening and understanding of spoken language and your use of spoken Standard English.

**ENGLISH LITERATURE:** You will read and respond to a wide variety of styles of writing from the literary heritage, including power and conflict poetry; a Dickens novel; a modern play or novel; a Shakespeare play.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN THE SUBJECTS?

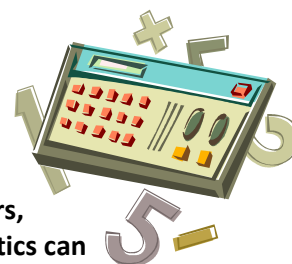
GCSE English Literature	GCSE English Language
<b><u>Paper 1: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Texts and Shakespeare</u></b> 1-hour 45mins 40% of Literature GCSE <b>Section A:</b> <i>Macbeth</i> <b>Section B:</b> <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	<b><u>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Fiction)</u></b> 1-hour 45mins 50% of Language GCSE <b>Section A:</b> reading skills <b>Section B:</b> narrative/descriptive writing skills
<b><u>Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry</u></b> 2 hours 15mins 60% of Literature GCSE <b>Section A:</b> <i>An Inspector Calls</i> <b>Section B:</b> <i>Power and Conflict Poetry</i> <b>Section C:</b> Unseen poetry	<b><u>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Non-Fiction)</u></b> 1-hour 45mins 50% of Language GCSE <b>Section A:</b> reading skills <b>Section B:</b> writing to inform/persuade/advise
<b>Spoken Language qualification:</b> Pass, Merit or Distinction – one presentation researched, written, and delivered by student, followed by questions and answers. Stand-alone qualification.	

### WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

Mrs G. Wills – Faculty Leader, English  
 Miss L. Cummins – Key Stage 4 Coordinator, English

G.Wills@plume.essex.sch.uk  
 L.Cummins2@plume.essex.sch.uk

## GCSE Mathematics



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Traditionally Mathematics has involved knowing the rules to deal with numbers, percentages, areas, equations etc. This course will demonstrate that Mathematics can be used to solve practical problems in everyday situations.

An important aim of the course is to help you to talk about Mathematics and use mathematical language correctly. Helping you to read and understand mathematical information given in tables, graphs, and diagrams, building your confidence to enable you to pass on your knowledge to others in a clear, concise, and logical way.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Learners are given the opportunity to study all aspects of Mathematics, developing knowledge skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. Students will study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and Statistics

Maths GCSE qualifications have changed to ensure they are rigorous and robust and give students access to high quality qualifications which match the highest expectations of colleges, universities, and employers. Students are encouraged to use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and be able to apply the functional elements of mathematics to solve problems in real-life situations.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Maths GCSE consists of 3 externally examined papers which will be sat in June 2021; two calculator and one non-calculator paper. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes and will have questions to test the full content of the course.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

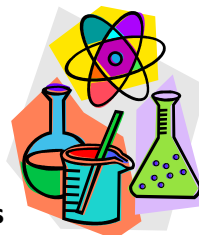
You need to be able to organise your equipment and time effectively, to be prepared to ask questions if you do not understand and complete homework regularly to the deadlines set. The ability to work independently and revise effectively is essential to the successful completion of the course. Engaging properly with revision and independent learning websites like Hegarty Maths is a great way to improve. Students get better at maths by practising it, seeing if they got it right and making corrections where they got things wrong. They get better by being resilient when things are hard and trying their best.

All students will need their own scientific calculator (we recommend a Casio FX83-gtx) for all Maths lessons.

## GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (2 GCSEs)

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

By following this course, you will gain a better understanding of the world around you, carry forward your study of science and access jobs and careers that require science as an entry qualification. Plume recommends that the majority of students follow this Science course at KS4. This will provide two Science GCSE qualifications.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course covers written and practical study of how science directly affects our lives and practical work to develop an investigative approach to scientific problems. You will study Life and Living Processes, Materials and their Properties and Physical Processes.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Final exams in the summer of Year 11 (100% examination)

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Effective revision for exams
- Be prepared to question ideas, to interpret information and relate this to real world examples
- To recall and apply
- Resilience when learning difficult concepts
- Discuss and use scientific methods in controlled assessments
- Work methodically and using own initiative

## GCSE Triple Science (3 GCSEs)

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

By following this course, you will gain a better understanding of the world around you, carry forward your study of science and access jobs and careers that require science as an entry qualification. If you really enjoy all aspects of science, have ambitions to study one or more sciences at 'A' level and are very good at science then you are recommended to apply for this course of study.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course will contain units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course will result in three Science GCSE qualifications, one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Final exams in summer of Year 11 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, 100% Examination.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Keep up with classwork and homework tasks
- Effective revision for exams
- Be prepared to question ideas, to interpret information and relate this to real world examples
- To recall and apply
- Resilience when learning difficult concepts
- Discuss and use scientific methods in controlled assessments
- Work methodically and on initiative

## Physical Education (Non GCSE)

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The course is organised to encourage you to participate regularly in health-promoting physical activity, while at the same time helping you to understand just what is involved in the maintenance of a healthy lifestyle. For example, do you know whether you can continue with your favourite activities upon leaving school, or which training methods are the best for you?



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?



In Year 10, students will follow a varied and tailored pathway. Each student is required to participate in both indoor and outdoor Activities. Dependent on the pathway chosen, activities can include traditional games e.g. Football, Netball etc. or alternative activities such as Kinball and Indoor Curling or Health and well-being activities. They will also include athletics, cricket, and rounders.

