



# Year 9 Options Booklet 2022-2023

A guide to choosing your options



# Introduction for parents

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At Wickersley School and Sports College, we offer a strong, broad, balanced curriculum tailored to meet the needs of individuals, so that we can remove barriers to learning and allow all students to succeed in their learning. We want to encourage a love of learning, to develop a passion for subjects, and to broaden students' horizons beyond the narrow context of the school.

By Year 9, most students have a clear idea of their strengths, ambitions and areas of interest, and by offering some choice at this stage we want to engage students as partners in their learning. We therefore ask students to spend time on their chosen areas in Year 9. These courses are not externally examined; they aim to enrich students' wider knowledge and learning, and explore and experiment, develop a passion for their subjects, and to encourage mastery and a depth of learning, rather than simply focusing on covering and regurgitating the content. A strong academic core of English, Maths, Science, PE, PSHE, History, Geography and MFL run alongside these options.

For Year 10, students will then choose four GCSE options to study to the end of Year 11.

In this booklet, you will find information about the subjects available for Year 9 options. Students will choose 2 suites of subjects that they will study on a carousel over the year. This will give them a much clearer understanding of which subject they would like to continue with into Year 10 and 11.

More information will be available at the options evening on Wednesday 26th January. So it would be lovely if you could attend the evenings presentations.

If you have any questions relating to subject specifications, please contact the subject leader identified at the end of each specification. If this does not resolve your query, please feel free to contact one of the following:

Mrs N. Tipper ([ntipper@wickersley.net](mailto:ntipper@wickersley.net)) or Mr D. Wong ([d Wong@wickersley.net](mailto:d Wong@wickersley.net))



# Where can I go for more information?

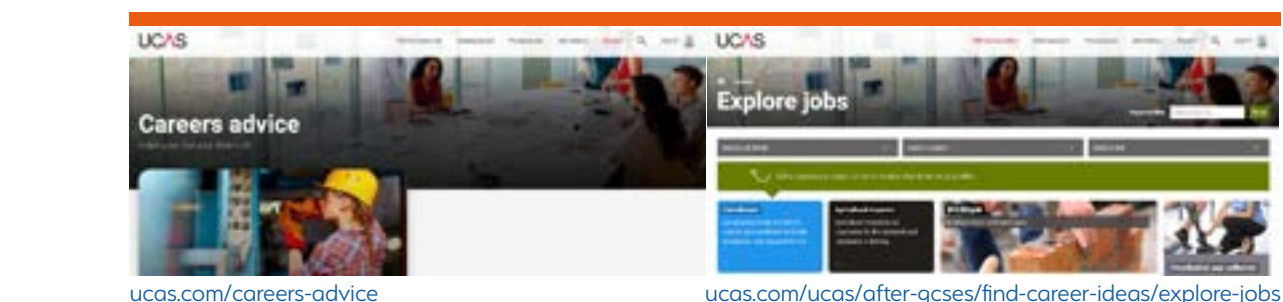
Careers Office located in F Block, under the stairs at the end of the Drama corridor.

Students can call in to speak to our careers/post-16 transitions advisor (Rachel Mullins) for information and support around the options decision-making process.

Any parent wanting a meeting can email [rmullins@wickersley.net](mailto:rmullins@wickersley.net) for careers advice and visit [www.wickersley.net/careers-central/](http://www.wickersley.net/careers-central/) for a range of useful information and links.

Further useful information:

- National Careers Service - [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)  
Detailed information on a wide range of job roles and skills/subject knowledge required.
- Prospects Careers - [prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)  
An insight into different job sectors.
- Icould - [icould.com](http://icould.com)  
A range of short careers videos.
- UCAS - [ucas.com/careers-advice](http://ucas.com/careers-advice)  
General jobs and careers information.
- UCAS - [ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs](http://ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs)  
Particular job roles which can be explored via subject areas.



You can find more careers advice resources on the school website - [www.wickersley.net/students/careers/](http://www.wickersley.net/students/careers/)

# Option Suites

## Art and Design

Art, Textiles, Photography

## Design Technology+

Engineering & Construction, Food & Hospitality, Graphics, Materials Technology

## Creative Studies++

Acting & Drama, Music, Film Studies, Dance

## PE

PE, Sports Studies, Sports Science

## Social Science

Childcare, Health and Social Care, Psychology\*, Sociology\*

## Global Citizens

Religious Studies, Citizenship

## Computing, Business and Economics

IT, Computer Science\*, Business, Economics\*

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\* Some subjects require entry requirements in order to study them, if you pick these subjects then we will check for suitability. You may choose these suites and only study the non-starred options. For example, if you choose the Social Science suite, you may choose to study:

Childcare  
Health & Social Care

**OR**

Childcare  
Psychology\*  
Health & Social Care  
Sociology\*

+ There are two routes within the DT suite that you can pick from:

Engineering & Construction  
Materials Technology  
Graphics

**OR**

Food & Hospitality  
Materials Technology  
Graphics

++ Please note that in the Creative suite, you can pick from:

Drama & Acting  
Music  
Film Studies

**OR**

Drama & Acting  
Music  
Film Studies  
Dance

If there is a particular subject within an option suite that isn't to your strength or interest, you can opt for another subject from another suite and this will be facilitated where possible. If this is the case, please make this clear during your options interview.

# Options for Year 9

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# Art

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. Basic skills learnt in drawing and painting will be improved upon and put into practice and used to produce interesting, quality work. You will be able to develop your skills through workshop sessions, learn how to create a sketchbook full of high-quality studies and gain a great sense of achievement from your final ideas/pieces.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 students will respond to Artists research exploring both technical and expressive ways of working with a wide range of materials. 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 elements of Art for example, pen and ink, painting, oil pastels, drawing and collage work. During this time students will learn about the content needed to make successful study sheets, different ways of presenting their work and how to annotate the development of their work.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

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

You will be assessed through the following methods:

- Portfolio of Coursework (60%)

You will explore a range of 2D 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 exam board set the externally set assignment. 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.

## What skills will I need?

You will need to have consistently good effort in Art lessons and a positive attitude to improve as we aim to move you towards a higher level in Year 9. Good drawing and painting skills are needed but these will be a strong focus and will be developed throughout Year 9. It is important that you want to develop your skills to a high level. Homework will be very important and the homework you research, make or design will strengthen your sketchbook work. Quality artwork takes time to complete, if you are committed to succeeding in the subject, this should not be a problem.

