



**Hazel Wood**  
High School

# Year 9 Options Information Booklet



Part of the  
**Oak** Learning Partnership



# Getting Ready for Key Stage 4



As you move into Key Stage 4 and begin Year 10, you start an important new phase in your education. During these two years, you will study a combination of GCSEs and/or Vocational Qualifications, which will form the foundation of your future choices at college, apprenticeships, and eventually university or employment.

To make sure you are fully prepared for this next step, the process of choosing some of your subjects begins in Year 9. This gives you time to think carefully about what you enjoy, what you are good at, and which subjects will help you reach your long-term goals. By making your choices now, you can focus your studies on subjects that interest and motivate you.

Your Key Stage 4 timetable will be made up of two types of subjects: **core subjects**, which everyone must study, and **optional subjects**, which you can choose based on your interests and aspirations.

These are compulsory for all students and together form five GCSE qualifications:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science – this counts as two GCSEs because it covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics in a combined format.

These core subjects ensure that every student has a strong foundation of essential knowledge and skills, regardless of which optional subjects they choose later.

## Your optional subjects

As a Hazel Wood High School student, you will choose 4 subjects to study that are over and above your core subjects. These are known in school as 'your options'.

## The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification, but a group of GCSE subjects. These include English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography, and a Modern Foreign Language. Studying these subjects helps students keep a wide range of future education and career options open. The EBacc is available to students where appropriate, but it is not compulsory.

## Will I definitely get my chosen options?


We will do our best to give everyone their first choices and, if we are unable to do this, one of our teachers will meet you to discuss the best options for you.

Choose the subject you like, not the teacher you like. There is no guarantee you will have the same teacher each year.

**Do not** choose subjects that your friends choose so that you can be in classes with them, choose what is right for YOU. There is no guarantee you will be in the same classes.



**REMEMBER**



# Compulsory Subjects

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science (double)

Core PE



# English Language

Exam board and course title: AQA GCSE English Language

Qualification: GCSE

Please note that this subject is compulsory for all students



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Component 1</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing	50%
<b>Component 2</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Non-Fiction Reading Transactional/Persuasive Writing	50%
<b>Component 3</b>	Spoken Language (Non-exam Assessment)	Unweighted

As part of the GCSE English language qualification, pupils will read and engage with a range of high-quality literature, and non-fiction texts, from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, which cover a range of genres and types. Understanding will be assessed through a range of structured questions, which are phrased with straightforward wording.

Reading and writing are equally weighted.

The new English Language GCSE has a greater focus on making sure that students are able to write clearly and accurately, in good Standard English. There is an increased emphasis on spelling, punctuation, and grammar, including the use of vocabulary.

Speaking and Listening is assessed and recorded in-house, although it does not form part of the final award. There is a bigger emphasis on teaching students to become more confident in formal speaking. Speaking and Listening is still reported alongside GCSE grades and students will receive a Pass, Merit or Distinction in this.

## Who is this course suitable for?

Tiers have been removed from GCSE English Language. This means that specifications and question papers cover the full range of abilities. The GCSE is based on terminal assessment with no controlled assessment component.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Journalist, Lawyer, Teacher, Author, Copywriter,  
Lexicographer (writing dictionaries), Web Content Manager,  
Marketing and Public Speaker.**

# English Literature

**Exam board and course title:** AQA GCSE English Literature

**Qualification:** GCSE

*Please note that this subject is compulsory for all students*



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Paper 1</b>	Shakespeare and the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century novel	40%
<b>Paper 2</b>	Modern texts, anthology poetry and unseen poetry	60%

As part of the GCSE English Literature qualification, pupils will read and engage with a range of classic literature texts, which include:

- A 19th century novel
- A Shakespearean play
- A selection of poetry since 1789 including representative Romantic poems
- British fiction or drama from 1914 onwards

Students will respond to texts through analysis, with top marks awarded for personal and original interpretation. They will explain how language, structure and form contribute to writers' presentation of ideas, themes, and settings. Pupils are credited for understanding of the text, analysis of techniques and awareness of relevant social, cultural, and historical context. They must make comparisons and explain links between texts.