### WHAT IS THE PROGRAMME OF STUDY FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION AT KEY STAGE 4?

For those students who do not opt to take examination PE at KS4 you follow the Core PE course. For this you tackle complex and demanding activities applying your knowledge of skills, techniques, and effective performance. You can decide whether to get involved in physical activity that is mainly focused on competing or performing, promoting health and well-being, or developing personal fitness. You will also experience a variety of roles within each activity including performance, coach, choreographer, leader and official. The view you have of your skilfulness and physical competence will hopefully give you the confidence to get involved in exercise and activity out of school and in later life.

For those students who opt to take examination PE you follow a Core PE curriculum that is designed to support your examination PE studies. You will have the opportunity to undertake the Level 2 Sports Leaders Award.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

This is a non-exam course; however, you will be assessed in line with the National Guidelines of Physical Education. Do you know what grade you are currently working at? If not, ask your teacher.

### WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

To be successful at this course, you must be prepared to regularly bring the correct kit and participate in all lessons to the best of your ability. Often it is not about the standard that others achieve, but how much progress you as an individual make.

## GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This course is designed to broaden your understanding of the world around you by exploring various ethical issues alongside the beliefs and practices of both Christianity and Islam. Through this you will learn the skills needed to research, understand, discuss, and argue a wide range of issues and religious beliefs. By exploring ethical issues, and expressing various views using reasoned arguments, students can enhance their capacity and desire to make a positive contribution to debates and decisions in society.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course is the AQA GCSE “Religious Studies A” which is studied throughout Years 9, 10 and 11, for one hour per week. It comprises of two units:

#### Unit 1 – Thematic Studies

This involves the study of the relevance of religion to the ethical issues of crime and punishment, war and peace, relationships and families, and the beginning and ending of life, with reference to Christianity and one of the other major world religions [this part of the course began in Year 9].

In the examination students must illustrate their answers with real examples in relation to the issues raised, and to make appropriate references to religious stories, teachings, and practices that they have studied.

#### Unit 2 – The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

This involves an exploration of two world religions, Christianity, and Islam. Students will explore the key beliefs held in these faiths, the origin of such key beliefs and how they are expressed through worship. They will also consider the impact religious teachings have on individuals, communities, and societies.

In the examination students must illustrate their answers with real examples of religious acts and appropriate reference to religious scripture.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be two examinations in the summer term of Year 11 (May/June). Both exams are 1hr 45mins and worth 50% of your final GCSE grade. There is no coursework for this subject.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- An open mind
- Knowledge of your own viewpoint
- Appreciation of others’ views
- An ability to use evidence to support different views



## GCSE French

In today's world, speaking a foreign language is an asset for any student. In fact, speaking another language increases your chances of finding a job, whether at home or abroad. More than 270 million people speak French, and, after English, it is the most widely taught language, being taught on all five continents.

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Learning a language opens the door into other cultures, with 75% of the World's population not able to speak English. Furthermore, it increases your problem-solving skills, improves memory, self-discipline, and self-esteem – key attributes that employers look for in the modern world. In addition, languages opens doors for opportunities to travel to different countries, experience different cultures and meet new people. Finally, learning another language enriches the mind and opens up new horizons, both personal and professional.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The vocabulary of the course is built around the three main themes of:

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

These three main themes will enhance your grasp of the language and allow you also to gain an in-depth knowledge of the country, their culture, and customs. The study of these themes will be explored through a series of relevant sub-topics, further developing your linguistic skills and a wide range of vocabulary.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four papers in total at the end of the course, testing each of the four skills and covering all three themes:

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%
Exam	Oral Exam conducted by teacher	Exam	Exam

There are two levels of entry: Foundation and Higher, with the exams at Foundation level being easier. Each student will complete all exams at either the Foundation tier or the Higher tier.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

In order to succeed at GCSE French, students will need to commit to learning and revising vocabulary regularly and consistently, as well as continuing to develop their knowledge of the structure and grammar of the language. Finally, to study a language at GCSE, you should be interested and passionate about continuing with your language studies to a higher level and to developing your overall fluency across each of the language skills.

*À bientôt !*

## GSCE Spanish

In today's world, speaking one foreign language is not enough. Students who speak more than one language will increase their chances of finding a job, whether at home or abroad. More than 430 million people speak Spanish, making it the second most spoken language in the World.

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Learning a language opens the door into other cultures, with 75% of the World's population not able to speak English. Furthermore, it increases your problem-solving skills, improves memory, self-discipline, and self-esteem – key attributes that employers look for in the modern world. Languages opens doors for opportunities to travel to different countries, experience different cultures and meet new people. Learning another language enriches the mind and opens up new horizons, both personal and professional.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The vocabulary of the course is built around the three main themes of:

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- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Studies and Employment

These three main themes will enhance your grasp of the language and allow you also to gain an in-depth knowledge of the country, their culture, and customs. The study of these themes will be explored through a series of relevant sub-topics, further developing your linguistic skills and a wide range of vocabulary.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are four papers in total at the end of the course, testing each of the four skills and covering all three themes:

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%
Exam	Oral Exam conducted by teacher	Exam	Exam

There are two levels of entry: Foundation and Higher, with the exams at Foundation level being easier. Each student will complete all exams at either the Foundation tier or the Higher tier.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

In order to succeed at GCSE Spanish, students will need to commit to learning and revising vocabulary regularly and to study the structure and grammar of the language. You should also be interested and passionate about continuing with your language studies to a higher level and to developing your overall fluency across each of the language skills.

