



RAWMARSH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

2026 YEAR 9 INTO YEAR 10

OPTIONS BOOKLET



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PARTNERSHIP
TRUST.

INTRODUCTION

We hope that you will find this booklet useful as you decide on your option choices for Year 10 and Year 11. Each subject has been prepared by subject Directors and Leaders.

The specifications, courses and exam boards are selected by the school to enable students access to the most appropriate curriculum. You will be given every opportunity to have discussions with subject staff with regards to what the course entails, how it is assessed and what future education or career paths it will open up.

In Year 10 and 11 as well as studying a Core Curriculum you will be able to choose three subjects from the following:

- Art, Craft & Design
- Construction
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Health & Social Care
- ICT
- Music
- Photography
- Religious Studies
- Sport Studies
- Spanish

Whilst we try to facilitate all requests, there are sometimes circumstances out of our control that mean we cannot meet all requests.

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WHAT ARE CORE SUBJECTS?

Core subjects are compulsory national curriculum subjects that all secondary students will study throughout their education up to KS4.

Students will continue to study English, Maths, and Science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics) until the end of Year 11 and gain a GCSE in these subjects alongside the GCSE's they will gain from their option subjects.

Students continue to be supported throughout their KS4 journey with weekly Physical Education lessons and 1 lesson every 2 weeks in PSHE and RE.



WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

Language is all around us and it is something we use every day.

English not only teaches you about language but also how to use it effectively, and respond to it with understanding.

Literacy skills are developed in English lessons that will help you in other subject areas in school, in everyday life and in your future career.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

English Literature will not only help you develop your reading and analytical skills but will also provide you with the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate a range of texts from different genres.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

In English Language / English Literature you will develop the ability to write accurately and analytically, in a range of styles and for a variety of purposes.

You will also be able to read and respond to a range of texts with understanding and insight. You will develop skills as a speaker for different situations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE?

The course requires you to read a wide range of poetry, plays and novels and respond to them in four exams in Year 11.

The key areas of study focus on:

- The study of a Shakespeare play
- A range of poems from a chosen collection
- A 19th Century novel and a modern novel or play
- Descriptive and Narrative Writing
- Writing to express a viewpoint
- Analysis of non-fiction and literary texts

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All students are entered for both English Literature and English Language.

As part of the Language course you will complete a Speaking and Listening task which will also be awarded a grade on your GCSE certificate.

Make sure you understand exactly what you need in order to pass your English examinations. If in doubt, ask! There will be four exams at the end of Year 11.

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE?

The skills you gain in English Language, such as the ability to read, write and speak with confidence, are highly valued by employers.

Most further education establishments and many employers look for a high quality GCSE qualification in English Language.

Skills learnt in GCSE English Literature such as literacy, analysis, communication, empathy and the ability to develop ideas and a line of argument, are useful in many jobs.

WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

Science affects your life in many ways - the clothes you wear may include man-made fibres, the food you eat may contain chemical colourings, household appliances contain electric circuits.

All Science courses encourage you to acquire a body of scientific knowledge and develop an understanding of Science including its power and limitations; develop experimental and investigative abilities; develop an understanding of the nature of scientific ideas and activity and the basis for environmental applications of Science and of the economic and social implications of these.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- Plan strategies to develop and test ideas.
- Select, organise and present information clearly and logically.
- Analyse critical data using knowledge and understanding.
- Use ethical, moral, social and economic reasons to explain your ideas.

SCIENCE

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SCIENCE?

An equal amount of Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied in all Science courses.

You will develop an understanding of how Science works and learn how to use scientific evidence to answer questions such as:

- What the possible risks are of giving children vaccinations?
- When is it economical to extract metals from their ores?
- How can radioactive tracers be used to detect forged bank notes?

To do this you will develop and improve your scientific communication skills by using different approaches to presenting information including using the Internet.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All GCSE courses begin to be taught in Y10. Most students will study Combined Science. In this course, students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, and are assessed through 6 exams in Year 11. Students leave school with two GCSEs in Science.

Those students who are chosen to study Separate Science will also study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but do so in greater depth. Again, assessment is through 6 exams at the end of Year 11.

Students who study Separate Science will leave school with three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT SCIENCE?