There is increased assessment of unseen texts in the current GCSE. The quality of writing in the response to texts is assessed across both papers.

## Who is this course suitable for?

Tiers have been removed from GCSE English Literature. This means that specifications and question papers cover the full range of abilities. The GCSE is based on terminal assessment with no controlled assessment component.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Script Writer, Actor, Teacher, Author and Public Speaker.**

# Mathematics

Exam board and course title: Edexcel Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE

Please note that this subject is compulsory for all students



Unit titles	Content
<b>Unit 1</b> Number Skills	<b>Unit 1</b> Number Skills
<b>Unit 2</b> Algebra - expressions	<b>Unit 2</b> Algebra - expressions
<b>Unit 3</b> Graphs, tables and charts	<b>Unit 3</b> Interpreting and representing data
<b>Unit 4</b> Fractions and percentages	<b>Unit 4</b> Fractions, ratio and proportion
<b>Unit 5</b> Equations, inequalities and sequences	<b>Unit 5</b> Angles and trigonometry
<b>Unit 6</b> Angles	<b>Unit 6</b> Graphs
<b>Unit 7</b> Averages and range	<b>Unit 7</b> Area and volume
<b>Unit 8</b> Perimeter, area and volume 1	<b>Unit 8</b> Transformation and constructions

The GCSE Maths syllabus focuses on not only imparting mathematical skills to the student but also enabling students to become fluent in their understanding of mathematical knowledge and concepts. It helps students apply mathematical techniques to real-world problems.

## Who is this course suitable for?

GCSE Mathematics is based on three terminal assessments and has two tiers of entry:

- **Foundation Tier** - Grade 1 to 5
- **Higher Tier** - Grade 5 to 9

Tier	Content	Weighting
<b>Foundation</b>	Number	22 - 28%
	Algebra	17 - 23%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	22 - 28%
	Geometry and Measures	12 - 18%
	Statistics and Probability	12 - 18%

Tier	Content	Weighting
<b>Higher</b>	Number	12 - 18%
	Algebra	27 - 33%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	17 - 23%
	Geometry and Measures	17 - 23%
	Statistics and Probability	12 - 18%

Careers this course can take you into

**Engineer, Software Programmer, Web Designer, Accountant, Scientist, Researcher, Banking and finance, Consultant and Data Analyst.**

# Science

Exam board and course title: AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Qualification: GCSE

Please note that this subject is compulsory for all students

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Biology 1</b>	Cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics	16.67%
<b>Biology 2</b>	Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology	16.67%
<b>Chemistry 1</b>	Atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes	16.67%
<b>Chemistry 2</b>	Rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, using resources	16.67%
<b>Physics 1</b>	Energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure	16.67%
<b>Physics 2</b>	Forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism	16.67%

**Combined science:** investigating, observing, experimenting, testing out ideas and thinking about how they might work in the real world. The way scientific ideas flow throughout the course supports students in building a deep understanding of science. This involves talking about, reading, and writing about science in addition to the many practical applications and representation of science in its many forms both mathematically and visually through models.

This course encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science by offering many opportunities for working scientifically throughout all aspects of students' learning.

## Topics covered:

- **Biology** - cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology
- **Chemistry** - atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, using resources
- **Physics** - energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism

## Careers this course can take you into

**Medical and healthcare, Engineering, Materials Science, Research and Development, Veterinary Science and Animal Studies.**



# English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) Subjects

Geography OR History  
AND  
Spanish



# Geography

Exam board and course title: AQA GCSE Geography (8035)

Qualification: GCSE

*Students that are studying the EBacc must choose from Geography or History*

*Students who are not studying Ebacc must choose one from Geography, History or Spanish*

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Living with the physical environment</b>	Natural hazards Living world The UK's physical landscapes	35%
<b>Challenges in the human world</b>	Urban Issues and Challenges The changing economic world The challenge of resource management	35%
<b>Geographical applications</b>	Fieldwork and geographical applications Practical and theoretical fieldwork skills	30%

The course begins in Year 10 with an exploration of the world's major ecosystems. Students will study the opportunities and challenges found in environments such as the Malaysian Rainforest and the Thar Desert. We then move on to urban issues, focusing on the contrasting cities of Manchester and Rio de Janeiro.