**¡HASTA PRONTO!**

## GCSE Geography

**“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future” Michael Palin**



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Geography uses key skills from English, Maths and the Sciences and so sits well alongside the core subjects. For these reasons Geography demonstrates to employers that you have a well-rounded education. During your course you will be equipped with a broad range of personal learning and thinking skills such as teamwork, independent enquiry, creative thinking, and analytical skills. All of these are highly valued by employers.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

**You will study six units:**

#### HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

#### PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world

You will also need to complete two compulsory days of fieldwork, together with follow up written investigations. This work will then be assessed in an examination.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Unit 1 (1hr 30mins) examines Physical Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 2 (1hr 30mins) examines Human Geography (3 topics)
- Unit 3 (1hr 15mins) examines Fieldwork and contains a Decision-Making Exercise

Twelve weeks before the Unit 3 examination, a resources booklet will be released. This booklet will contain information about a current and controversial geographical issue. The Unit 3 examination will be based on this issue.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You should have an interest in current topical issues and want to know how humans interact with the different environments our planet offers. You will need good levels of understanding in English, Maths and Science as well as being a good communicator, a problem solver, and a good team player. This is a very academic specification that has been introduced for first teaching in September 2016. Please consider the challenge of four hours of examinations before applying for this course.

### WHAT CAREERS OR FURTHER COURSES OF STUDY COULD THIS LEAD TO?

Students who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad and many more.....

## GCSE History

**“If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday”.**

***Pearl Buck, Civil Rights Activist.***



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Studying GCSE History will further develop your understanding of the world around you as well as your ability to use evidence, think critically, plan and carry out research and communicate your knowledge. We want students to acquire a mental map of the past onto which they can hang future historical learning throughout their lives. History is useful for many careers including law, the police, the armed forces, business, teaching, politics, management, local government and much more. Employers value history.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course is made up of five topics, designed to cover a wide range of historical periods and types of history. Each unit makes up 20% of the GCSE and includes key historical questions:

Migrants to Britain, c.1250 to present	British History Thematic Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why have people migrated to Britain?</li> <li>What were the migrants' experiences in Britain?</li> <li>What impact have migrants had on Britain?</li> </ul>
The Norman Conquest, 1065–1087	British History Depth Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is 1066 such a big deal?</li> <li>What was lifelike for Anglo-Saxons and Normans?</li> <li>Why are there so many different interpretations of Norman England?</li> </ul>
Local Historic Site	History Around Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does the site fit into wider history?</li> <li>How useful is the site as evidence about the past?</li> <li>How do additional historical sources, such as artefacts, images, documents, and oral testimony provide further evidence about the site?</li> </ul>
The Making of America, 1789–1900	World History Period Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did a new nation expand to become the world's dominant power?</li> <li>Why did migrants cross the Plains to Oregon and California?</li> <li>How did the US Civil War change the life of African Americans?</li> <li>Why was there so much conflict with the Plains Indians?</li> </ul>
Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945	World History Depth Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did the Nazi dictatorship impact people's lives both within Germany and across occupied Europe?</li> <li>How were political, economic, social, racial, and cultural forces at work in these societies?</li> </ul>

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This is a non-tiered course; therefore, students have the opportunity to achieve grades 1-9. There are three exams, all taken at the end of Year 11:

- 1) British History
- 2) History Around Us
- 3) World History

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- An interest in all things historical
- An enquiring mind

## GCSE Business Studies (9-1)



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

While studying this course you are likely to learn a lot of new things. You will be introduced to issues concerning the setting up and operation of a business. It explores the activities of business and the reasons for success or failure. It encourages students to appreciate that businesses must operate within society and that this involves businesses engaging with a wide range of stakeholders who will hold differing perspectives.

### KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS GAINED:

GCSE Business will encourage student to:

- Engage in the study of Business to develop as effective and independent learners
- Develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in local, national, and global contexts
- Appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities
- Consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable
- Apply skills, knowledge and understanding in a variety of contexts and in planning and carrying out investigations and tasks
- Analyse and evaluate evidence, make reasoned judgements, and present appropriate conclusions

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:

- Business activity
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human resources

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment for this course is via two examination papers and both will assess all six topic areas.

Exam	When	Time	Type	% of course
<b>Component 1</b>	June Yr11	2hr	Written paper 100 marks	62.5%
<b>Component 2</b>	June Yr11	1½hrs	Written paper 60 marks	37.5%

Both components assess content from all six topic areas, so learners will be required to draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the subject content in each assessment.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You might have an interest in business and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more. The course requires you to be confident in expressing these ideas in writing; therefore, good English skills are needed. There is also a good amount of numeracy involved so ideally you should have good Maths skills.

## OCR Cambridge Nationals in Information Technology

### WHAT ARE CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS?

While GCSEs are well known qualifications taken in schools and colleges, many students choose to take vocational qualifications or a mix of both academic and vocational. Cambridge Nationals are vocational technical qualifications for 14-16-year olds. They have been created to support students who wish to develop practical skills and knowledge relating to a broad employment area.



### WHY TAKE CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES?

Data Manipulation and Project Management are vital skills for success in employment and higher education and are among the key transferable skills required by employers. Our Cambridge National in Information Technologies qualification develops students understanding of these skills through the development of creative products to solve real world data problems. Taking this qualification will prepare students for a career in a data driven future.

### WHAT DOES THE COURSE CONTAIN AND HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The qualification is made up of two units:

#### **R012 – Understanding tools, techniques, methods, and processes for technological solutions (exam – 50%):**

- Knowledge of hardware and software applications
- Data manipulation tools and techniques
- Project Life Cycle – phases, interaction, inputs, and outputs
- Risks, legal, moral, ethical and security issues

#### **R013 – Developing technological solutions (coursework – 50%)**

- Focus on the use of skills to develop a creative technological solution to a real-world problem
- Follow a project life cycle and demonstrate skills such as SWOT analysis, GANTT charts, data collection and presenting data
- Use hardware and software to create an integrated technological solution for data processing and communication of information

### HOW IS IT TESTED?

This qualification is tested through a mixture of set coursework and examination. There is one written exam (R012) which lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes. The exam assesses a student's understanding of tools, techniques, methods, and processes for technological solutions. You will have two opportunities to take the test. The coursework unit (R013) will be a set assignment that assesses your ability to develop a technological solution to a real-world problem.