## What happens in lessons?

In Art lessons teachers will deliver a range of workshops to the whole class in response to Artists work. Students are encouraged to work independently, gain confidence with their skill level, use of materials and decision making. When students begin work on their chosen theme, one to one tutorials are often key to making further progress and skill enhancement.



# Textiles

In Textiles you will explore a variety of fashion and textile techniques using a range of methods and materials. You will learn how to make decorative pieces using a range of creative materials and processes.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 you will respond to the work of different artists, designers to draw and record observations. You will experiment with ideas using a range of textiles and mixed media techniques including: Stitching and embellishment, printing and dyeing of fabric, felting, hand embroidery, machine embroidery and fabric manipulation to name but a few!

During this time you will also learn what is needed to create a successful study sheet, different ways of presenting your work and how to annotate the development of your ideas.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

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

- Artists influence - develop ideas through investigations into different artists and designers.
- Practical experimentation - Explore ideas by selecting and experimenting with appropriate textiles materials, techniques and processes.
- Visual research - Use observational drawing and photography to record your own ideas.
- Personal development - Put your ideas together to create a final piece of work.

### Component 1 - Portfolio (60%)

A practical portfolio made up of creative projects set in Year 10 and the beginning of Year 11. You will explore a range of textile techniques, creatively develop design ideas linking to your research and enhance your knowledge and understanding of artists and your work. Your portfolio must include two different projects and must be supported by written annotations about your research and the development of your ideas.

### Component 2 - Externally set assignment (40%)

A preparatory study period starting in January of Year 11. You will respond to a starting point from an externally set assignment paper, produce a smaller portfolio of work and a final outcome covering the same four assessment objectives. You will sit a 10-hour supervised exam in which you will produce the final outcome in April/May of Year 11.

## What skills will I need?

- An interest in art, textiles, design and fashion
- An enthusiastic approach to learning new skills and independence
- A dedicated and organised attitude to meet deadlines
- A creative mind and a positive attitude!



## What happens in lessons?

At the beginning of the Fashion and Textiles course, teachers will deliver a range of workshops to the whole class in response to artists work. When workshops are not being delivered, students will have one to one tutorials regarding the progress of their work and how to enhance their skill level. The work that derives from one to one tutorials will be documented and shared with students in the form of a Google slide. The Google slide is then often updated by students and their teacher to ensure progression is being made weekly.

# Photography

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.

## What will I study in Year 9?

- Art photography, cultural / historical
- Digital techniques through Photoshop
- Off screen mixed media skills
- E-portfolio work utilising Google Slides
- Analysing work through written evaluation
- Exploring ideas and photographic styles
- Primary observation studies
- Both colour and black & white photography

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.

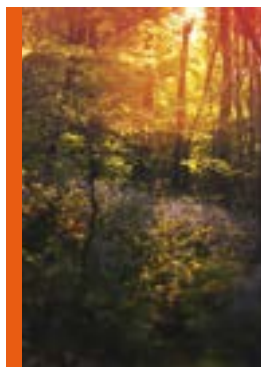
## What happens in lessons?

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.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

Choosing to continue with 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.





# Graphics

Year 9 Graphics is designed to give students the chance to develop and extend their creative and technological abilities, whilst showing them the type of work that 'real-life' Graphic Designers do. This course is a very practical and creative course, and builds on the graphics skills and knowledge gained throughout Year 7 and 8.

## What will I study in Year 9?

Year 9 Graphics projects are designed to cover the several areas of graphic communication, which might include:

- Advertising and Branding
- Packaging Design
- Illustration and character design
- Typography

Example projects include the Urban Style Footwear Branding Project, and The Movie, Game or Book Relaunch/Promotional Project.

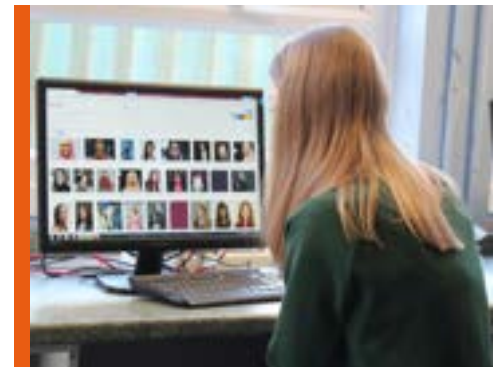
## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

Choosing to continue with Graphics in Year 10 and 11 will lead to a GCSE qualification. You will continue to broaden your knowledge of the Graphic Design industry, and further develop your practical skills including sketching, drawing, painting, collage, paper engineering and presentation, along with IT based skills, such as digital photography and image manipulation using Photoshop.

GCSE projects include designing promotional and gift shop items for tourist destinations such as Whitby, The Butterfly House, Doncaster Wildlife Park, or Hardwick Hall, which involve a visit to the place; promoting a street food festival and designing packaging for the take-away food; Designing menus and promotional items for a themed café or juice bar. GCSE Graphics is a practical and creative course, where assessment is carried out through ongoing coursework, made up of several projects, and a practical exam.

## What skills will I need?

- Excellent drawing and communication skills
- Creativity and artistic flair
- Sound IT skills particularly digital photography and image manipulation
- Enthusiasm for the subject
- Good organisation and time management to meet deadlines



## What happens in lessons?

You will be taught the basic design skills required by a graphic designer by exploring a range of graphic media, techniques and processes, including both traditional art-based tasks and new digital technologies. These skills will be taught and developed through focused practical tasks and ongoing project work.

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 graphic products which satisfy the project brief. Graphics lessons are practical and creative, whether producing art based work by hand, presenting project sheets or using ICT, such as digital photography and Photoshop.



# Food Preparation and Nutrition

Food Preparation and Nutrition will help you to develop many useful skills, such as strong food preparation and cooking skills and an in-depth knowledge of a healthy diet.

## What will I study in Year 9?

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking using a variety of food ingredients, cooking methods and techniques, and equipment.
- Food safety
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional and nutritional properties of food.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health.
- Introduce experimental work on ingredients.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In Year 10, pupils study the science behind food, carrying out experiments and investigations into the working properties of ingredients.