In the spring term, students investigate UK river and coastal landscapes, developing their understanding of physical processes and landforms. During the summer term, we study resource management and carry out the fieldwork enquiries required for Paper 3. This includes a field trip examining a river environment and an example of urban regeneration.

In Year 11, the autumn term sees students examine the Challenges of Natural Hazards, including the effects of earthquakes, tropical storms, climate change, and extreme weather in the UK. We then study The Changing Economic World, where students learn about global inequalities and investigate development in Nigeria as a key case study.

The year concludes with focused work on the GCSE Pre-release, published by the exam board in late March, preparing students for the Paper 3 examination.

## Who is this course suitable for?

This course is suitable for any student who likes to challenge themselves. Geography is a subject that has many curriculum links with other subjects. It is for students who have high ambitions and is a great step towards A level and beyond.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Cartography, Urban Planner, National Park Warden, Teacher, Marine Biologist, Ecologist, Land Analyst, Surveyor, Estate Agent, Land Developer, Sustainability Analyst, Pilot and Airline Worker.**

# History

**Exam board and course title:** Pearson Edexcel GCSE History (1HI0)

**Qualification:** GCSE

*Students that are studying the EBacc must choose from Geography or History*

*Students who are not studying Ebacc must choose one from Geography, History or Spanish*

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Paper 1</b> Crime and Punishment c1000–present <i>and</i> Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.	This unit explores the changing definitions and nature of crime and punishments across a variety of time periods. This lesson also features a historical study on the Whitechapel area of London.	30%
<b>Paper 2</b> <b>Section A:</b> Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 <b>Section B:</b> British Depth Study: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88.	<b>Section A:</b> This unit looks at the relationships between countries such as the USA and the USSR and how this led to the Cold War. It then explores the events of the Cold War and the significance of them.	40%
	<b>Section B:</b> This unit explores the early reign of Elizabeth I, including her court, her government, the problems she faced and what life was like for ordinary Elizabethans.	
<b>Paper 3</b> The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad	This unit explores conflict at home with the Civil Rights Movement in America and the impact on equality. It then compares this to the Vietnam War and how the USA deals with conflict abroad.	30%

## Who is this course suitable for?

History is for everyone. How can you understand the world that you live in unless you know how we reached this point in the first place?

History is not just about writing essays - it is about understanding people in the past, the impact that they have made and learning some of the lessons from the past in order to inform future decisions.

If you are curious about the past, like to solve problems, like to form your own opinions and are motivated to give your best then History will be the subject for you.

## Careers this course can take you into

In this rapidly changing world, many employers and careers hold a qualification in History in high regard. A good History grade tells people that you have the ability to work independently, think critically and communicate effectively. In addition, it also gives us an excellent understanding of the world we live in and equips us with the skills to make a positive contribution.

**Historian, Archaeologist, Museum Curator, Lawyer, Journalist, Advertising and Marketing, Public Relations, Police Officer and Armed Forces.**

# Spanish

Exam board and course title: AQA GCSE Spanish (8692)

Qualification: GCSE

*Students that are studying the EBacc must choose from Spanish*

*Students who are not studying Ebacc must choose one from Geography, History or Spanish*

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Paper 1</b> Listening	Understanding and responding to spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar for each tier. Dictation of short, spoken extracts.	25%
<b>Paper 2</b> Speaking	Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a role-play. Reading aloud. Talk about visual stimuli.	25%
<b>Paper 3</b> Reading	Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier. Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they are embedded in written sentences. Translating from Spanish into English.	25%
<b>Paper 4</b> Writing	Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli.	25%

GCSE Languages aims to make students confident communicators of the language as well as helping to increase confidence and develop effective listening skills. It is taught through the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Pupils carry out various activities from the following themes of study which reflect their everyday situations:

- **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle.
- **Theme 2:** Popular culture.
- **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us.