### ENTRY CRITERIA

There are no entry requirements for this course.

For more information, visit [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)



## GCSE Computer Science (9-1)

### WHAT IS THIS COURSE DESIGNED TO DO?

The course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.



### WHAT DOES THE COURSE CONTAIN AND HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Students will study towards two modules, which will be completed over both years 10 and 11. The modules are as follows:

**Computer Systems (50%)** – This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems, which is structured as follows:

Topics	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System architecture</li> <li>• Memory and storage</li> <li>• Computer networks, connections and protocols</li> <li>• Network security</li> <li>• System software</li> <li>• Ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental impacts of digital technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes</li> <li>• 50% of total GCSE</li> <li>• 80 marks</li> <li>• Non-calculator paper.</li> <li>• This paper consists of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.</li> </ul>

**Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50%)** – This unit covers learning how to program using Python, using searching and sorting algorithms and computation.

Topics	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algorithms</li> <li>• Programming fundamentals</li> <li>• Producing robust programs</li> <li>• Boolean logic</li> <li>• Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes</li> <li>• 50% of total GCSE</li> <li>• 80 marks</li> <li>• Non-calculator paper.</li> <li>• This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. In Section B, questions assess students' ability to write or refine algorithms.</li> </ul>

### WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS COURSE?

Students should have excellent literacy and numeracy skills. A keen interest in programming would be beneficial. This course is relevant for students who wish to achieve a GCSE to provide them with a springboard to A-Level Computer Science or Level 3 IT courses.

### ENTRY CRITERIA

There are no entry requirements for this course.

## BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Engineering

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The qualification will prepare candidates for employment, including work-based training, progression to level 3 qualifications and provide an insight into engineering for candidates pursuing other career pathways. The qualification will introduce the skills, knowledge and understanding needed in engineering.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

#### **R109: Engineering materials, processes, and production (Externally assessed by a one-hour exam)**

Students develop their understanding of a wide range of engineering materials and how their properties and characteristics impact on a design specification. They also examine different production processes and their applications.

#### **R110: Preparing and planning for manufacture**

Students plan and apply appropriate processes to make pre-production product using hand-held tools, measuring, and marking equipment safely. They then carry out a range of manually controlled machining operations and perform quality control checks to review their finished pre-production product.

#### **R111: Computer aided manufacturing**

Students explore the role of computer applications in the design and manufacture of engineered products by creating computer-aided design (CAD) drawings to produce a batch of computer numerical control (CNC) manufactured examples of a product. They investigate methods used to compare items manufactured by manually controlled and CNC production, and develop their understanding of how computer control is used to produce engineered products in high-volume.

#### **R112: Quality control of engineered products**

Students develop their knowledge and understanding of the techniques and procedures used, including 'lean processes' to ensure the quality of engineered products. They produce and implement a detailed set of procedures for the quality control of engineered products in a 'real world' situation involving high-volume manufacture of products.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Cambridge National in Engineering Manufacture is 75% coursework and 25% externally tested.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- You will need to be able to build on previous experience and knowledge gained at KS3
- Have a willingness to meet homework and coursework deadlines

Further details are available at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/engineering-manufacture-level-1-2-award-certificate-j832-j842/>



## GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This new qualification in Food Preparation and Nutrition enables you to explore how foods work and interact together; making connections between theory and practice so you can apply your understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking.



This course will build on subject content taught in years 7, 8 and 9. You will be equipped with the practical skills needed to understand how foods work together enabling you to be a confident cook, as well as adapting and creating your own recipes, which, is a useful life skill. The course will also provide a suitable foundation for further studies at either Level 3, AS or A Level Food related courses.

There are a wide range of careers available in the food industry from working in restaurants as a chef, becoming a nutritionist or dietician and advising people on healthy diet and lifestyles, to becoming a new product developer for a major retailer and seeing products through from ideas to being on the supermarket shelf.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course is made up of both theory and practical work, which will teach a wide range of cookery and food preparation and presentation skills. These include knife skills, sauce making, baking, and using raising agents, preparing, and cooking a wide range of fruits and vegetables and meat and fish preparation and cookery, such as jointing a chicken. Through this, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding on microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking, and serving food.

The course has 6 main areas of study:

1. Food, Nutrition and Health
2. Function of Ingredients
3. Food Safety
4. Food Choice
5. Food Provenance

Across these areas' students will learn and understand; about the functional and chemical properties of food; the relationship between diet, nutrition, and health; and how economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural factors influence food availability, production processes and diet and health choices.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **50% Written examination of 1 hour 45 minutes worth 100 marks.**
- **50% Non- Examination Assessment worth 100 marks.** Composed of two assessments, one Food Investigation and one Food Preparation assessment. The tasks are chosen from a bank set by the examination board
- Assessment 1 is to be completed in approximately 8 hours and is worth 15% of the total qualification
- Assessment 2 is to be completed in approximately 12 hours (including a 3-hour practical session) and is worth 35% of the total qualification

### WHAT QUALITIES WILL I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- An interest in food, nutrition, and cooking
- A willingness to ask questions and work hard
- Hardworking, creative, and enthusiastic
- Must bring ingredients to all food practical lessons

## GCSE Design and Technology

Choose your specialised area from **RESISTANT MATERIALS OR GRAPHIC PRODUCTS OR TEXTILES**

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Through a series of mini projects during Year 10 you will improve your designing and making skills. You will learn to use a variety of tools, materials, and machines and how they can be used to create a range of different products. You will also learn about various designers. This knowledge will help you for your exam and coursework.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The GCSE qualification is made up of an exam which is worth 50% and the coursework which is worth 50%. It is a 2-hour exam taken at the end of Year 11 and tests your knowledge and understanding of what you have learnt throughout the course. The exam is split into 3 sections:

Section A – Core knowledge of all areas of Design Technology (20 marks)

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Section C - Designing and making principles (50 marks)

Sections B and C are where you can choose the questions specialised to your chosen area, **Resistant Materials OR Graphic Products OR Textiles**.