For many careers, good Science qualifications are essential. These include careers such as Nursing and Health Care, Child Development, Engineering, Architecture and Construction, Surveying and any other careers that have a technical aspect.

Employers at all levels see Science as a desirable qualification, as it shows that students are able to demonstrate a wide variety of skills essential in the workplace, such as analysis and interpreting data, applying knowledge and researching.

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT MATHEMATICS?

Employers recognise that Mathematics is a demanding subject. The progress on your GCSE course gives them an indication of how well you might apply yourself in the world of work.

The Mathematics you study is an important foundation for many courses you may take in employment or further education. Many jobs and careers require you to have a GCSE in Mathematics.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

You will develop a wide range of skills in your GCSE Mathematics course. These include the ability to:

- Use your mathematical knowledge to solve problems.
- Apply a logical method to reach an answer.
- Find solutions to problems from real life.
- Use a calculator correctly and efficiently.

MATHEMATICS

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

GCSE Mathematics covers many basic skills that you will need to use in a variety of ways all through your life.

You will use many of the skills you learn in other subjects. For example, in Science you need to take measurements, use formulae and solve equations. In Geography you need to read statistical diagrams and maps.

In Technology you need to be able to draw to scale and be competent with measures. In many other subjects you will be asked to obtain information from charts and diagrams.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN MATHS?

The course should enable you to:

- Make and monitor decisions to solve problems
- Develop skills of reasoning
- Communicate
- Understand place value and the decimal system
- Develop methods of computation
- Solve numerical problems
- Understand and use equations and formulae
- Understand and use properties of shape
- Understand the properties of position, movement and transformations
- Use measures
- Collect, process, represent and interpret data
- Estimate and calculate probabilities of events



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be placed in academic 'sets' for examination at two possible levels:

- Higher Grades 4-9
- Foundation Grades 1-5

Assessment:

PAPER 1— CALCULATOR
PAPER 2— NON CALCULATOR
PAPER 3— CALCULATOR



WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT STATISTICS?

Employers highly value GCSE Statistics as it demonstrates strong analytical and problem-solving skills, which are essential in many industries. The qualification shows that you can work with data, interpret information accurately, and make evidence-based decisions – abilities that are increasingly important in a data-driven workplace. Employers in fields such as Finance, Marketing, Healthcare, Engineering, and IT particularly appreciate candidates with a background in statistics, as these roles often require data analysis and critical thinking.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

Studying GCSE Statistics equips you with a wide range of valuable skills that are both practical and transferable. These skills are not only useful for academic progression, but also highly relevant for careers and everyday decision-making.

- You will develop the ability to collect, organise, and interpret data effectively, using statistical techniques to identify trends and make informed decisions.
- Analytical thinking is a key skill gained, as you'll learn to critically evaluate data sources, assess reliability, and draw logical conclusions.
- Problem-solving is another crucial skill, as you'll apply mathematical methods to real-world scenarios.
- Additionally, you'll enhance your ability to present information clearly through charts, graphs, and tables, as well as improve your understanding of probability and risk.

STATISTICS

WHY STUDY STATISTICS?

GCSE Edexcel Statistics equips students with vital skills for analysing, interpreting, and presenting data, which are increasingly valuable in today's data-driven world. It develops critical thinking by encouraging students to question data sources, assess reliability, and draw meaningful conclusions.

These skills complement a range of subjects, including Mathematics, Geography, Science, and Economics, and provide a strong foundation for further studies and careers in fields such as finance, engineering, healthcare, and marketing.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN STATISTICS?

In GCSE Statistics, you will learn how to collect, analyse, and interpret data effectively, using a range of statistical methods and techniques. You will explore topics such as data collection methods, sampling techniques, and the presentation of data using charts, graphs, and tables.

You'll also delve into measures of central tendency, like mean, median, and mode, as well as measures of spread, such as range and standard deviation. Probability plays a key role, helping you understand likelihood and risk in various contexts.

Additionally, you will study how to evaluate data critically, identify trends, and make informed predictions. By applying these skills to real-world scenarios, you'll gain a deeper understanding of how statistics are used in everyday life, from business and science to media and public policy.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be two exams. Each exam is one and a half hours long, taken at the end of Year 11. Calculators are allowed in both papers. The course will cover the following areas:

- The Collection of data
- Processing, representing and analysing data
- Probability

The papers contain short, medium and extended response questions. There will be questions involving solving problems, which may need you to complete several steps to get to an answer.



WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT HISTORY?

Skills you learn in GCSE History such as literacy, analysis, reasoning, communication, empathy and research are useful in many jobs and this is why GCSE History is valued by employers, colleges and universities.

They are great life skills no matter what your career path.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- To gather and select relevant information.
- To use historical materials to produce and communicate ideas.
- To be able to develop your own reasoned point of view.
- Historical enquiry - Asking and answering questions of our past and how it has shaped our present and future.

HISTORY

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

This is a fascinating subject which gives an insight into amazing things that have happened in the past. It helps us to understand where we came from and where we are going to. It gives us opportunity to understand others and to appreciate the challenges faced by those who have gone before us.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HISTORY?

You will study with the Edexcel examination board. The main topics are:

Paper 1

- Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000 - present and Whitechapel c1870 -1900: crime, policing and the inner city (Jack the Ripper)

Paper 2:

- Part 1 Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- Part 2 Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Paper 3:

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are 3 formal examinations.

- Paper 1- 30%
- Paper 2- 40% (Each topic is worth 20%)
- Paper 3- 30%

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT GEOGRAPHY

The job market has become increasingly competitive and international. Around 75% of businesses think the UK is in danger of being left behind unless young people learn to think more globally.

However, the transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying Geography are actively sought out by employers allowing graduate geographers to consistently experience lower than average levels of unemployment.

A GCSE in Geography is a stepping stone in becoming a valued individual in a competitive world of work.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- The ability to research information .
- To develop organisational skills.
- To be able to use graphs, diagrams and simple statistics to interpret and analyse information.
- Practical fieldwork skills.

GEOGRAPHY

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

You live in the world - why not find out more about the challenges and opportunities it offers and how to get involved?

Find out more about how people are using different environments, both your own and those in other parts of the world. Investigate issues of sustainability - will the Earth still be able to provide us with all the resources we take for granted?

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN GEOGRAPHY?

Geography gives you the chance to study 3 units:

- Living within the physical landscape (this unit will look at the challenges of natural hazards, the living world and physical landscapes within the UK).
- Challenges within the human environment (this unit will look at urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenges of resource management).
- Geographical application and skills (this unit will allow you to leave the classroom and experience geography in the real world).

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in two fieldwork visits. One will focus upon human geography and the second on physical geography.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Paper 1 is a 1 hour 30 minute examination which covers the 'living within the physical landscape' unit and accounts for 35% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 is a 1 hour 30 minute examination which covers the second unit of 'challenges within the human environment' and accounts for 35% of the final grade.
- Paper 3 is a 1 hour 30 minute examination which covers the third unit of 'geographical application and skill.' This paper accounts for 30% of the whole GCSE.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

Skills developed in studying religions are increasingly in demand in a complex, connected, global world. They help us to understand ourselves, our society, and the world:

- The ability to understand how people have thought and acted in different places and times, and the complexity of how social behaviours are shaped by beliefs and values.
- Being able to understand different viewpoints and philosophies, from various perspectives.
- Be able to apply your understanding to find practical solutions to various matters.
- Studying religion encourages self-awareness, initiative, creativity and teamwork. Religious Studies students are excellent communicators and make great leaders.

You will gain skills in the following:

- Skills in communication and analysis
- Critical thinking and evaluation
- Ability to analyse evidence to find the truth
- Develop the ability to debate and form arguments (both written and verbal)
- Develop different methods to research

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS SAY ABOUT RS ?

Religious Studies students are highly employable. More than 82% go on to employment or further study, and 29% go onto professional jobs.

People who have studied RE generally go on to work in some of the following careers:

- NHS (especially Doctors and Nurses)
- National and Local Government
- Education Sector
- Law and Legal firms
- Social Services
- Television Companies
- Journalism
- Investment and Banking

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religious Studies offers you the opportunity to study a range of highly topical and controversial issues. It encourages you to think and debate about how and why people respond to ethical issues in everyday society.