## Who is this course suitable for?

Those wishing to pursue careers abroad or in communication as well as business. Those students who are able to spot patterns in language and apply them to a variety of situations.

## Careers this course can take you into

In today's global workplace, having a qualification in another language gives an edge over others when competing for jobs. Languages are increasingly more important and valuable in further education and in the world of work and can be combined with most other degree subjects.

**Education, Publishing, Local and National Government, Non-profit Organisations, Translator/Interpreter, Journalist, International Aid Worker, Tour Guide or Travel Rep.**



# Option Subjects

Art and Design

Child Development

Creative iMedia

Enterprise

Food - Hospitality and Catering

Health and Social Care

Religious Studies

Sports Studies

Science (triple)



# Art and Design

**Exam board and course title:** BTEC Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award - Level 1/2 Vocational Award



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Component 1</b> Creative Practice in Art and Design	Learners will investigate art and design practice to inform the generation and communication of ideas, and will develop practical skills through exploration of specialist materials, techniques, and processes. Learners will develop and produce art and design work in response to a creative brief.	60%
<b>Component 2</b> Responding to a brief	Learners will develop and produce art and design work based on a set brief.	40%

This course develops your understanding of the creative process, key art and design disciplines, and the effective use of materials and techniques. You will build essential skills in generating and visually communicating ideas, while learning how professionals refine work through prototyping and review. Throughout the course, you will also strengthen important creative habits such as planning, organisation, and clear communication.

## Who is this course suitable for?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for students who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by investigating, exploring, and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The qualification enables learners to develop skills across a range of art and design practices using a combination of practical exploration and experimentation. They will develop personal skills, such as managing creative projects, documenting progress of skills and work, responding to briefs and presenting work through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

The qualification covers:

- **Knowledge** that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques, and processes
- **Development of key skills** that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs
- **Processes that underpin effective ways of working** in the creative industries such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review, and refinement
- **Attitudes considered important in art and design practice**, including planning, organisation, and communication.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion, Product Design, Interior Design, Animation, Photography, Creative Industries (such as advertising, marketing and the media), Architect, Theatre and Set Design, Game Art and digital design.**

# Child Development

**Exam board and course title:** Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award - Level ½ Vocational Award



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Component 1</b> Children's Growth and Development (Internal Assessment)	This component focuses on how children grow and develop across the five key areas — physical, intellectual, communication, social and emotional — along with the typical milestones for each stage. It also explores the factors that can positively or negatively influence a child's development.	30%
<b>Component 2</b> Learning Through Play (Internal Assessment)	This component looks at the stages and types of play, showing how play activities support children's development across all five areas from birth to age five. It also explores children's changing learning needs as they grow, and how to plan and structure play activities that meet those needs and encourage effective learning.	30%
<b>Component 3</b> Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop (External synoptic assessment)	This component explores how a child's individual circumstances can influence their learning and development. It also highlights the importance of inclusion and the adult's role in keeping children safe, showing how play environments and activities can be adapted to support every child's needs.	40%

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding of child development and growth up to the age of five, how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning.

Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in the following areas:

- the characteristics of children's development from birth up to five years
- factors that affect growth and development
- the importance of play and how play promotes children's learning and development
- reasons why children may need support
- child-friendly environments to support play, learning and development in children from birth to five years old
- supporting all children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially, and adapting activities to support children's play, learning and development.

