

WICKERSLEY SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

2025

YEAR 8 INTO YEAR 9

OPTIONS BOOKLET



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PARTNERSHIP
TRUST.



INTRODUCTION


The purpose of the Year 9 options are to allow students an opportunity to choose subjects that best match up with their interests, broaden their horizons and follow a broad and balanced curriculum. Year 9 acts as a Foundation year to help prepare students for their GCSEs.

We hope that you will find this booklet useful; indeed you may return to its pages time and time again.

In Year 9 as well as studying a Core Curriculum you will be able to choose four subjects from the following:

- Art, Craft & Design
- Business
- Citizenship
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Economics
- Engineering
- Food & Nutrition
- Health Sciences
- IT
- Music
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Sport

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



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WHAT ARE CORE SUBJECTS?

Core subjects are compulsory national curriculum subjects that all secondary students will study throughout KS3 and KS4.

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

Core History, Geography and MFL lessons are taught until the end of Year 9, with GCSE Options available in those subjects.

Students will also be supported throughout their KS3 and KS4 journey with weekly Physical Education lessons and 1 lesson every 2 weeks in PSHE and RE.



WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

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

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

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

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

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

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

ENGLISH LANGUAGE/ LITERATURE

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE/LITERATURE?

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

The key areas of study focus on:

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

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

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

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT ENGLISH LANGUAGE/ LITERATURE?

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

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

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

WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

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

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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

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

SCIENCE

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SCIENCE?

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

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

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

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

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

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

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT SCIENCE?

For many careers, good Science qualifications are essential,

These include careers such as Nursing and Health Care, Child Development, Engineering, Architecture and Construction, Surveying and any other careers that have a technical aspect.

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

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT MATHEMATICS?

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

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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

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

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

MATHEMATICS

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

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

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

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN MATHS?

The course should enable you to:

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

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

Assessment:

PAPER 1— CALCULATOR

PAPER 2— NON CALCULATOR

PAPER 3— CALCULATOR

3 EXAMS
- 1HR 30
MINS
EACH

100
MARKS

33%

33%

33%

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT HISTORY?

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

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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

- Ability to analyse evidence to find the truth
- Ability to debate and form arguments about events and concepts
- Ability to understand causes and consequences of world events – not just the event details.

HISTORY

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HISTORY?

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

Paper 1:

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

Paper 2:

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

Paper 3:

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are 3 formal examinations.

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

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT GEOGRAPHY

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

However, the transferable knowledge and skills developed by studying Geography are actively sought out by employers allowing graduate geographers to consistently experience lower than average levels of unemployment. A GCSE in Geography is a stepping stone in becoming a valued individual in a competitive world of work.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

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

GEOGRAPHY

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

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

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN GEOGRAPHY?

Geography gives you the chance to study 3 units:

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

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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



WHAT SKILLS WILL I GAIN?

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

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

You will gain skills in the following:

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

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

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

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

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

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?)
- Prejudice, Equality and Human Rights
- Religions, Cults and New Religious movements such as Scientology. (e.g. can a war ever be justified?)
- Medical Ethics
- Rites of Passage

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.

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

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



WHAT DO WE DO IN YEAR 9 LESSONS?

Sport is a great option for anyone who has a love of sport and is interested in learning about the various career paths within the sports industry. Students will be given the opportunity to learn concepts and develop their skills in careers such as; Fitness Instructor, Sports Coach, Sports Analyst, Sports Scientist, Sports Development and Sport as a Business.

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

SPORT

WHY STUDY SPORT?

Sport 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SPORT?

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

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/ or compositional ideas
- Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport

WHAT HAPPENS IN A SPORT LESSON?

In Year 9, students will take on a range of career based projects. This will give them the opportunity to develop experience in a number of different sport related careers they may wish to pursue in the future.

Students can also choose to study a vocational qualification in Sport in Year 10 & 11, equivalent to one GCSE. They are assessed on Awareness in Outdoor Activity, Practical Performance and Leadership and Contemporary Issues in Sport. This is all achieved by teaching theoretical content through and alongside high-quality practical lessons.