AQA give a brief for the coursework in September at the start of Year 11. Coursework is made up of 4 sections including completing research relevant to the given brief. A range of design ideas are to be created against a specification. These designs then need to be developed into your final idea. This then leads on to you making, testing and the evaluation of your final piece.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- You should enjoy designing, making and be creative
- You will need to be well organised
- You should be confident using a computer in order to develop your designing skills
- You will work independently to complete your coursework

## Design and Technology continued

Choose ONE specialised area from:

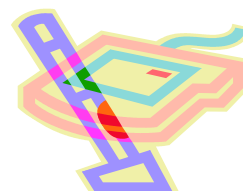
### GCSE Resistant Materials



#### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Through a series of mini projects during Year 10 you will improve your designing and making skills. Alongside this you will also learn about and use a variety of tools, materials, and machines and how they can be used to create a range of different products. You will also learn about various designers and creations. You will gain experience and knowledge in using CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Manufacture). All this knowledge will help you for your exam and coursework.

### OR GCSE Graphics



#### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Through a series of mini-Graphics projects during Year 10 you will learn sketching and presentation skills. Alongside this you will also learn and produce a range of technical drawings such as scale drawings and point perspective drawing. Modelling skills will be built upon by working to different briefs and producing Architectural models and designer influenced products. You will also build upon your theory knowledge of materials and processes as we learn about various designers and their products. You will gain experience and knowledge in using CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Manufacture). All this knowledge will help you for your exam and coursework.

### OR GCSE Textiles



#### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course will allow you to develop textile knowledge and hone practical skills. We look at famous designers, existing products, and the fascinating history of textiles. Practical skills include dyeing, printing, and decorative enhancement. (You are expected to provide your own material for your controlled assessment).

**NB: IF YOU DO NOT FEEL CONFIDENT USING A SEWING MACHINE, DON'T WORRY! YOU WILL HAVE EXPERT TRAINING – BASIC SKILLS WILL QUICKLY BE LEARNT.**

## GCSE Art and Design (1-9)

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The course is about being an **independent** learner, mastering technical and aesthetic skills and above all, giving students massive confidence to explore personal ideas and contexts. We expect students to engage, understand and explore a wide range of artists and cultures, to look at and think about social issues in today's ever-changing world. Students will not only be able to solve problems, but also develop self-set briefs in a practical context and be even more creative.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

It will begin with a foundation module that includes the basic skills of Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Digital Photography and Alternative media. Students will then explore more independent modules that will cover a broad range of personal themes and explore the visual formal elements of **colour, line, form, tone, and texture**.

All projects will contribute towards the final coursework grade. Students will also be asked to complete an independent sketchbook which will inform them of ideas and starting points throughout the course. The sketchbook, A4 spiral, will begin at the end of Year 9 and be a combination of set activities and personal investigations. Students will also be expected to study artists and link them to their work.



### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This course will be 60% coursework and 40% examination.

The work will be assessed throughout the two years with personalised targets to make improvements. The grades will be split into four sections:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. AO1 Developing ideas with critical understanding         | 25% |
| 2. AO2 Refining and experimenting with media and techniques | 25% |
| 3. AO3 Recording ideas and Observations                     | 25% |
| 4. AO4 Present and personal Response.                       | 25% |

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

We are looking for students that have a real interest in art and design. Who have engaged with the Year 9 art projects and enjoy the subject so much that they often do art in their spare time. You need to be creative, be willing to explore new ideas and techniques, work well in a practical environment and above all, learn to be independent.

You will be highly successful if you listen to advice, read, and respond to feedback of the teachers and make 100% effort in every lesson. It also helps if you can work more independently and are willing to join us, at times, at lunch and after school in the many clubs we offer. We are looking for positive and creative people. You do not have to be very good at drawing or painting but be willing to explore and try hard. If this sounds good, and you enjoy art, come, and join us.

## BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This course will develop your practical skills as a dancer and choreographer as well as developing your theoretical knowledge and understanding of professional dance works. You will develop a whole host of other transferable skills which will support you in your other studies and future employment including leadership skills, communication, analytical skills, creativity, discipline, commitment, time management and problem solving.



**Please note:** All BTEC Dance students are required to attend an additional extra-curricular session throughout the two-year programme. This is usually on Mondays in Year 10 and Tuesdays in Year 11; the session runs from 3.30-5pm.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Students study three components:

- **Component 1:** Exploring the Performing Arts Industry (30% Final Grade)
- **Component 2:** Developing Skills and Techniques (30% Final Grade)
- **Component 3:** Performing to a brief (40% Final Grade)

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Internally assessed and externally moderated	Internally assessed and externally moderated	Externally assessed
Exploring the work of 3 choreographers through written and practical tasks	Developing skills as a dancer through technique class and rehearsals	Developing skills as choreographer and dancer in response to a brief
<u>Assessment Evidence:</u> Research Project Videos of dance workshops Written report	<u>Assessment Evidence:</u> Videos of technique class, rehearsals, and final performance Logbook	<u>Assessment Evidence:</u> Videos of technique class, rehearsals, and final performance Logbook

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

We are looking for students who have a love of dance and genuine interest in developing and progressing dance technique and choreographic ability.