## Who is this course suitable for?

This course is ideal for students who are interested in how children grow, learn and develop, and who enjoy working in practical, real-life contexts. It suits learners who are patient, responsible, and able to work independently, as well as those who want to develop strong communication and organisational skills. The course is particularly suitable for students considering future pathways in childcare, education, health, psychology or any profession that involves supporting children and families.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Childcare, Pediatrician, Psychologist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist.**

# Creative iMedia

**Exam board and course title:** OCR Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia

**Qualification:** Cambridge National - Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>R093</b> Creative iMedia in the Media Industry (Exam Unit)	This unit introduces the media industry, including its key sectors, products and job roles. Learners explore the legal and ethical considerations involved in creating digital media, and how media codes are used to communicate meaning and engage audiences. They also learn how to choose suitable formats and properties for different media products. This unit builds essential foundational skills for further study or future creative industry roles.	40%
<b>R094</b> Visual Identity and Digital Graphics (Coursework)	This unit focuses on creating visual identities for clients and applying graphic design principles to produce original digital graphics that engage a target audience. It provides core skills that support further study and a wide range of media-industry careers.	60%
<b>R099</b> Games Creation (Coursework)	This unit teaches learners how to interpret a client brief and develop original game concepts. They will plan their ideas using a Game Design Document and learn to create, edit, test and export a playable digital game. The skills gained provide a strong foundation for further study or careers in the creative and technical sides of the media industry.	

## Who is this course suitable for?

This is a Level 2 course and will help students develop ICT skills with industry-level media product development and industry-level software. This course is suitable for anyone wishing to work with computers, in the media or creative industry

The course will build on content taught in Key Stage 3 and develops skills in ICT using software and hardware to produce media products such as graphic images and computer games. Learners are assessed through coursework and one external exam.

Students will need to have some computer knowledge, understanding and ICT skills. Learners who study this course will need to enjoy a creative approach to producing media products. There is a written element in each unit of coursework and in the exam including evaluative work.

This qualification supports progression into further study in computing or media, including Level 2 or Level 3 vocational courses, T Levels, or apprenticeships in digital and media pathways. It also develops valuable transferable skills such as creative thinking, digital presentation, planning and problem-solving, which are useful in many future careers.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Graphic Designer, Games Designer/Developer, Web Designer, Media Production Assistant, IT Support and Digital Technician.**

# Enterprise

**Exam board and course title:** Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech - Level 1/2 Vocational Award



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Component 1</b> Exploring Enterprises (Internal Assessment)	This unit explores different types of enterprises, the characteristics that make them successful, and the skills entrepreneurs need. Learners also investigate how market research helps businesses understand customers and competitors, and how internal and external factors affect enterprise performance. It is assessed through an internal assignment completed over a series of supervised sessions.	33.3%
<b>Component 2:</b> Planning and Presenting a Micro-Enterprise Idea (Internal Assessment)	Learners will develop two viable micro-enterprise ideas and select one to plan within a set budget. They will present their business plan individually and evaluate their work, identifying improvements. This unit is assessed through an internally set assignment, externally moderated, and completed through a series of monitored and supervised sessions.	33.3%
<b>Component 3</b> Marketing and Finance for Enterprise (External Assessment)	Learners will examine how businesses use marketing and what influences the way they identify and target their customers. They will also complete financial documents and learn how to use them to monitor performance, make informed decisions and recommend strategies for improvement. This component is assessed through an external exam set and marked by Pearson, completed within a two-hour supervised session.	33.3%

## Who is this course suitable for?

**Enterprise is Hazel Wood's Business Studies option** and this course is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and practices through vocational contexts by studying enterprises, entrepreneurs, customers, competitors, the external environment, business planning and presenting, marketing and finance as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The qualification enables learners to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, making decisions and judgements, and financial literacy using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as creativity and innovation, time management, reviewing, communication and planning through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

Studying this qualification in Key Stage 4 helps learners make informed choices about future study, both within business and more broadly. Progression options will depend on overall attainment and performance in the course. Learners achieving at Level 2 may go on to A Levels or Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which can lead to employment, apprenticeships or higher education in the business sector.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Sales/Retail, HR, Project or Operations Management and Office Administration**