In September of Year 11, there is a food investigation worth 15% towards the final grade. An example could be to investigate the best type of flour to make pastry or the best type of fat to make a cake or the changes that happen when an egg is cooked in different ways.

Pupils will develop their food preparation skills in Year 10, learning more advanced skills such as making filled fresh pasta, sauces, choux and flaky pastry and refining their food presentation techniques making chocolate decorations and piping.

In December of Year 11, a food preparation task starts where pupils choose and justify their own choice of three recipes. They have a three-hour assessment to prepare and cook them, followed by a written evaluation worth 35% of the final grade. An example could be to plan, prepare and cook three dishes suitable for someone on a low-fat diet or three dishes suitable to sell at a multicultural music festival.

Pupils study the food groups and nutrition in detail. An examination in Year 11 consists of short answer questions, short sentences, recipe design and essays. The exam is worth 50% of the final grade.

## What skills will I need?

To achieve a high Food grade, you will need:

- Good organisational and planning skills to bring ingredients most weeks.
- A conscientious approach to food preparation skills.

## What happens in lessons?

Food lessons are varied. You will:

- Group work to carry out investigations into recipes.
- Complete written tasks to help improve your examination technique.
- Use film clips, textbooks and a nutritional computer software program.



# Hospitality and Catering

Hospitality and catering will help you to develop many useful skills, such as knowledge of the catering and hospitality industry, practical food preparation, cooking and service skills and an ability to work in a professional manner in a catering environment.

## What will I study in Year 9?

You will investigate the catering and hospitality industry and learn about the local, national and international employment opportunities within it. You will also learn about restaurants, types of menus and food service.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In Year 10, Pupils study what makes a successful Hospitality business, customer service and how a kitchen and restaurant operates, experiencing this through a visit to a local restaurant. Pupils also study nutrition which they use to practice the controlled assessment, carried out on computer. Pupils will develop their food preparation skills in Y10 learning more advanced skills such as making filled fresh pasta, sauces, choux and flaky pastry and refining their food presentation techniques making chocolate decorations and piping. They carry out challenges to plate food to a professional catering standard.

In Year 11, Pupils complete a controlled assessment, which comprises a three hour practical examination to make two dishes of their choice with accompaniments and six hours of written work to justify why their choices meet the nutritional needs of a chosen target age group. The assessment is worth 60% of the final grade..

Pupils in Year 11 study personal safety in the workplace and choose hospitality and catering provision for a variety of contexts to prepare them for a 1hr 30min examination which will be online. The examination is worth 40% of the final grade.

## What skills will I need?

To succeed in hospitality, you will need:

- An interest in the catering and hospitality industry
- A conscientious approach to food preparation skills
- Organisation skills to bring ingredients each week

## What happens in lessons?

Hospitality lessons are varied. You do practical work every week, sometimes in groups to investigate using different ingredients.



# Construction

The subject is designed to support learners to develop an awareness of construction processes. It mainly supports pupils who want to learn about the construction industry from the build perspective. It provides learners with a broad introduction to the different trades involved in the sector, the importance of safety and security, and the types of career opportunities available in the wider world.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 pupils will look at developing basic constructions skills such as joinery, wallpapering, tiling, installing electrical sockets and decorating. Pupils will also gain an insight in how to complete risk assessments to minimise the risk of hazards, be able to cost projects and produce manufacturing plans as real tradespeople do to be successful in the industry. Pupils also look at the key stages of construction projects from the planning stages to the hand over to the client, as well as looking at the different jobs of people involved in projects. Pupils also undertake learning looking at the importance of safety and security in construction looking at different legislations which impact how things are done in the industry.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

Please note that this is subject to change due to the course being reformed. You will be made aware of any changes when they are published by the exam board.

In Year 10 and 11 pupils will complete coursework and an exam.

- Unit 1 - Introduction to the Built Environment- 40% externally assessed through a 1h 30min on-screen examination featuring short and extended response questions.
- Unit 2 - Constructing the Built Environment- 60% Coursework which is internally assessed.

Pupils are graded at Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction\*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction\*

## What skills will I need?

- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project-based research development and presentation
- The ability to complete in-depth written work related to projects
- The ability to work accurately with tools and equipment to make quality products
- Good IT skills
- Be able to follow instructions and be able to act on advice given from the staff
- Work safely in a workshop and construction environments at all times and respond in a mature manner to advise and feedback

## What happens in lessons?

In lessons pupils will:

- Complete a range of practical tasks, learning a range of new construction skills.
- Be expected to work safely at all times and demonstrate they can work to the highest possible standard expected in the real world
- Carry out independent research tasks
- Complete portfolios of work - electronic or handwritten

**In lessons pupils will complete a range of practical tasks, learning a range of new construction skills.**



# Engineering

Engineers can have a major impact on industry and society. The achievements they have made have improved the quality of everyday life, from machines used in hospitals to keep us safe and healthy and work into the transport we use to get around and how we enjoy our leisure time. Engineers are able to find solutions to problems, whether it is adapting or combining materials used to produce a product to make it withstand severe weather conditions or fixing materials in a different way to make something more portable. Problem-solving is critical to working in engineering.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 pupils will complete a range of practical projects learning basic engineering skills. To start pupils will complete practical work that develops skills using workshop hand tools. Pupils then move on to learn how to use equipment such as the pillar drills and centre lathes to make more complex projects. Pupils will also be developing an understanding of CAD/CAM technologies and know how we can use computers to design and manufacture components using the laser cutter and 3D printing. Pupils will complete a portfolio/ booklet of work each project which include learning how to complete risk assessments, complete documents showing key stages of production and be able to evaluate their work. Pupils will also learn how to independently read engineering drawings to manufacture parts and also be able to produce engineering drawings, these include sketching, isometric and 3rd angle orthographic projection drawings.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In Year 10 pupils will continue to develop practical skills and knowledge required to be successful in Year 11 with coursework. Pupils will also undertake learning required to be successful in the exam which is sat in Year 10 and 11.

Unit 1 - Manufacturing Engineering Products - Coursework 40% overall grade which is internally assessed.

Unit 2 - Designing Engineering Products - Coursework 20% overall grade which is internally assessed.