You do not have to be religious to take Religious Studies and it is not about making you believe in any viewpoint. Instead, you need to be prepared to listen to other people's viewpoints and find out why people believe what they do, as well as considering important issues that affect everyone.

You will also be encouraged to consider your viewpoint on a range of issues and develop the ability to justify your opinion both verbally and in written form.

WHAT WILL I STUDY IN YEAR 10?

The course focuses on both religious and non-religious attitudes towards society and a range of ethical and philosophical issues. We study the Pearson/Edexcel Religious Studies B course which involves learning about the viewpoints of two religions (Christianity and Islam) and also non-religious viewpoints (atheist and humanist) covering subjects such as:

- Christian and Muslim beliefs
- Living the Christian and Muslim life
- Crime and Punishment
- Peace and Conflict
- Marriage and the family
- Matters of life and death

You will be assessed at the end of the two-year course via two examinations:

Paper 1 50% – 1 hour 45 minutes (Christianity beliefs and Practices, Marriage and the Family, Death and Afterlife)

Paper 2 50% – 1 hour 45 minutes (Islam Beliefs and practices, Peace and Conflict and Crime and Punishment)

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Religious Studies lessons are varied. You may learn about a specific belief system (both religious and non-religious) – why someone holds the view they do and how this belief affects their daily life/behaviour. You may also gather evidence to support or challenge an argument, debate an issue and assess sources of information or work in groups to produce a presentation.



WHAT DO EMPLOYERS SAY ABOUT STUDYING SPANISH?

- A study in March 2026 concluded that Spanish is the 3rd most in-demand second language for employers.
- The study also showed that Spanish is the 5th highest paying second language.
- The job market has become increasingly competitive and international and research by the University of Portsmouth revealed that most job adverts in the UK now list a second language as a requirement or a necessity, and not simply as desirable.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- You will be assessed on the four language skills:
- Listening – 25%
- Speaking – 25%
- Reading – 25%
- Writing – 25%
- The exams are tiered so you will either take the Foundation Examination (up to a grade 5) or the Higher Examination (grade 3 to a grade 9).

SPANISH

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

Spanish is a world language with over 600 million speakers across 21 countries worldwide, making it the world's fourth most spoken language overall. Tourism, ICT, Marketing, Banking, Business and Engineering are just a few areas where you can use Spanish. People who speak a foreign language earn 20% more on average than those who don't!

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SPANISH?

If you continue Spanish in Y10 you can expect to continue to build on your KS3 knowledge and study the following:

- A number of cultural themes including Media and Technology, Travel and Tourism and Lifestyles and wellbeing.
- A mixture of listening, speaking, reading, translation and writing activities linked to various topics.
- Information about life in Spain, regional traditions and fiestas as well as other Spanish speaking countries such as Mexico, Argentina, Peru and many others.
- What life is like for a young person living in the Spanish speaking world in 2020's.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- You will be able to communicate with others confidently.
- You will become more open minded and culturally aware.
- You will be able to think and write flexibly and creatively.
- You will develop your knowledge of grammar in English and Spanish.
- You will improve your listening and reading skills and apply those to different contexts.
- You will be able to identify patterns and apply it to different situations.
- You will improve your memory and problem-solving skills.
- You will further develop good study skills and the ability to work and learn independently.



WHAT DO EMPLOYERS SAY ABOUT STUDYING FRENCH?

- A study in March 2025 concluded that French is the second most in-demand second language for employers in the UK.
- The study also showed that French is the 3rd highest paying second language.
- The job market has become increasingly competitive and international and research by the University of Portsmouth revealed that most job adverts in the UK now list a second language as a requirement or a necessity, and not simply as desirable.
- 20% of World trade takes place in French-speaking countries in a wide range of corporate sectors including retail, automotive, luxury goods and aeronautics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- You will be assessed on the four language skills:
- Listening – 25%
- Speaking – 25%
- Reading – 25%
- Writing – 25%

The exams are tiered so you will either take the Foundation Examination (up to a grade 5) or the Higher Examination (grade 3 to a grade 9).

FRENCH

WHY STUDY FRENCH?