# Food - Hospitality and Catering

**Exam board and course title:** WJEC Hospitality and Catering Technical Award

**Qualification:** WJEC - Level 1/2 Vocational Award



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Exam Component</b> The Hospitality and Catering Industry	This unit helps learners understand how the Hospitality and Catering industry operates by exploring the different types of provision within the sector, how catering providers function on a day-to-day basis, and the essential principles of health, safety, and food hygiene. Through this, learners gain a clear insight into how the industry works and the standards required to work safely and effectively within it.	40%
<b>Coursework Component</b> The Hospitality and Catering Industry	For this unit, learners complete a coursework task set by the exam board in which they plan and prepare two dishes for a specific venue and customer group. Their work is assessed on their understanding of nutrition, the quality of their menu planning, their practical skills in preparing, cooking and presenting the dishes, and their ability to evaluate both their performance and the final outcomes.	60%

Through this course, students will gain a good foundation of knowledge, understanding and skills that are required by the hospitality and catering industry, which is a major employer in the UK and other countries. Students will have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills including food preparation and cooking techniques, organisation, time management, planning, communication, and problem solving.

## Who is this course suitable for?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy practical, hands-on learning and have an interest in food, cooking and how the hospitality industry operates. It suits learners who are organised, motivated, and able to work independently, as well as those who like problem-solving and working in a fast-paced environment.

Hospitality and Catering is particularly suitable for students considering future careers in catering, food production, nutrition, hospitality management, or any role where food preparation and customer service skills are valued.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Catering, Nutritionist, Dietitian, Food Product Development, Chef, Environmental Health Officer, Health and Safety Inspector, Food Production and Manufacturing, Quality Assurance and Standardisation, Purchaser and Food Store Management.**

# Health and Social Care

**Exam board and course title:** OCR Cambridge Nationals Health and Social Care

**Qualification:** Cambridge National - Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Component 1</b> Supporting individuals through life event	Students study how people grow and develop through each life stage, the factors that influence this, and how expected or unexpected life events affect individuals. They learn to identify resulting needs, understand available support and the roles of caregivers and professionals, and develop the skills to research and recommend personalised support.	30%
<b>Component 2</b> Principles of care in health and social care settings (Exam)	Students learn about different care settings, the rights of service users, and how maintaining these rights supports wellbeing. They explore person-centred values, their benefits, and the negative impact when these values are not applied. The course also emphasises effective communication skills, including verbal, non-verbal and active listening, as well as safeguarding, safety procedures, and the security measures that protect both service users and staff.	40%
<b>Component 3</b> Creative and therapeutic activities	Students explore the different types of therapies used in health and social care, along with a range of creative activities and the benefits they can offer. They learn about the factors that influence the choice of a creative activity and how to plan one that suits individual abilities. The course also develops the skills and personal qualities needed to encourage participation, as well as the ability to deliver a creative activity to a group or an individual and reflect on its effectiveness through evaluation.	30%

## Who is this course suitable for?

This course is ideal for students who want to continue into further study in health and social care, whether through vocational qualifications, A Levels, T Levels or apprenticeships. It provides the specialist knowledge and practical skills needed for a wide range of care settings, with a strong emphasis on core values and effective communication to ensure individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

Good attendance is essential, as all three units must be completed. Coursework units may be re-submitted to improve results, while the most recent exam attempt will count toward the final grade. The qualification is awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction at Levels 1 and 2.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Social Work, Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Teaching**

# Religious Studies

Exam board and course title: AQA Religious Studies (8062)

Qualification: GCSE



Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Paper 1</b> Study of 2 religions: Christianity & Islam	Students study each religion separately, exploring key beliefs such as the nature of God, the problem of evil, religious figures, the afterlife, and differences within a religion. They also examine practices including worship, rituals, festivals, pilgrimage, and community action.	50%
<b>Paper 2</b> Thematic Studies	Four themes are studied, which may include: 1. Religion and Life – Abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, environment, creation. 2. Crime and Punishment – Crime, aims of punishment, death penalty, suffering. 3. Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice – Equality, prejudice, discrimination, wealth and poverty, rights. 4. Relationships and Families – Sex, marriage, divorce, families, gender equality.	50%

## Who is this course suitable for?

Religious Studies is an excellent choice for students who enjoy thinking deeply, exploring different viewpoints, and engaging with challenging questions about beliefs, values and the world around us. It is well-suited to learners who can consider multiple perspectives, communicate their ideas clearly, and analyse arguments in detail.