Unit 3 - Solving engineering problems - Examination 40% overall grade which is externally assessed.

Pupils are graded at Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction\*, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction\*

## What skills will I need?

- Good problem-solving skills to help work independently.
- The ability to complete in-depth written work related to the projects.
- The ability to communicate and develop design ideas.
- Good IT skills
- The ability to work accurately with tools and equipment to make quality products.
- Follow instructions and be able to act on advice given from staff.
- Work safely in a workshop environment and respond to advice.

## What happens in lessons?

During lessons, you can expect to be finding solutions to problems to ensure a product is fit for purpose, including:

- Learning about materials
- Design processes
- Engineering processes
- Safe use of tools and equipment
- Maths that engineers use.



# Materials Technology

If you loved your Materials Technology lessons in Year 7 and 8 then why not continue! In Year 9 we give you more time to explore your interests and experiment with a wide variety of materials including wood, plastic, metals and to design and make innovative products. You will have the opportunity to be more creative with your design ideas so that the products you make are very much your own!

## What will I study in Year 9?

- Designing and making a range of products, based on your design briefs.
- Graphical communication techniques, sketching and computer-aided design.
- Specific use of machines and hand tools including the 3D printer and laser cutter.
- Theory-based information related to specific materials.
- Communicating the design process.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In Year 10, we run it as a "mock year" and run a mock NEA project where students design and make an educational toy, along with an accompanying sketchbook. There is no external assessment in year 10. The GCSE is a 50/50 Exam/ NEA split which is as follows:

### Written Exam:

Testing your knowledge of designing and making and the processes used in the workshop and industry. Learning for the exam component is built into the designing and making projects, as well as dedicated lesson time.

### Non- Exam Assessment:

This involves a substantial design and make task which is set by the exam board. This current year 11 have been working on "circular economy" and "space" contexts which are purposely open to allow for creativity. Projects include upcycled bicycle parts into clocks and child toys. Other projects include storage and furniture. Students will hand in a working prototype, a sketchbook and a formal A3 design sheet portfolio which includes investigating, designing, making and evaluating.

## What skills will I need?

- Good drawing skills.
- Analytical skills.
- Competent making skills.
- Problem-solving skills.
- Innovative ideas.
- A mature, industrious, well-behaved approach to working and learning.

" Students learn practical and design skills."



## What happens in lessons?

Students learn practical and designing skills and are given the responsibility to replicate the design and make process as it is in industry. This subject enables students to foster their imaginations, creativity and passion for the world we live in. Lessons will be a mixture of practical, design and theory lessons, with an emphasis on the practical. The course is delivered through a series of projects, which concentrate on different types of materials.

# Acting & Drama

You should choose Acting & 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 write about your own ideas in detail. You may have other performance experience or want to try something new. The important thing is to be confident about performing to an audience and be open-minded about exploring new ways of working.

## What will I study in Year 9?

Acting & Drama in Year 9 continues to develop and build upon the skills and techniques that students have learned the basics of in Year 7 and 8 Drama, as well as acquiring new ones.

We use the Key Stage 4 Acting & Drama course as a basis for this work where we look at a variety of styles, from devised theatre and a script study to performing from a script.

Students also have the opportunity to go on the Summer London Trip see two West End theatre productions.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

Over the two year course, you will investigate a wide variety of dramatic techniques, play scripts and theatrical styles, as well as learn about aspects of the acting industry and the world of work. All of these will stretch your abilities as a performer and allow you to gain insight into the wider performance industry.

## What skills will I need?

To achieve on the Acting & Drama course you will need:

- Good acting skills and ideas about how to create characters and scenes.
- Competent reading skills and the confidence to present your work.
- Good communication skills and the ability to work cooperatively and creatively in groups.
- An interest in the wider Acting Industry
- An interest in developing all-round performance skills plus transferable skills such as self-confidence, self-presentation, personal discipline, time management and organisational skills which are highly regarded by higher education and employers and is the key to success for this course.

## What happens in lessons?

From improvising original drama in groups or pairs to assuming roles in scripted plays and scenes, the Acting lessons are incredibly varied and offer students opportunities both in school and out of school. You could also take part in anything! From technique and skill workshops, script work and devising, learning how to master a new talent, exploring the various different fields of the Acting Industry or even creating your own mask for performance. Anything is possible!



# Music

If you want to compose your own music, perform as part of a band, develop your independent instrumental skills as well as listen to and appraise a wide range of musical styles then studying Music is for you.

## What will I study in Year 9?

A Y9 Music student will develop their performance, composition and appraising skills. You will explore 'Rhythm and Performance' and learn how to rehearse and develop your playing skills on your chosen instrument. You will develop your understanding of musical elements through exploring music in context of 'Blues, Minimalism, Theme and Variation and Improvisation. You will compose your own rhythmic and melodic music learning how to make decisions and develop confidence. You will learn how to cooperate with others and work as a member of an ensemble developing creativity and inventiveness. You will also stimulate your brain through musical ear training, improve verbal memory, literacy skills and support good Mental Health.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

GCSE Music is a 60% practical GCSE. There are four areas of study which will develop your understanding of Music even further and will be used to approach all three components:

Area of Study 1 – Musical Forms and Devices

Area of Study 2 – Music for Ensemble

Area of Study 3 – Music for Film

Area of Study 4 – Popular Music

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1 - Performing (30%) – Internally Assessed, Externally Moderated

This component is where you will rehearse and perform at least two performances demonstrating your musical playing or singing ability. Music choices will link to the areas of study. One performance must demonstrate one minute of ensemble work.

Component 2 - Composing (30%) - Internally Assessed, Externally Moderated

In this component, you will learn how to compose music in a variety of styles and for a variety of audiences. You will submit two compositions for assessment, one following a set brief given by the exam board linked to an area of study and the other is your free brief.

Component 3 - Appraising (40%) – 1hr 15min Written Examination

For this component, you will develop a wide understanding of Music and be able to listen and understand Music from the four areas of study. In this exam, you will listen to and answer questions about eight extracts of Music. Two of the questions will be based on two set works that you will study in greater detail.