French is a world language with over 320 million people across 27 countries in 5 different continents. It is the official second language of over 40 countries and the fifth most spoken language in the world. Tourism, ICT, Marketing, Banking, Business, Pharmaceutical, Beauty, Fashion, Mechanics and Engineering are just a few areas where you can use French. French is an official language of most international organisations, including the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO and the International Court of Justice (with English), and the International Red Cross (with English and Spanish) as well as the International Olympic Committee. People who speak a foreign language earn 20% more on average than those who don't!

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN FRENCH?

If you continue French in Y10 you can expect to continue to build on your KS3 knowledge and study the following:

- A number of cultural themes including Media and Technology, Travel and Tourism and Lifestyles and wellbeing.
- A mixture of listening, speaking, reading, translation and writing activities linked to various topics.
- Information about life in France, regional traditions and festivals as well as other French speaking countries such as Belgium, Switzerland, Senegal, Canada and many others.
- What life is like for a young person living in the Francophone world in 2020's.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- You will be able to communicate with others confidently.
- You will become more open minded and culturally aware.
- You will be able to think and write flexibly and creatively.
- You will develop your knowledge of grammar in English and French.
- You will improve your listening and reading skills and apply those to different contexts.
- You will be able to identify patterns and apply it to different situations.
- You will improve your memory and problem-solving skills.
- You will further develop good study skills and the ability to work and learn independently.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- Practical skills in a variety of sports and physical activities.
- Literacy skills to construct examination answers and coursework analysis.
- Communication skills to take part in class discussions.
- Problem-solving and strategic thinking.
- Analytical skills for self-evaluation.
- Leadership skills for coaching and teaching peers.
- Concentration and listening skills.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A SPORT STUDIES LESSON?

Lessons will be a mixture of classroom and practical lessons. The exam unit will involve theory lessons and exam practice. The other units involve a combination of coursework and practical activities.

SPORT STUDIES

WHY STUDY SPORT?

Sport Studies allows you to develop and strengthen your practical ability in a range of sports and physical activities as well as learning and understanding the theoretical and biological workings of a variety of skills. The course will equip you with a range of transferable skills that will be an asset for further education in the field of Sport, Fitness, Health and Wellbeing.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SPORT STUDIES?

The programme of study will cover a range of sports related topics including:

- Sports Leadership & Coaching
- Practical Sport
- Outdoor Adventurous Activities
- Performance Analysis

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will have a combination of classroom and practical lessons where you cover 3 different units:

- Coursework unit (40%) - Students are assessed in their two best practical sports. They complete a piece of coursework where they analyse themselves in a sport of their choice. They also plan and deliver a sports coaching session of their choice to a group and then evaluate their performance.
- Theory Exam (40%) - Contemporary issues in sport which includes: The Olympics and Paralympics, sporting behaviour, performance enhancing drugs, major sporting events and sports development and technology in sport.
- Coursework unit (20%) - Students learn about a wide range of Outdoor Activities and the equipment, safety and provision of those activities. They take part in an assessed OAA activity in which they are judged on how they keep safe; they then evaluate their performance whilst they also plan how they would deliver an outdoor activity session.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

You should choose Drama if you enjoy performing plays, portraying different characters and enjoy a practical-based subject. You should have excellent group work skills and also be prepared to study written texts and express your own ideas in detail. You may have a keen interest in design and making things and a passion for theatre, television and film.

DO I HAVE TO PERFORM TO THE CLASS IN EVERY LESSON?

No, you will not be expected to perform acting work to the class in every lesson. Some of you will be keen performers but some of you may wish to share your work only with the teacher and in some units everyone will be assessed on their design skills. For C1 and C2 assessment, you can choose to either act in the final performance or be part of the technical team - so you might be in charge of the sound effects or the costumes that everyone wears, for example.

WHAT COULD I DO NEXT?

The possibilities are endless. Drama will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities will be looking for. It can also give you opportunities to travel, meet people and get the most out of life.

As well as acting and performing, a drama qualification can lead to career opportunities in teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy, journalism. The design skills taught can help you access further qualifications leading to careers such as lighting technicians, wardrobe assistants, costume designers and scenery designers.

DRAMA

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

In Drama, you will play many parts in different imaginary situations and will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. Not only will you get to improve your acting skills, but there will also be opportunities to learn about theatre design in areas such as lighting, sound, scenery and costume.

Drama is an ideal course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. You will enjoy this subject if you enjoy working as part of a team as drama involves a lot of group work.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN DRAMA?