- Previous dance experience through extra-curricular dance in or out of school
- Creativity
- Excellent attendance
- Good organisation
- Enthusiasm



## GCSE Drama (Eduqas)



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

You will study a variety of performance styles, theatre practitioners and texts. You will have the opportunity to see and perform live theatre as well as analyse and evaluate it.

This course will also help you to develop key skills that are required for many subjects and future careers that you may wish to pursue. These skills include the ability to work as part of a team; communicate effectively with others; build resilience; lead a group and develop your confidence.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components.

1. Devising Theatre
2. Performing from a Text
3. Interpreting Theatre

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### Component 1 – Devising Theatre – 40% of the qualification

Learners participate in the creation, development, and performance of a piece of devised theatre, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. Learners will be assessed on either acting or design and must produce:

- A realisation of their piece of devised theatre
- A portfolio of supporting evidence
- An evaluation of the final performance or design.

#### Component 2: Performing from a Text – 20% of the qualification

Learners study two extracts from the same performance text and will participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts. They will perform this to a visiting examiner. Learners will be assessed on either acting or design.

#### Component 3: Interpreting Theatre – 40% of the qualification

Written exam: 1 Hour 30 Minutes.

- Section A: Students will answer a series of questions on their set text, totalling 45 marks.
- Section B: Live Theatre Review

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

To be successful in GCSE Drama you will need creativity, the ability to work as part of a team, excellent attendance, and willingness to commit to extra rehearsals outside of lesson time.



## BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production is a practical introduction to life and work in the Creative Media industry, which includes **audio/moving image** (TV programmes, films, animations, radio broadcasts), **publishing** (newspapers, magazines, books, e-magazines, comics) and **interactive** (websites, mobile applications, and games). Students can explore the sector while developing technical skills and techniques, producing digital media products in response to set briefs and reviewing and reflecting on the process and outcome.

During the course, students will discover whether this industry is one they want to be part of, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps.

Successful completion of this course will enable students to continue to further vocational and academic study at Level 3, such as BTEC National Diplomas and/or A Levels.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?



The course is made up of three components.

#### Component 1

**Exploring media products in which students explore:**

- Content and purpose of digital media products
- Style and the use of digital design principles
- Idea generation and the production process
- Industry regulations and professional practices

#### Component 2

**Developing digital media production skills in which students:**

- **Experiment** with a variety of media production skills and techniques
- **Apply** the technical skills that they learn
- **Reflect** on their progress and use of skills, as well as how they could improve

#### Component 3

**Create a media product in response to a brief in which students:**

- **Learn** how to respond to a media brief
- **Plan** their response to the brief
- **Apply** skills and techniques to a production
- **Justify** the process and outcome that they have developed
- **Reflect** on their skills & time management

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Following a foundation learning program where students will be introduced to the sectors and skills associated with them, students will complete 3 components, delivered in the format of assignment briefs. Two of these components will be internally assessed and externally verified, while the third is externally set and assessed. Pass, Merit and Distinction grades will be awarded to Level 2 students, however those who do not meet these requirements could be awarded a level 1 qualification.



### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

We are looking for enthusiastic students who are interested in exploring and developing their own creativity, through digital media. Good attendance is essential, along with the ability to work independently as well as collaboratively.

## OCR GCSE Music

This is a single option course where you will develop your performing, composing and appraising skills. If you are enthusiastic about music, willing to try new and different styles of music, can work as a team and independently, this is the course for you!



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

You will develop an interest and enjoyment of music that will be sustained in later life, so that you are inspired, moved, and changed by studying a broad, satisfying, and worthwhile course of study. Your own musical interests and skills including an understanding of how to make music individually and in groups will be developed. You will evaluate your own and others' music and develop understanding and appreciation of a range of different kinds of music. You will develop broader life-skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence, and self-motivation.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

You will develop your ability in performing and composing and develop your listening and appraising skills. Over the two years you will look at the following areas of study:

- The concerto through time
- Rhythms of the world
- Film and game music
- Conventions of pop

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will do a mixture of controlled assessment and some tests:

- Controlled Assessments:
  - Integrated Tasks: a performance on your main instrument; and a composition for your main instrument = 30% of final grade
  - Practical Portfolio: a group performance; a composition based on a set brief = 30% of final grade
- Exams:
  - Listening Exam: you listen to music from the areas of study and answer questions on it = 40% of final grade

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Imagination
- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Have the ability to work in a team
- Perseverance and an ability to take/act on advice
- Join extra-curricular activities to extend and support your musical progression
- Students **must** have instrumental lessons at school or at home to succeed in this course

**Successful students will practice their instrument regularly, perform at concerts and events and attend extra tutorials such as Music Theory Club to develop their musical skills.**



## GCSE Physical Education FULL COURSE



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This course is for students who have an interest in sport and who have actively participated in Physical Education over the last three years. A good grade at GCSE PE will help you:

- Move onto any Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced course including Physical Education
- Move onto any vocational related course such as Leisure and Recreation
- Pursue employment opportunities where your skills will be particularly valued, for example the sport and leisure industry, travel, tourism, and teaching

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

AQA GCSE Full Course Physical Education is a subject that contains both **theoretical** and **practical** elements. You will participate in a range of practical activities including football, basketball, badminton, netball, hockey, circuit training, rounders, and trampolining. During theory lessons you will learn about the skeleton, muscles, joints, the circulatory and respiratory system, sports psychology, how we can improve performance, training methods, diet, and sports injuries.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### Practical Component

Your final practical grade is worth 40% of your final grade and includes the following:

A practical examination mark for **three** final practical activities – **Controlled Assessment** (30% of final grade). One must be a **team** activity; the second must be an **individual** activity and the third is a choice of a **further team or individual** activity.