## What skills will I need?

To be able to complete the course you must be able to

- Play a musical instrument or sing
- IT skills are helpful, but you will be taught anything you do not know
- A willingness to learn how to use music technologies
- Self-discipline
- Determination and willingness to practice your instrument

## What happens in lessons?

Music lessons are varied. You will:

- Compose music practically on a variety of instruments and computer software
- Appraise a variety of styles of music developing listening skills
- Rehearse and perform as a soloist and part of an ensemble
- Learn about music theory





# Film Studies

If you pick Film Studies you will develop many useful skills and will participate in both practical and theory lessons. You'll never be able to watch a film again without analysing it and considering how it was made and why. You will enjoy a wide variety of film styles from around the world.

If you like working in a group then this is for you, as you will have the opportunity to create a film, planning, filming and editing on IMacs.

## What will I study in Year 9?

The main features of this GCSE are:

- A chance for students to explore both popular mainstream and independent films as well as Global cinema.
- The current films being studied are: Submarine (2010), Rabbit Proof Fence (2002), Hurt Locker (2008), Invasion of the Bodysnatchers (1956), ET (1982) and Let the Right One In (2008).
- There are opportunities to plan and make film sequences and screenplays.
- GCSE Film Studies explores how the film industries of Hollywood and Britain operate and considers the impact they have on all of our lives.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

GCSE Film Studies involves coursework and 2 final examination papers:

Paper 1 – 35%:US

- US Film Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- Section A: Q1 US film comparative study films produced between 1930 and 1960
- Q2 films produced between 1961 and 1990
- Section B: US independent film.

Coursework -30%

- You will produce an extract of a genre film and write a detailed evaluation of it.

Paper 2 -35%

- Global Film Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of qualification This assesses knowledge and understanding of three global films produced outside the US.
- Section A: Contemporary UK film
- Section B: One recent global English language film
- Section C: One global non-English language film.

## What skills will I need?

To achieve in GCSE Film Studies, you will need:

- Good reading and writing skills.
- The ability to explain your ideas clearly and concisely.
- Problem-solving skills and the ability to work as part of a team
- Some ICT skills are helpful, but you will be taught anything you do not know.
- A genuine interest in movies and a desire to learn more about cinema



## What happens in lessons?

GCSE Film Studies lessons are varied. You will:

- Analyse clips of film to see how a sequence of film is put together to create meaning.
- Use cameras to explore how the films construct messages.
- Use secondary sources such as video and textbooks to help you understand how film industries operate.
- Research audience choices and viewing experiences by designing questionnaires and using focus groups.
- Analyse different genres of film making.
- Look at the impact of World Cinema

The aim is to:

- Build on student experience
- Introduce students to broad range of film
- Encourage students to gain some appreciation of industry and audience context to films
- Gain an understanding of how films shape people's views

# Dance

Dance in Year 9 will give you the opportunity to develop the skills that you have learnt so far in PE and Year 8 option Dance even further. You will have one lesson per week which will incorporate both practical and theory so there will be plenty of variety on a weekly basis. This course will help you to improve as a performer and a choreographer while allowing you to access a range of professional dance pieces that will broaden your ideas and thoughts of what can be achieved through Dance.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 you will study a range of Dance styles including contemporary, hip hop, ballet, samba, capoeira and folk. You will look at how Dance has evolved through the years from lindy hop to TikTok and everything in between! You will also develop your understanding of Dance performance and choreography skills by using these in response to a range of different themes including Musicals, Dance Films and 'Nutcracker!' while also challenging your creativity by learning how to use props and contact in Dance.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In theory lessons, you will learn about the six set professional works: A Linha Curva, Artificial Things, Infra, Within Her Eyes, Shadows and Emancipation of Expressionism. You will analyse the use of choreographic processes, choreographic devices, lighting, set, costume, accompaniment and movement material in each piece. This knowledge will then be applied to exam-style questions. You will also develop your skills to answer long answer questions in relation to your own practical work as well as the professional works.

In practical lessons, you will develop your performance and choreography skills further. You will also learn the two solo dances and group performance piece required for your GCSE practical exam. At the start of Year 11, you will be introduced to your choreography questions and devise either a group or solo piece of choreography.

Students are assessed over two components:

- Component 1 - Performance (worth 30%) Consists of a solo performance of set phrases and a duo/trio piece  
Choreography (worth 30%) Consists of a solo or group choreography based on a particular theme. All practical elements are assessed by an external moderator via video recordings
- Component 2 - consists of a written exam taken at the end of Year 11 that is worth 40% of the final grade. It assesses students knowledge of professional works and their practise in performance and choreography.

## What skills will I need?

It is essential that you have completed the dance option in Year 8 to access the work covered in Year 9. You will also need the following:

- Motivation and enthusiasm
- Confidence in performing
- Creative ideas and an open mind ready to try different styles of dance
- The ability to work in small groups and on your own
- A reasonable level of physical skill - flexibility, strength and coordination.
- The ability to understand dance key terms and use them in written work
- A reflective mind allowing you to evaluate and improve
- The ability to plan, perform and evaluate



## What happens in lessons?

Dance lessons are extremely varied and cover a range of topics. In practical lessons, students will receive input from teachers in the form of new movement vocabulary, performance skill development or choreographic techniques. Students will then be expected to apply these new skills and ideas to performance and choreography based tasks in both solo and group work. In theory lessons, students will be introduced to the constituent features of dance through the analysis of professional dance pieces and their own work. Regular assessments in both a practical and theory setting will take place throughout the course.

# PE

PE 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 Well-being.

## What will I study in Year 9?

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

- Components of Fitness
- Fitness Tests
- Warm ups and cool downs
- Training Methods
- Training Principles
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Health and Well-being
- Performance Analysis

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

GCSE PE is comprised of practical and theory elements:

- Theory (60%)
- Practical (40%)

Practical: Pupils will take part in a range of practical lessons which cover a wide variety of different sports and physical activities.

Pupils top 3 sporting activities count towards their overall grade:

- 1 x team sport
- 1 x individual sport
- 1 x team OR individual

AEP - Students also have to conduct a coursework task that involves analysing, evaluating and improving a sporting activity of their choice.

Theory: 2 x 1 hour written examinations based on a range of topics taught over the 2 years. Examinations are comprised of a range of question styles including multiple choice, labelling and short and longer, written style answer questions.