This course is ideal for those who like discussing ethical issues, evaluating evidence, and developing well-reasoned opinions. It also supports students who are interested in people, culture, society, and the ways in which beliefs influence behaviour and decision-making.

Whether or not you have a personal religious belief, this subject is suitable for anyone with an open mind, curiosity about the world, and a willingness to write thoughtfully and at length.

## Careers this course can take you into

Religious Studies develops strong skills in critical thinking, communication, empathy and evaluation — all of which are highly valued across many career paths, not just religious organisations. Potential careers include:

**Law and Policing, Teaching and Education, Medicine and Nursing, Social Work, Counselling, Journalism, Public Services and Charity Work.**

# Sports Studies

**Exam board and course title:** OCR Cambridge Nationals Sports Studies

**Qualification:** Cambridge National - Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Component 1</b> Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities (Coursework)	Students develop key performance skills by applying techniques and tactics in both individual and team settings. They learn how to use practice methods to improve, plan and lead sports activity sessions, and reflect on their delivery to identify strengths and areas for improvement.	40%
<b>Component 2</b> Sport and the Media (Coursework)	Students examine how sport is represented in the media, considering both its positive and negative impacts. They explore the connection between sport and media influence and learn to evaluate media coverage to judge its accuracy and effect.	20%
<b>Component 3</b> Contemporary Issues in Sport (Exam)	Students learn about the key issues that influence participation in sport, the role sport plays in promoting positive values, the significance of hosting major sporting events, and the responsibilities of national governing bodies in supporting and regulating sport.	40%

## Who is this course suitable for?

This course is ideal for pupils who have a strong interest in sport and the wider sporting world. It is particularly suited to those who demonstrate a high level of ability in both a team sport and an individual sport.

Students should feel confident leading activities and guiding small groups, as leadership plays an important role in the course. Throughout the programme, learners gain an introduction to key aspects of sport, including leadership, the Olympics, sports media, and issues such as drugs in sport. All units link directly to sport participation and the sporting industry.

The course is mainly coursework-based, with opportunities to re-submit work, and the exam can be taken twice, with the best result counting towards the final grade. Achievement is awarded at Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or Level 2.

## Careers this course can take you into

**Sports Development, Sports Coaching, Sports Journalism and Sports Management.**

# Triple Science

**Exam board and course title:** AQA GCSE Biology, AQA GCSE Chemistry, AQA GCSE Physics

**Qualification:** GCSE

*Please note: This subject is an option for selected students only*

Unit titles	Content	Weighting
<b>Biology 1</b>	Cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics	16.67%
<b>Biology 2</b>	Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology	16.67%
<b>Chemistry 1</b>	Atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes	16.67%
<b>Chemistry 2</b>	Rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, using resources	16.67%
<b>Physics 1</b>	Energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure	16.67%
<b>Physics 2</b>	Forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism	16.67%

**Triple science:** investigating, observing, experimenting, testing out ideas and thinking about how they might work in the real world. The way scientific ideas flow throughout the course supports students in building a deep understanding of science. This involves talking about, reading, and writing about science in addition to the many practical applications and representation of science in its many forms both mathematically and visually through models.

This course encourages the development of knowledge and understanding in science by offering many opportunities for working scientifically throughout all aspects of students' learning.

### **Topics covered in addition to those studied in Combined (Double) Science:**

- **Biology:** Monoclonal antibodies, the brain, the eye, hormonal regulation of water, plant hormones, speciation, environmental impact on organisms, food production.
- **Chemistry:** Transition metals, yield and atom economy, titrations, chemical fuel cells, organic chemistry, ion tests, Haber process, polymers, using materials.
- **Physics:** Static electricity, moments and levers, gas and fluid pressure, black body radiation, life cycle of stars, red shift, vision correction with lenses, induced currents.

Careers this course can take you into

**Medical and healthcare, Engineering, Materials Science, Research and Development, Veterinary Science and Animal Studies.**





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