An externally moderated mark for a Performance Analysis and Evaluation (PAE) (10% of final grade).

#### Theoretical Component

There are 2 exams worth 60% of your final grade:

- Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport  
1 hour 15 minutes (30% final grade)
- Social and Cultural Wellbeing and Influences in Physical Activity and Sport  
1 hour 15 minutes (30% final grade)

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

To take this course, it is necessary that you:

Complete a three-part **GCSE PE Practical Assessment**, which will entail:

- Multistage Fitness Test
- Sporting Profile Questionnaire
- GCSE Practical Skills Assessment

#### You should also:

- Regularly participate in all practical Physical Education lessons in Year 9
- Work towards achieving at least a **grade 4/5** in practical Physical Education at the end of Year 9
- Achieve a strong Science **and** English Assessment at the end of Year 9
- Participate in extra-curricular sporting clubs inside and outside school
- Are willing and motivated to improve your sporting performance
- Compete in one sport at a very good level

## OCR Cambridge National Level 1/2 in Sports Studies

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE in both size and rigor. It is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Sport. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications.

Cambridge Nationals have clear progression routes to A levels, Apprenticeships, or further advanced vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as BTEC Sport.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The Cambridge Nationals in **Sport Studies** take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Learners have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development, and sports leadership to their own practical performance in a range of sports.

They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Learners will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies consists of **two mandatory units** and **two optional units**.

**Mandatory Units:** 30 GLH – both required

- R051: Contemporary issues in sport - External Exam
- R052: Developing sports skills – Centre Assessed

**Optional Units:** 30 GLH – two optional units required for certificate

- R053: Sports leadership
- R054: Sport and the media
- R056: Developing knowledge and skills in outdoor activities

Optional units: Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated 60 marks

### QUALITIES I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- Interested in studying sport and taking part in sporting activities.
- Motivated to work independently to meet assignment deadlines.
- Regularly participate in all practical Physical Education lessons in Year 9
- Willing to coach and organise sporting activities for younger students and motivated to improve your own performance

## OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 in Child Development

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE in both size and rigor. It is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Child Development. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology. Researching, planning, observing, and evaluating skills are developed, which are transferable skills and would be of use in further studies in a number of areas.



### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

All students will study three mandatory units:

- Health and well-being for child development**  
 Students will develop the essential knowledge and understanding in child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, postnatal provision, conditions for development, childhood illness and safety.  
**OCR Written paper: 1 hour 15 minutes (50%)**
- Understanding the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years**  
 Students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all these needs. This topic also covers nutrition and hygiene practises and nutritional requirements.  
 There is the opportunity to hire a 'RealCare' baby simulator.  
**Centre assessed/OCR moderated task (25%)**
- Understand the development norms of a child from birth to five years**  
 Students will gain knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. This topic will include researching, planning, and carrying out activities with a child and observing and evaluating these activities, as well as comparing the child to the expected development norms.  
**Centre assessed/OCR moderated task (25%)**

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- Hardworking and organised
- Enjoy research and coursework
- Be able to engage with children
- Ability to work with others in pairs or groups
- Ability to meet regular deadlines

## GCSE Media Studies



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

The media plays a central role in our world. Films, TV programmes, websites, radio broadcasts, adverts, newspapers, music videos, video games; they all shape our view of the world through the representations, viewpoints, and messages they offer. To study media is to understand the processes that go in to creating your favourite television show or computer game. It investigates how producers express certain ideas and how audiences might respond to these. It is important to study the media as it helps us to understand the world we live in, one where audiences are increasingly interacting with media and becoming producers of media texts themselves. In addition, you will develop practical and creative skills through coursework. The media has real relevance and importance in our lives today, providing us with ways to communicate, express ourselves and the ability to participate in society; just think about the last # movement you took part in or saw on your online feed. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate on a global scale and this course will prepare you for studying at A Level and be a steppingstone into employment into the creative industries.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

In Year 10 you will develop the ability to analyse a wide range of media, this includes studying a number of set products such as specific adverts, film posters, magazines, newspapers, computer games and radio. Students will develop media language to analyse these media and engage with key issues and debates, including stereotyping of groups, and the effects media may have on people. Towards the end of Year 10 you will complete your practical controlled assessment, which will develop your graphic design and/or video production skills. In Year 11 you will also study television, music artists and their videos as well as their associated websites in more depth.

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two written exams with a combined worth of 70% of the GCSE course and both will be sat in the summer of Year 11. In addition, students will work independently on practical coursework (Non-Exam Assessment) which will require them to research, plan and produce their own media texts. This is based on a set brief provided by the exam board which changes yearly. However, examples may include making a music video or website for a new band, print or online magazine pages, television sequences or film marketing. The coursework portfolio is worth 30% of the GCSE course.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

- A genuine enthusiasm for a broad range of media texts such as television, newspapers, film
- An ability and willingness to share views on texts that you have studied
- You will need to be willing to analyse texts and your analysis should reveal a confident knowledge of audience, genre, and narrative
- You will need to be organised and be able to meet deadlines
- The creative work will demand a high level of commitment and students will need to be confident and informed to produce original texts of their own

Students do not need to have any prior experience with Photoshop or film editing software to succeed in the practical aspects of the course.