## 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 lessons?

In Y9 your option lesson will be mainly classroom and theory based as you will still have your 1 x timetabled lesson of practical PE each week which will run alongside the course. On occasion your option lesson will be practically based if the topic area being covered would benefit from being taught via a practical method. For example planning and leading a warm up activity.

# Sports Studies

PE and 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 Well-being.

## What will I study in Year 9?

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

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

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

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

- Practical Sport & Leadership (40%) - Students are assessed in their 2 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.
- Theory Exam (40%) - Contemporary issues in sport which includes: The Olympics and Paralympics, Sporting behaviour, Performance enhancing drugs, major Sporting events and Sport Development.
- Outdoor Adventurous Activities (20%) - Students learn about a wide range of Outdoor Activities. They take part in many of these through our links with Ulley Activity Centre. They are assessed on how they keep safe during these activities and plan how they would deliver an Outdoor activity session.



## 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 lessons?

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.

# Sports Science

Sports Science helps students appreciate how sports science underpins sport at all levels. They learn about anatomy, physiology, injury prevention, improving personal fitness through appropriate training and diet and the role of psychology in improving performance.

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## What will I study in Year 9?

In year 9 you will study an introduction to Sports Science, through the Sports Nutrition topic. You will gain an insight and develop skills required for the course, including research-based skills and how to structure assignments.

## How will this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In Year 10 and 11 your lessons will be classroom based, there will be some practical elements in the lessons when it is applicable to the unit being studied. Lessons will be a combination of theory content and coursework.

You will study the following two units:

- R180 - Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with medical conditions (Exam, 40%) - in this unit students will learn about the different types of sporting injuries and how to prevent and treat them.
- R181 - Applying the principles of training, fitness and how it affects sports performance, (Coursework, 40%) - in this unit students will learn about the different aspects of fitness training, they will then plan a fitness programme

You will then study one of the following two units:

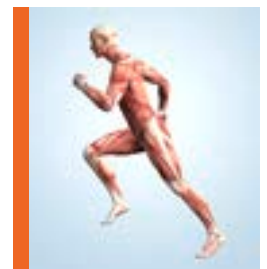
- R182: The body's response to physical activity and the use of technology (Coursework, 20%)
- R183: Nutrition and sports performance (Coursework, 20%)

## What skills will I need?

- Literacy skills
- Independent research skills
- Communication skills
- Evaluation skills
- An interest in sport and / or science

## What happens in lessons?

Lessons will be mainly classroom based where you will learn new content and apply it to either written coursework or exam questions. Dependent on the unit being studied there may be some practical lessons too.



# Child Development

Child Development provides the opportunity to gain vocational qualifications in the childcare sector. It will be of interest to students who are considering a career of working with children in the education, health or social work sector. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of different settings including schools, nurseries and private provisions.

## What will I study in Year 9?

During Year 9 students will be introduced to child development starting with conception, birth and how to care for the child developing child. We will also focus on the different areas of development and how we can support the child by providing age and stage appropriate activities. During the year students will complete a 'Child Study' project which allows them to use the knowledge learnt thus far and apply it to a real life case study.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

During Year 10 learners will study for the CACHE Level 2 award which involves:

### Unit 1

The variety of settings that are available for children. The expectations of placements including appropriate dress, behaviour, timekeeping and positive attitudes. The importance of treating children with fairness and equality.

### Unit 2

The physical, communication, intellectual, social, emotional and behavioural development of children from birth to 5 years.

## What skills will I need?

Child development is a coursework-based subject and students will have to research and write up tasks independently, whilst being supported by their class teacher. Students will also need:

- Good reading and extended writing skills
- Good organisational skills
- The ability to find your own information and conduct research
- To be able to think for yourself and work independently
- Determination and the ability to remain motivated in order to complete tasks
- Excellent time management

## What happens in lessons?

Child Development lessons are varied, you may:

- Learn content relating to different elements of Child Development
- Use the knowledge that you have learnt to produce written tasks
- Work in groups to share ideas and compare information
- Spend time researching and fact finding
- Develop research and presentation skills

"Childcare Development provides the opportunity to gain vocational qualifications that give an introduction to the childcare sector."



# Health and 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 progression in this essential sector.

## What will I study in Year 9?

Within this subject you will learn how growth and development takes place across an individual's life stages and the range of factors that can influence health and well being.

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.

Learning about how these services can support an individual's development as they age. To do this, you will take part in a health and social care career workshop.

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 would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

This subject provides a platform for further study in Key Stage 4, where you would undertake the Level 2 BTEC, technical award 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?

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

*"If you see yourself working in the medical, care or education profession, Health and Social Care is the course for you."*

## 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



# Psychology

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour. It is made up of many different topics. Perhaps a more helpful way of revealing the nature of psychology is to list some of the questions psychologists have tried to answer:

- Why do we forget?
- What makes people aggressive?
- How does the brain make sense of information from the eye?
- What are the developmental milestones of childhood?

Psychology is playing an increasing role in many aspects of life and work. Careers involving Psychology are varied and include advertising, personnel management, teaching, training, clinical psychology, psychiatric nursing, occupational therapy, speech therapy, criminology, counselling to name a few. Or if you are simply interested in understanding aspects of human behaviour then this subject may be of interest to you.

## What will I study in Year 9?

- Sex and Gender
- The Development of Personality
- Non Verbal Communication
- The Brain and an intro to neurobiology
- An introduction to sleep and dreaming



## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

Students will be assessed in the form of two written exams, each lasting for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Topics studied include:

- Memory
- Development
- Research Methods
- Perception
- Language and Thought
- The brain and neurobiology
- Social Influence
- Psychological Problems (including Addiction and Depression)

**Psychology is the study of the mind and behaviour.**

## What skills will I need?

Good literacy skills are essential as you will be required to write essays as part of your assessment. This subject is also scientific therefore you must enjoy science subjects, particularly Biology to do well in psychology. A genuine interest in this subject is important otherwise you may find it difficult.

## What happens in lessons?

You will be presented with theories and research studies on each topic area. You will also receive a mixture of handouts and task sheets, as well as discussion opportunities. There will also be many opportunities for you to carry out your own experiments across school, and there will be video material to observe such as documentaries on human behaviour.