Students will continue to take part in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN DANCE?

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.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A DANCE LESSON?

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.

DANCE

WHY STUDY DANCE?

Studying BTEC Dance will give you the opportunity to further develop the skills and knowledge you have learnt in Year 7 and 8 Dance. In Year 9 you will have one lesson a week. This will increase to 2 lessons a week in Year 10 and Year 11, which will incorporate both practical and theory lessons. You will use creative thinking skills to solve problems and create insightful work. Whilst developing your analytical ability in theory aspects of the course. You will broaden your horizons through the appreciation of professional dance works which combined, will allow you to widen your ideas and thoughts of what can be achieved through dance.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students are assessed over three components:

Component 1 is worth 30% and is about understanding how professionals create repertoire. You will learn Jazz / show dance/ hip hop/musical theatre and will perform as a group. You be assessed against the criteria that the exam set which will be understanding job roles and planning and performing dances.

Component 2 is worth 30% and is about learning and performing professional repertoire to an audience. You be assessed on how near you can perform the exact routine by a professional dance repertoire. Your development of skills and techniques will be assessed in this unit of work.

Component 3 is worth 40% and is marked externally. You will be given a stimuli and scenario and will be required to create a dance in a group of 3 - 7 performers. You will choose your music and choreography your own routine to link to the stimuli. All three units of work have both written and performance elements.

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 SKILLS WILL I NEED?

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

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

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

WHAT COULD I DO NEXT?

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

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

DRAMA

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

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

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN DRAMA?

- You will investigate a variety of drama techniques, play scripts and theatrical styles
- Learn about how playwrights and practitioners communicate with an audience and make an impact
- Learn how to use a range of drama techniques to present effective practical work
- Learn new skills in theatre design
- Have the opportunity to go on the London Theatre Trip see two West End theatre productions - this year's current Year 9 are seeing Back to the Future and The Play That Goes Wrong in June

Unit 1: Rehearsal Techniques: DNA

This shocking contemporary play starts with a dead body in the woods and you will stage scripted extracts as part of your practical work. You will develop your knowledge of different rehearsal techniques and technical design elements such as scenery and lighting design.

Unit 2: Stage Design: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Following a theatre trip to see The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe at the Sheffield Lyceum Theatre, you will evaluate the play in terms of its design features in the areas of lighting, sound, scenery and costume. You will discover how these elements combine to create mood and atmosphere in live theatre and get the chance to complete your own design work.

Unit 3: Combat and Conflict

Learn how to portray different types of anger in a variety of conflict scenes before we cover the basics of stage fighting. You'll work in a pair and learn how to punch, slap, kick, strangle and stab your opponent - or at least that's what it will look like to an audience; it's all theatrical trickery really!

Unit 4: Staging Types and Character Motivation: Girls and Dolls

You will read this striking play about childhood tragedy and consider the staging process, developing your skills in characterisation, multi-role, narration and staging types.

Unit 5: Practitioner Study: Bertolt Brecht

You will study and practically explore the techniques of the revolutionary drama practitioner, Bertolt Brecht. You will develop your ability to use multi-role, narration, placards, music and montage techniques to create imaginative pieces of drama.

Unit 6: Devising Drama

You will use all your knowledge learned so far in Year 9 to work in a small group to create a brand new piece of theatre for performance at the end of the year. Your piece will be in a Brechtian style and you can choose to be assessed as an actor by playing a role in the action, or as a designer by taking responsibility for one of the technical elements in the show such as the costume design.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

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

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

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Performance and Creation

- Musician
- Singer
- Songwriter
- Composer
- Producer

Technical Roles

- Sound Engineer
- Mixing Engineer
- Mastering Engineer

Business and Management

- Artist Manager
- Booking Agent
- A&R (Artists and Repertoire)
- Music Publisher

Marketing and Promotion

- Publicist
- Social Media Manager
- Marketing Manager

Education and Research

- Music Educator
- Musicologist

Other Roles

- Music Journalist
- DJ
- Music Supervisor

MUSIC

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

BTEC Tech Awards Music is a development of music at KS3 and a stepping stone for further study at KS4 (Year 10 & 11) and KS5 (college, sixth form etc.)