- You will investigate a variety of drama techniques, play scripts and theatrical styles.
- Learn about how playwrights and practitioners communicate with an audience and make an impact.
- Learn how to use a range of drama techniques to present effective practical work.
- Learn about new concepts in theatre design.
- Analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance in terms of the acting and design. Past productions we have seen have included The Crucible and A Streetcar Named Desire.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The GCSE course is divided into three separate components.

Component 1 - Devising 40%

You will work in a small group to share your ideas and create your own original piece of theatre based on a stimulus such as inspiring quotation or an interesting piece of artwork. You can choose to be assessed as an actor or a designer. In addition, you will complete a portfolio of evidence and an evaluation of your practical work.

Component 2 - Text in Performance 20%

For this component you will stage a performance of scripted drama in small groups. If you choose to be assessed as an actor, you will have your own character and will learn two extracts from a script to be performed in costume to an audience and the visiting examiner. If you choose the design route, you will be responsible for the overall design of the piece in one of the following areas: sound, lighting, costume or scenery.

Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice 40%

This is a written paper where you will write about your ideas for staging a performance of Shakespeare's play Macbeth which we will study in class. You will also write a review of a live theatre production you have seen during the course.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Exploring Music Products and Styles 30% - Internally assessed.

Music Skills Development 30% - Internally assessed.

Responding to a Music Brief 40% - Externally assessed.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Everybody studying Music Performance starts with a different level of musical skill, but you must possess a drive for self-improvement as a musician and be willing to perform in front of an audience.

Ideally, you will be a confident performer on at least one instrument before starting the course. You also need a love of music and excellent self-discipline, as you will be required to work independently during rehearsals. An ability to read music notation is also recommended!

WHERE WILL THIS TAKE ME?

This qualification will allow you to develop your knowledge and skills through practical and creative application in a vocational context, and by responding creatively to a commercial brief.

Since you will be developing skills across a number of disciplines – such as music creation, production and performance – you will have a better understanding of whether the music industry is for you and, if so, which part of it you might want to study further.

You could progress to a Level 2 Technical Certificate or to a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC National, either on its own or in combination with A Levels.

MUSIC

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

BTEC Tech Awards Music is a development of music at KS4 and a stepping stone for further study at KS5 (college, sixth form etc.)

It is a very practical course, that will develop your practical and performance ability - become a better musician! It will develop your understanding and appreciation of different musical genres, and your critical and creative thinking.

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Confidence through performance and rehearsal
- Learning independently and time management through rehearsal
- Team work through performing with others
- Organisation
- Problem-solving
- Research
- Self-discipline
- Stamina
- Taking on responsibility

WHAT DOES THE QUALIFICATION COVER?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment.

You will develop key skills, ranging from rehearsing to experimenting with technology, equipment and instruments. You will also develop an understanding of the music industry. Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- Exploring Music Products and Styles - exploration of the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigation of the key features of different musical styles and genres. You will apply stylistic features to performance, composition and music production activities.
- Music Skills Development - development of two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further Purpose statement. You will explore professional techniques for musicians and look at how musicians share their music with others.
- Responding to a Music Brief - developing and presenting music in response to a given music brief. You will focus on a particular area of the music sector that excites and appeals to you and respond to a music brief as a composer, performer or producer.



WHY STUDY ICT?

The ICT curriculum has been designed to give learners the opportunity to explore a variety of applications. These will provide them with skills and knowledge needed to act as a stepping stone into a wide variety of occupations when they leave school, and also skills that will be essential to enhancing their learning in many other subjects that they have chosen.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Activities in lessons are varied and will include a wide range of activities including:

- Research and practical tasks building on the skills learned in the lesson.
- Student presentations and collaborative work.
- End of topic assessments and progress feedback.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

You will need a genuine interest in ICT, good organisation skills, literacy skills, a positive work ethic and the desire to succeed.

ICT

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ICT?