# Sociology

Sociology is a subject that will help you to explain the things that are happening around you. Sociology is the study of modern society and involves looking at changes that are happening in relation to a variety of issues that affect you e.g. family, education, crime, media.

Some of the issues we will deal with in sociology include:

- Why has the divorce rate increased?
- Why have girls overtaken boys in education?
- Why do people commit crimes?
- Why do some social groups have poorer life experience than others?
- What are the solutions to poverty in society?

If you enjoy subjects like history, geography, religious studies and PSHE then this is a subject you will find interesting.

Sociology will help you to develop many useful skills such as:

- Evaluating an argument - You will be presented with a variety of explanations for what is happening in society and you must learn to challenge and support these with evidence.
- Interpretation of data - You will learn how to take relevant information from a variety of sociological sources, such as statistics, newspaper reports and case studies.

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## What will I study in Year 9?

During your time studying sociology in Year 9 you will look at key issues in sociology. This includes looking at a number of current issues in society such as:

- The influence of the media
- Immigration
- Inequality and discrimination
- The role of religion and beliefs
- The changing nature of crime
- Political systems
- Population change

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

If you continue studying sociology you will study each of the following topics in greater depth and these make up your final exams:

Year 10

- Sociological theories and research methods
- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education

Year 11

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification

GCSE Sociology involves two examinations each lasting 1hr 45mins to be taken at the end of Year 11: paper 1 and 2. There is no coursework in this subject. In Year 10 and 11 you will also be asked to complete lengthy essay homework, so good English grades are recommended. Sociology is not an easy option. you are required to write detailed, evidenced essays under timed conditions, It is difficult in parts but interesting.

## What skills will I need?

To achieve GCSE Sociology you will need:

- Good reading skills
- Good writing skills
- The ability to explain your ideas clearly and concisely
- An open mind and a willingness to listen to a range of viewpoints
- An interest in current affairs would be helpful

## What happens in lessons?

GCSE Sociology lessons are varied. You may:

- Gather evidence to support or challenge an argument
- Debate an issue
- Work in groups to produce a presentation



✉ For more information, please contact Mrs E. Lucchesi (elucchesi@wickersley.net)

# 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 peoples 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 9?

The course focuses on both religious and non-religious attitudes towards society and a range of ethical and philosophical issues. Here is an example of some topics you may study:

- Existence of God, gods and ultimate reality (e.g. Does a god exist?)
- Peace and conflict (e.g. can a war ever be justified?)
- Crime and punishment (e.g. should the death penalty be allowed?)
- Religion, human rights and social justice (e.g. should females be allowed to be religious leaders?)
- Life and death (e.g. what happens, if anything, when we die?)
- Religious and cultural rituals (e.g. what customs are used to mark a child becoming an adult?)

Throughout the Year 9 course, you will build upon the Knowledge and Understanding (KAU), Personal Opinion and Debate (POD) skills which you will have developed during Year 7 and 8 and begin to develop the skills required for the GCSE course should you chose to continue with the subject.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

We study the Pearson/Edexcel Religious Studies B course; this involves learning about the viewpoints of two religions (Christianity and Islam) and also non-religious viewpoints (atheist and humanist). We look at a range of topics:

- Christian and Muslim beliefs
- Living the Christian and Muslim life
- Marriage and the family
- Matters of life and death
- Crime and punishment
- Peace and conflict

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

50% Paper 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes (Religion and Ethics)

50% Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes (Religion Peace and Conflict)

## What skills will I need?

You will need good skills in the following:

- Independence of mind and initiative
- Interpreting, analysing and evaluating information
- Communication skills
- Developing and defending different arguments

If you like learning about different peoples opinions and why people behave in the way they do this is the subject for you!

## 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.

GCSE Religious Studies offers you the opportunity to study a range of highly topical and controversial issues.



# Citizenship Studies

How can citizens try to make a difference in society? This is the overarching theme of Citizenship studies. Students gain knowledge of democratic processes, the structure of parliament and how laws are made and enforced. Citizenship Studies will help you to develop many useful skills such as the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate an argument, weigh the evidence and look for alternative interpretations.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 you will explore how individuals come to have power within our democracy. You will be introduced to the structure of parliament in the UK; exploring political parties' manifestos taking part in a mock election. You will study the different elements of the criminal justice system in England, to develop your understanding of our laws and how they are enforced. Finally, you will develop your knowledge of Human Rights and international efforts to protect them. You will also have an opportunity to develop active citizenship skills by engaging in a community event or campaign.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

If you choose to continue to study Citizenship at GCSE level you will cover five topic areas:

- Living together in the UK
- Democracy at work in the UK
- Law and Justice
- Power and Influence
- Active Citizenship

GCSE Citizenship Studies involves two examinations each lasting 1hr 45mins, to be taken at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework in this subject, but as part of the course, you will plan a course of informed action to address a citizenship issue or question of concern and aim to deliver a benefit or change for a particular community or wider society. You will be required to present coherent arguments in essay form.

## What skills will I need?

Citizenship is all about wanting to take part and make a difference. If you are passionate about making your community or wider society a better place, this is the option for you. Other desirable skills;

- Good reading and writing skills
- An open mind and a willingness to listen to a range of viewpoints
- An interest in current affairs
- A willingness to share your opinions

## What happens in lessons?

Citizenship studies is about the real world outside of the classroom, lessons are varied and will always relate to current affairs. You may gather evidence to support or challenge an argument, assess sources of information, debate an issue or analyse a campaign.

We often work in groups and collaborate with members of the wider community.



# IT

The IT course in Year 9 (or Digital Information Technology as it is now known) has been designed to give learners the opportunity to try out a wide variety of applications that will provide them, not only with the skills and knowledge needed to act as a stepping stone into a wide variety of occupations when they leave school, but also skills that will be essential to enhancing their learning in many other subjects that they have chosen.

## What will I study in Year 9?

A wide range and variety of modules will be covered. These will revolve around the concept of different User Interfaces investigating their design and use. One of the fastest-growing areas in the Digital Sector is that of effective User Interface Design for everything from interactive websites, to the Apps we use every day. Students will investigate the theory behind interface design, putting their new-found skills into practice by developing their own App for a local event or company. Another popular sector is that of Digital Sound. Students will examine the theory behind the creation of digital audio files, using editing tools to edit existing audio as well as creating their own original pieces such as Podcasts. Students will also look at the importance of image and graphic editing software, creating and editing images that they will use in their own apps. Software will include Serif DrawPlus and GIMP.