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

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

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN MUSIC?

The Year 9 Music course begins to prepare you for the BTEC Music course, including continuing to learn how to rehearse and develop your playing skills on your chosen instrument. You will continue to have you small group instrumental lessons to support this. You will develop your listening analytical skills, learn how compose and arrange music and ensure fundamental theoretical concepts are secure.

This is taught through a wide range of exciting topics and styles including: 50's and 60's, Hip-Hop, EDM and Rock music. For each topic you will listen to, research and analyse music of that style. You'll learn how to create your own music and perform in that style, with expert guidance and support from the Music staff.



WHY STUDY IT?

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

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

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

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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

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

IT

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN IT?

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

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

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

WHAT HAPPENS IN A COMPUTER SCIENCE LESSON?

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

- E-portfolio activities
- Research tasks
- Student presentations
- Programming tasks

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.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

Computer Science emphasises 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 LEARN ABOUT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE?

- Data Representation - How data, including text, images and sounds is stored using the binary number system
- 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 WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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.



WHAT HAPPENS IN A BUSINESS LESSON?

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

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.

BUSINESS

WHY STUDY BUSINESS?

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 students 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 LEARN ABOUT IN BUSINESS?

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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 45mins, 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.

WHY STUDY ECONOMICS?

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 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.

ECONOMICS

WHAT WILL I LEARN & WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN LESSON?

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.

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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 & profit
- Competitive & 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'.



WHY STUDY CITIZENSHIP?

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 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.

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

CITIZENSHIP

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN CITIZENSHIP?

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 WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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 HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Childcare 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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

Childcare is a linear qualification and students will have to apply their knowledge to their non-exam assessment (NEA) and their examined assessment (EA) towards the end of Y11.

Students will need:

- Comprehensive note taking skills, taking pride in their work and presentation
- 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

CHILDCARE

WHY STUDY CHILDCARE?

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN CHILDCARE?

During Year 9 students will be introduced to Childcare starting with conception, birth and how to care for the 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. Students will also research the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum that children aged 0-5 years typically follow.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During Year 10 and 11 learners will study for the NCFE/CACHE Level 2 Technical Award in Childcare in the Early Years which involves the following topics:

- Child Development
- Factors that influence the child's development
- Care routines, play and activities to support the child
- Early Years provision
- Legislation, policies and procedures in the Early Years
- Expectations of the Early Years practitioner
- Roles and responsibilities within Early Years settings
- The importance of observations in Early Years childcare
- Planning in Early Years childcare

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

Health and Social Care lessons are varied. You may:

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

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

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

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

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

WHY STUDY HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE?

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

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

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

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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



WHAT 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.

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.

PSYCHOLOGY

WHY STUDY 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 LEARN ABOUT IN PSYCHOLOGY?

- Sex and Gender
- The Development of Personality
- Non Verbal Communication
- The Brain and an Intro to Neurobiology
- An Introduction to Sleep and Dreaming

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN SOCIOLOGY?

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

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

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

SOCIOLOGY

WHY STUDY 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.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

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 DO EMPLOYERS THINK ABOUT PRODUCT DESIGN?

All employers value a person who is creative and capable of solving problems independently.

Product Design will encourage you to develop these skills as well as your making skills. Employers value this 'hands on' approach to education. By opting for Product Design you will gain a skill which can be used in a variety of college courses and careers.

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

In Y11 you will spend the year designing and making a product in response to a design challenge set by the exam board. You will spend the majority of Y11 completing this project.

WHAT HAPPENS IN A PRODUCT DESIGN LESSON?

Students will have 2 lessons per week, 1 will be focussed on the knowledge for the exam and the other will be focussed on preparing them for the NEA which will include developing their design and making skills.