A range of topics and skills will be covered. User interfaces are everywhere, from cash machines, to the apps on our phones and tablets. We will explore the key principles of user interface design. Another key element of the digital sector is data - what is it? Why is it collected? How is it collected? The spreadsheet topic will answer these questions. It will provide students with a theoretical and practical understanding of the creation and use of spreadsheets to analyse and manipulate data by using entertaining scenarios to teach a very important topic that provides essential skills for life. Other topics include sound editing, image manipulation and ICT project planning.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Should students take the decision to continue with ICT into Year 10 and Year 11, they will apply much of the theory and practical skills developed in Year 9 to three components of work.

- Component 1 - Exploring user interface design principles and project planning techniques. Students will expand on the theory delivered in Year 9 to complete an assignment where they will explore user interface design and development principles, creating a functional interface for a given scenario.
- Component 2 - Collecting, presenting and interpreting data. Students will expand on the theory delivered in Year 9 to complete an assignment where they will explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations, developing a dashboard using data manipulation tools.
- Component 3 - Effective digital working practices. This is a new unit to be studied in Year 11. Students will explore how modern information technology is evolving, looking at legal and ethical issues of the sharing of data and understanding the role of cyber security to secure it.

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that is externally assessed. Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed assignments, each worth 30% of the overall grade. These contain written work and practical tasks. Component 3 is an exam worth 40% of the overall grade. This is a written exam at the end of Year 11.



WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Health and Social Care lessons are varied. You may:

- Work in groups to share ideas and compare information
- Spend time researching and writing up coursework tasks
- Develop research and presentation skills
- Use the internet and health promotion activities
- Design and create resources to promote health
- Use real-life stories and situations to apply knowledge

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Health and Social Care involves a lot of coursework. You will need:

- An interest in Health and Social Care related jobs.
- Good reading and extended writing skills.
- An excellent homework record.
- Good organisational skills.
- The confidence to go out into the community and talk to people doing different jobs.
- The ability to find your own information and conduct research.
- To be able to think for yourself and work independently.
- Study and revise skills for the examined unit.
- Determination and the ability to remain motivated in order to complete coursework.
- Time management.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

WHY STUDY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

Around 3 million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK. The need for both health and social care will continue to rise and therefore continue to play a key role in UK society, as the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase. Therefore the study of this subject provides a good platform for further study in Key Stage 4 and beyond to pursue career opportunities post-16 in this essential sector.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

Within this subject you will learn and begin to develop an understanding of different factors that can impact an individual's health and wellbeing.

Alongside this, Health and Social Care provides you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills about the health and social care sector, how they work to meet individual needs and the essential services they offer, as well as learning about how these services can support an individual's with specific needs.

Most importantly, whilst studying Health and Social Care, you will learn about our essential health and social care services that are relied on by all, learning about how they work to provide essential health and social care services to society by looking at current health issues and a range of real life case studies. This provides you with real life application that consolidates knowledge.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This subject provides a platform for further study in Key Stage 4, where you would undertake the OCR level 1/2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care. This qualification is comprised of three components; over the course of your two year qualification you would complete two internal coursework units and one external synoptic assessment.



WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- A love of practical based learning using a range of construction based materials.
- Determination when solving problems particularly when using skills related to literacy, numeracy, and enterprise.
- An interest in the built environment and the impact of the construction industry.

CONSTRUCTION

WHY STUDY CONSTRUCTION?

The Construction industry is a wide and diverse industry which offers a huge range of opportunities to work in, including areas such as carpentry, electrical, Painting & Decorating.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN CONSTRUCTION?

You will learn practical, hands on skills that are immediately transferable to the workplace, such as electrical, joinery, Painting & Decorating.

You will have to consider aspects that change and improve the value of the built environment in order to make recommendations on how to raise the quality of certain areas.

You will do this first of all by analysing your local area, and how it is used by the community.



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is made up of two separate units.

Unit 1: External exam 90 minutes 40%

Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment (coursework) 60%

This consists of three written courseworks with practical elements:

- Joinery
- Painting & Decorating
- Electrical

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Year 10 will cover 1 lesson a week of theory and 1 lesson of practical. You will be assessed through online written assessments, exam questions and practical elements. The practical skills covered are Joinery, Electrical, Painting and decorating. In Year 11 you will be completing the NEA coursework which will contribute to 60% of your final grade and prepare for the exam which contributes to 40% of the final grade.





WHY STUDY ART, CRAFT & DESIGN?