Planning is an essential life skill, for education and the wider world. Students will be taught a variety of planning techniques that they will demonstrate throughout their work, including mind maps, moodboards and visualisations. Many students also have a keen interest in 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 but using entertaining scenarios to teach a very important topic that provides essential skills for life.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

Should students take the decision to continue with Digital Information 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 skills will I need?

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

## 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

# Computer Science

Computer Science emphasizes the understanding of computer technology and the science behind how computer systems work. Students will develop an understanding of the fundamentals of computer systems, including the components inside computer systems, the way data is stored, processed and transferred, computer networks and computer programming.

## What will I study in Year 9?

- HTML & CSS - The fundamentals of web development and skills to create a basic web page.
- Hardware & Software - Understanding the different components that make up a computer system and how hardware and software work together.
- Algorithms & Flowcharts - Designing algorithms using flowcharts and pseudocode. Understanding key algorithms for searching and sorting data
- Python Programming - Writing computer programs in Python
- Computer Networks - The hardware required to create a network

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

In Year 10 and 11, you will build on the skills and knowledge from Year 9 and cover additional topics. The GCSE course is split into two components.

Component 1, computer systems, covers topics including systems architecture, memory and storage, networks and security.

Component 2, computational thinking, algorithms and programming, focuses on the process of software development.

You will sit two 1hr 30min exams (one for each component) at the end of Year 11, there is no coursework.

## What skills will I need?

Computer Science provides highly motivated and committed students the opportunity to develop an understanding of computer systems and computer programming along with a logical approach to solving problems, helping them to prepare for further studies and future employment. A keen interest in computers and technology is beneficial.

## What happens in lessons?

Lessons are varied and will include a range of activities over the course, including:

- E-portfolio activities
- Research tasks
- Student presentations
- Programming tasks
- End of module mini-assessments



# Business Studies

Business looks at how organisations develop new and innovative ideas not only to generate profit but to contribute to and solve problems in wider society. Our subject develops a student's knowledge beyond the start-up phase of a business and focuses on the key concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. By the end of the course, students will have developed as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively and reflect with enquiring minds. They will have the opportunity to investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues with case studies ranging from small medium enterprises to national corporations.

## What will I study in Year 9?

In Year 9 students will follow an introduction into the four basic functional areas of a business, they will examine what activities take place in marketing, finance, human resources and operations.

## How would this progress into Year 10 and 11?

### Theme 1

- Enterprise and entrepreneurial behaviour
- How to spot a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on a business e.g. exchange rates and economy.

### Theme 2

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

Students achieve a GCSE grade 9 - 1. 100% exam based through two exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam is 1hr 30mins, worth 90 marks and is 50% of the final GCSE grade. The papers consist of calculations, multiple-choice questions, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

## What skills will I need?

The course is designed to encourage an investigative approach to some real-world questions. Skills used include data analysis and interpretation, group work, individual research, planning, report writing and creativity when it comes to improving and adapting business products and campaigns. There is some use of Google facilities involved in the course and also some mathematical concepts. Although you don't need any prior business knowledge to do this course, enthusiasm about the world of business and reading around the subject is key to success.

## What happens in lessons?

Lessons are varied and active. Over the course of a topic area lessons will include:

- Working as a group to analyse a business scenario and design effective marketing campaigns
- Roleplay considering different customer needs and wants
- Independent research activities on entrepreneurs
- Studying real business situations
- Enquiry based homework projects
- Exam skills

Students have the opportunity to investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues.



Economics relates to every aspect of our lives – from the decisions of individuals or families, to the structures created by governments and producers. If you're a naturally curious person and love to find out how things work, Economics will introduce you to the basic economic concepts and help develop communication, critical thinking and analytical skills enabling you to think like an economist. The subject presents students with opportunities to focus on real-world issues, reflect upon ethical and sustainable matters and to investigate national and global economic situations from the last 15 years.

## What will I study in Year 9?

Economics equips students with the skills and confidence to explore how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally. Year 9 will provide a well-rounded introduction to this subject, from understanding the important role of employees, money, trade, central banks and governments; to recognising how countries can grow and improve their living standards.

Students will develop quantitative skills relevant to the subject content. They should be able to make relevant calculations from economic data and be able to interpret data presented in the form of tables, graphs and charts. Students will acquire the skills to make informed judgements and to communicate in a clear and concise way.

## How will this progress into Year 10 and 11?

The GCSE Economics course is split into two components, covering micro and macro economics themes:

How markets work:

- Economic foundations
- Resource allocation
- How prices are determined
- Production, costs, revenue and profit
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- Market failure

How the economy works:

- Introduction to the national economy
- Government objectives
- How the government manages the economy
- International trade and the global economy
- The role of money and financial markets

GCSE Economics is 100% exam based through two exams at the end of year 11. Students achieve a GCSE grade 9 - 1. Each exam is 1hr 45mins long, worth 80 marks and is 50% of the final GCSE grade. The papers consist of calculations, 10 multiple-choice questions, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Paper 1 will focus on content 'How markets work', whilst paper 2 focuses on content 'How the economy works'.

## What skills will I need?

The course is designed to encourage an investigative approach to some real-world questions. Skills used include data analysis and interpretation, group work, individual research, planning, report writing and class debates. There is some use of Google facilities involved in the course and students will need to develop their quantitative skills from calculating averages and percentage changes, to constructing graphs and interpreting a range of economic data. Although you don't need any prior economic knowledge to do this course, enthusiasm about the world of business, politics and the economy is key to success.

## What happens in lessons?

Lessons are varied and active. Over the course of a topic area lessons will include:

- Presentation-led investigations into new key terms and concepts
- Group work and projects on policies that could be implemented
- Independent research activities on economic activity
- Study of real economic situations and how markets interact
- Debate an international issue
- Keeping up with current affairs
- Investigation based homework projects



✉ For more information, please contact Mrs E. Ashton (eashton@wickersley.net), Mr C. Alecock (calecock@wickersley.net) or Miss D. Ogley (dogley@wickersley.net)