## GCSE Psychology



### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and behaviour. The course will develop your understanding of how we think and how we behave. The course looks at the role of biological, social, developmental, and cognitive factors in explaining why we respond to things around us in certain ways. You will also learn about the mental health conditions and the treatments and therapies available. You can continue studying Psychology in more depth at A Level at Plume College.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

The course will involve studying theories and explanations of behaviour, understanding research which has been conducted and making conclusions about them. You will be using a lot of information to make informed conclusions and debate the credibility of the evidence we use. You will also carry out your own scientific investigations of psychological processes.

You will be studying the following topics on the course:

#### Year 1: Cognition and Behaviour

- **Memory** – How we store memories and how we forget things
- **Perception** – How we see the world we live in and how illusions trick us
- **Development** – How we develop our thought processes and understanding
- **Research methods** – How Psychologists test theories

#### Year 2: Social Context and Behaviour

- **Social influence** – The influence of other people on our behaviour
- **Language, thought and communication** – Theories of development of language and thoughts
- **Brain and neuropsychology** – The structure of the brain and how it works
- **Psychological problems** – Psychopathology; the study of mental health issues

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will complete 2 written papers, each lasting an hour and forty-five minutes. These include multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions. There is no coursework element. The course is graded Level 9-1.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

You should have a genuine interest in scientific explanations of behaviour, and an interest in learning new and alternative theories. You should also have the ability to consider the strengths and weaknesses of these explanations. This will involve written work, using statistical methods, working independently to produce your own research and meet the deadlines given throughout the course.

## GCSE Sociology

### WHAT WILL THIS COURSE ENABLE ME TO DO?

Sociology helps students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society and the world around us. You learn about what sociologists' study and understand society's structures, processes and issues. Sociology is exciting, interesting, and relevant to students' lives!



Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour and considers the role of different institutions such as the school, the family, and the criminal justice system. It will develop skills such as debating, evaluating, and constructing an argument which will prepare you well for progressing to A Levels at Plume College as well as in employment and careers such as teaching, law, police work, social work.

### WHAT WILL THE COURSE CONTAIN?

Sociology is the study of society and the many things that we have experience of. This course encourages students to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing their critical, evaluative skills. It often requires discussion and debate. However, you will need to be able to construct an argument to support your point of view as well as be able to listen to and appreciate other people's points of view. It encourages you to think about things in a different way and not necessarily take for granted the ideas you may have. You will engage with a range of sociological questions by applying theories and research from a selection of key texts.

#### In Unit 1 you will focus on:

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

#### In Unit 2 you will study:

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will complete 2 exam papers at the end of Year 11 each lasting one hour and forty-five minutes. There is no coursework. The course is graded Level 9-1.

### QUALITIES I WILL NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COURSE?

Students should have an interest in the world around them and in explaining and questioning why things happen. They should enjoy discussing academic arguments and social issues but also be prepared to support their arguments through research and clearly structured written work.

## Flexible Learning Pathway

### What will this course enable me to do?

For some students, a programme based exclusively on GCSE and BTEC courses may not be the most appropriate preparation for future employment. If you like learning practical skills and have a real interest in a particular vocational area, then you should consider one of the special package courses that we offer. The Plume Academy has developed strong links with local colleges, and we are therefore able to offer practical courses (please note that all courses contain written aspects) which complement the students school curriculum. Courses are available in the following areas (these may be subject to minimum numbers):



- Animal Care - Level 1
- General Construction Occupations - Level 1
- Equine Studies – available at Level 1
- Hospitality (Catering) – BTEC Level 1
- Hairdressing – available at Level 1
- Horticulture - Level 1
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance – Level 1

### What will I do if I choose a vocational education course?

The week will be divided between Plume, your college course, and a relevant work experience placement. You will attend the academy for three days and one day at college, with the final day being a work placement or other provision.

#### College Days:

College placements take place one day a week for two years. Within this time students will complete foundation courses in their chosen subject. The students' day will be made up of both theory and practical sessions which count towards a number of different units, that make up the full qualification. A transport service between Plume and college will be provided free of charge, with pick up and drop off from the Fambridge Road Campus. Please note that college term dates may not always be the same as the Academy's.

#### In School Days:

On the three days you will attend the academy, you will follow an academy timetable as you have done in Key Stage 3. You will study the following compulsory subjects:

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

The majority of students will also study English Literature.

## Flexible Learning Pathway continued

Mini Options – you choose **two** from a selection of subjects; these may differ from mainstream options but **might** include:

- Geography
- History
- Drama
- Technology
- Business
- Child Development
- Art
- Sport Studies

Students can be entered for Foundation and Higher tier GCSEs.

### What Qualities do I need to be successful on this Programme?

- You will need to have an idea and interest in one of the courses offered
- The maturity to learn skills at college and cope in a work placement
- The personal integrity to be trusted in a college and work placement
- A genuine interest in learning new skills in a practical and work-based environment
- The ability to adapt to your different learning environments during each week
- Must be punctual for transport pick-up

### Can anyone complete a flexible learning pathway?

**This course is not to be taken by any student but those that are selected, encouraged, and guided to make this informed choice dependent upon their academic ability** This is a special programme which is designed for those who benefit from a different style of learning and you will need to show that you have the personal qualities to benefit from these opportunities. You will need to attend an interview at Plume where we will make an initial assessment of your suitability for this course. Your parents will also be invited to this interview and you will also need to discuss your career plans with a trained Connexions Advisor. The college will also ask you to attend an interview and induction day before you start the course. Colleges offer places on a successful interview basis.

**To find out more about Flexible Learning Courses, please attend the virtual Options Evening, where you can view the videos and understand more about how it works.**



**For your notes:**