Currently, students manufacture 2 prototypes in Year 10; an angle-poise lamp and a designer-influenced box.

PRODUCT DESIGN

WHY STUDY PRODUCT DESIGN?

Product Design is a full GCSE course where wood metal and plastic are used to design and make innovative products.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN PRODUCT DESIGN?

- Designing and making a range of products
- Graphical communication techniques
- Specific use of machines and hand tools
- Computer Aided Design and Manufacture
- Theory based information related to specific materials
- Communicating the design process

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written Exam: 2 hours – 100 marks – 50% of GCSE

The exam is separated into 3 sections;

- Section A - Multiple choice
- Section B - Technical Principles
- Section C - Designing and Making Principles

NEA non examined assessment coursework - 50% of GCSE

Students are given the choice of 3 design contexts by the Exam Board in the June of Y10. They are then to complete a formal portfolio based on this context which includes;

- Investigating
- Writing a design brief
- Designing
- Developing designs (through CAD and modelling)
- Manufacturing a prototype and evaluating

WHAT HAPPENS IN LESSONS?

- The majority of learning in Y10 will be practical based with small sections of written and planning work to record and develop key skills ready for Y11 assessments.
- The rest of the course is split roughly 50/50 between mainly written assessment and making.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

- A love of practical based learning using metals and plastics and a range of other materials
- Determination when designing products to solve engineering problems using a range of different 2D and 3D modelling skills
- Some ability to use different workshop based tools and processes with some accuracy

ENGINEERING

WHY STUDY ENGINEERING?

You will develop skills that will enable you to contribute to many disciplines and open up career paths including sciences, design, engineering, manufacturing and teaching. This course is also a desirable qualification for students wishing to take on an engineering apprenticeship post 16.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN ENGINEERING?

In this OCR Engineering and Manufacture course, we will teach you how to analyse an engineered product to identify manufacturing criteria such as the correct material to be used.

You will learn how to read engineering drawings and be able to create a working plan of instructions that could be used to make the product from. You will then learn how to complete a range of both hand and machine operations such as Centre Lathe skills and drilling so that you can independently produce products from your plans. In addition, you will learn CAD CAM Skills using Solidworks 3D Software and the 3D Printers.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- The course is made up of three separate units:
- Unit R014: External exam 75 minutes 40%
- Unit R015: Manufacturing a project (coursework) 30%
- Unit R016: Manufacturing in quantity (Coursework) 30%

WHY STUDY FOOD 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 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.

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.

FOOD & NUTRITION

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT IN FOOD & NUTRITION?

If you continue with this subject in Y10

- 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 WILL I BE ASSESSED?