After experiencing a range of media in Year 7 and 8, the Art department is confident you know more than enough to take the challenge of developing quality artwork. You will gain a firm understanding of Art by investigating a range of art movements from different cultures, artists, crafts people, designers and architects. You will develop knowledge and skills in following areas of study: Drawing, Painting, Art Textile, Clay work and Photography. You will be able to create high-quality studies and gain a great sense of achievement from your final ideas/pieces.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through the following methods:

Portfolio of Coursework (60%)

You will explore a range of 2D and 3D materials, creatively develop design ideas linking to your research and enhance your knowledge and understanding of artists and their work. Your portfolio must include two different projects and must be supported by written annotations about your research and the development of your work. These projects will evidence all of the assessment objectives so that you gain the full range of marks.

Externally Set Assignment (40%)

The work completed for the exam is similar to the coursework project. Your exam will begin in January of Year 11 and will be completed by April of Year 11. At the end of the preparation period, you will spend 10 hours in exam conditions making the final piece. The 10 hours will spread over three days.

ART. CRAFT & DESIGN

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ART. CRAFT & DESIGN?

Art , Craft & Design students will respond to artist research by, exploring a range of artists and art movements from different cultures, artists, crafts people, designers and architects. Students will extend their work linking to design ideas and the use of composition.

Students will experience workshop-based lessons to help develop their technical skill in the 2D and 3D elements of Art, for example, pencil, pen and ink, painting, textiles, clay and some photography. During this time students will learn about the content needed to make successful studies that are presented in sketchbook and how to annotate the development of their work.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN GCSE ART. CRAFT & DESIGN?

You will start to refine your skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, 3D clay work, art textiles and photography.

All of the work that students complete in Year 10 and 11 must contain the four assessment objectives:

- Artists influence - Students will make work from both contemporary and historical artists. They will be able to transfer particular artists' style, technique and genre into their own research and photographs.
- Practical experimentation - using a wide range of art materials both technically and expressively to show images and ideas.
- Visual research - using observational drawings and painting skills to make images and ideas. Students will learn how to annotate the progression of their work.
- Personal development - putting together your ideas in a final piece of work.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Taught as a group as well as an individual, one to one mini-tutorials will guide you to a higher level of achievement. You will learn to work with different materials and techniques and develop projects within your portfolio. There are many high quality examples to help. This will be a creative and individual process.

WHY STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY?

Studying Photography allows students to develop creative and technical skills while expressing their unique perspectives. Photography encourages artistic exploration, critical thinking, and visual storytelling, making it a powerful medium for communication. It also provides practical skills like using digital tools such as Photoshop, creating professional e-portfolios, and analysing visual work, which are valuable in many creative and professional fields. Beyond technical abilities, photography helps students build confidence, patience, and an appreciation for the world around them through observation and experimentation.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Students are given a selection of themes used as starting points to develop their ideas. Students are introduced to a variety of learning experiences that help them 'Foster the love of Art,' which encourage the development of skills through the use of appropriate media, processes, techniques and technologies.

Students learn how sources inspire the development of ideas. For example, drawing on the work and approaches of artists, craftspeople or designers from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures. Students develop skills and knowledge in figurative and non-figurative forms, image manipulation, close up, and imaginative interpretations.

PHOTOGRAPHY

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY?

Choosing Photography in Year 10 and 11 will lead to a GCSE qualification. You will continue to broaden your skills, knowledge and understanding around photography, art & imagery, further developing your practical skills on and off screen. This would include sketching, drawing, painting, collage digital editing and image manipulation using Photoshop.

During projects you will analyse the work of existing artists and designers and use this to develop your own ideas; refine your ideas through experimentation and selection of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes; record ideas and observations; produce a range of high quality, professional images which satisfy the project brief.

Photography is a practical subject that teaches an understanding of how to compose an image, the use of a camera to create a visual representation of a topic along with the skills to evaluate and appreciate design. This course will also develop skills in ICT, written analysis and digital manipulation.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assignments will contain 4 Assessment Objectives:

- Artists influence – how artists/photographers have represented the world.
- Practical Experimentation- using a range of Photoshop/ materials to show images and ideas.
- Visual Research – using camera skills to take images.
- Personal Development – putting together your ideas in a final piece of work.