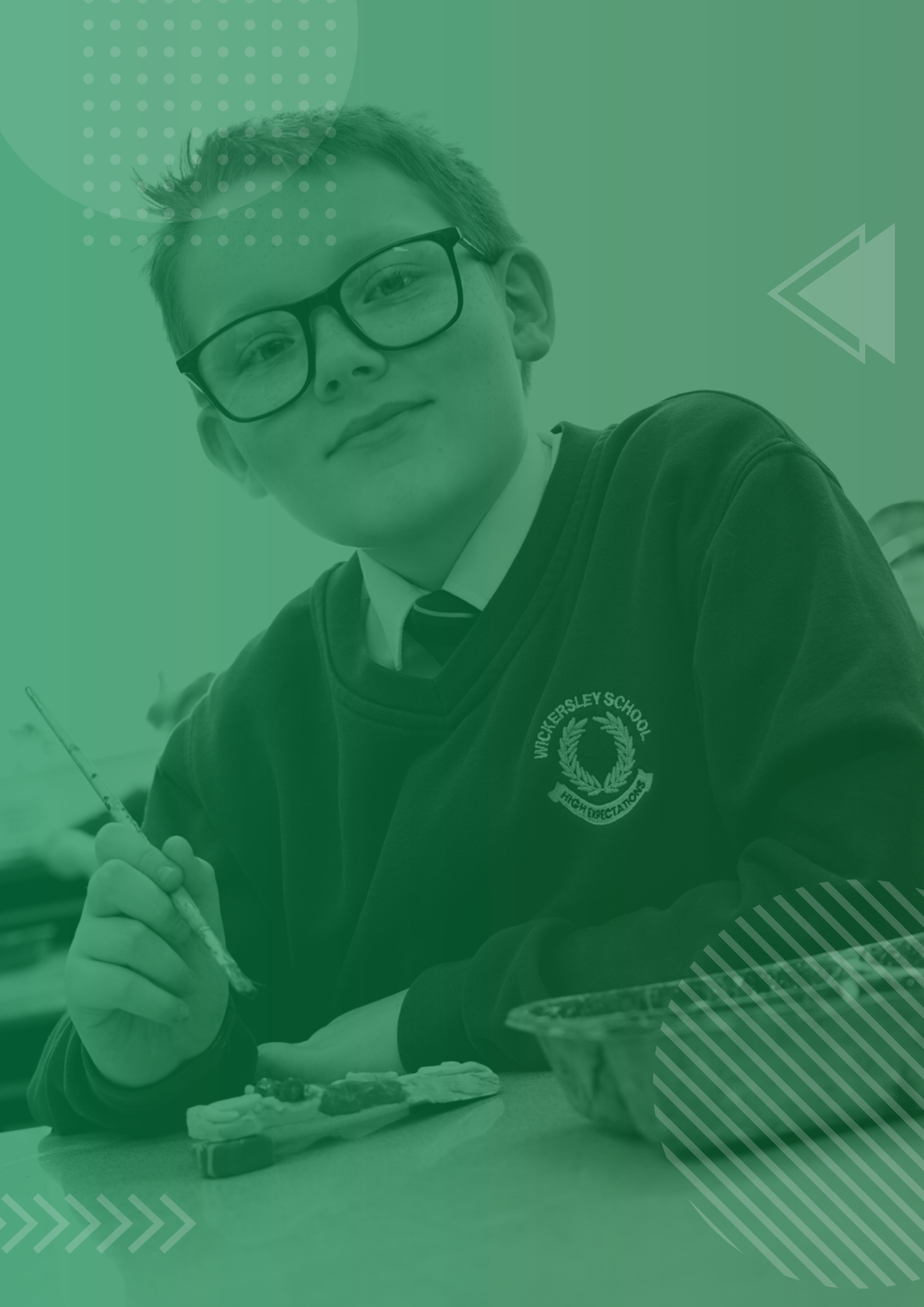
In Year 10, students study the science behind food, carrying out experiments and investigations into the working properties of ingredients.

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.

Students 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 students 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.

Students 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 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.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I NEED?

In order to be successful in Art , Craft & Design students should:

- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Practical and technical skills across a wide range of materials
- Communication skills both verbal and written
- Independence, organisation, resilience, and responsibility
- Respect and understanding of different cultures, artists, craftspeople and designers

ART. CRAFT & DESIGN

WHY STUDY ART. CRAFT & DESIGN?

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

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

In Year 9 students will respond to artist research by, exploring a range of artists and art movements from different cultures, artists, crafts people, designers and architects. Students will extend their work linking to design ideas and the use of composition. Students will experience workshop-based lessons to help develop their technical skill in the 2D and 3D elements of Art, for example, pencil, pen and ink, painting, textiles, clay and some photography. During this time students will learn about the content needed to make successful studies that are presented in sketchbook and how to annotate the development of their work.

The Y9 Art and Design curriculum will prepare you for further studies in your GCSE Option subjects:

Art, Craft & Design, Photography

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

In Year 9, formative assessments take place throughout lessons in Art. Summative assessments take place at the end of each topic, of which there are six.

During projects you will analyse the work of existing artists and use this to develop your own ideas; refine your ideas through experimentation and selection of appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

