

Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form



Options Information 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,



Welcome to the Year 9 options evening.

This evening and this supporting booklet aim to give you all of the information you need to make sure your child makes the right decisions about the pathway and subjects they choose to study for GCSE. Please take the time to discuss with your child and their subject teachers what the best choices are as they move from Year 9 into Year 10.

Students will receive their options forms later this week, which will need to be returned to the school office by

Monday 13th April.

Contents

The Core Curriculum and Pathways	Page 3
Subject Information - The Core Curriculum	Pages 4-10
Subject Information - Option Choices	Pages 10-23

The Core Curriculum

All students will study a core curriculum of English, English Literature, Maths, Science, RE, PE (non-examined) and PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship education, which is non-examined).

Pathways

Blue Pathway – English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

Within this pathway, students will study either French, Spanish or an approved home language and either History or Geography. Students will then have one free choice from the subject list.

Green Pathway

Within this pathway, students will study at least one of: French, Spanish, History or Geography. Students will have a further 2 option choices from the subject list.

Bespoke Pathway - Vocational and Support

At Holy Family, we recognise that students develop and progress at different rates. For some students we understand that a more bespoke pathway is required to ensure success. If this applies to your child, the SEND department will contact you directly for a meeting where we will go through the curriculum offer for your child.

Options subjects available in each pathway

Option choices	Art, Creative iMedia (by invitation only), Computer Science, Design Technology, Digital Information Technology, Drama, Food Preparation & Nutrition, French, Geography, Graphics, History, Music, PE, Spanish, Textiles.
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Note that:

- **Some subjects may not run depending on demand and staffing.**
- **Some subjects may have entry requirements – please see the course details**

Core curriculum subjects

English Language and English Literature

English Language Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA English Language Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
English Literature Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA English Literature Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>English Language qualification</p> <p>Students will develop their reading skills through the study of a range of fiction and non-fiction extracts, taken from both modern and classic texts. They will develop skills in the analysis of a range of texts. Students will develop insight into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think or live our lives. They will develop their ability to analyse and compare unseen fiction and non-fiction texts. Writing skills will focus on imaginative writing which engages the reader, and transactional writing skills for a variety of forms, purposes and audiences.</p> <p>English Literature qualification</p> <p>Students will study a complete Shakespeare play (Macbeth), a modern British play (An Inspector Calls), a nineteenth-century novel (A Christmas Carol), and a collection of poetry selected by the exam board. Students will develop skills in analysing how language, form, structure and the context of texts can create meaning. Students will revisit and revise all of the core texts across the two-year course.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	Students will undertake a range of mock examinations based around the units studied per year. These will take place within curriculum time, as part of homework, and within the whole school assessment timetable.
External Assessment Details	Students will sit a total of four external assessments across the two qualifications. Every student will now sit the same examination as exams will no longer be tiered. There are no longer any controlled assessment or coursework components. All examinations are closed book. Students will not be allowed copies of the studied texts in the exam.
What you need to know	<p>Students need to complete reading of their core Literature texts outside of lesson time, particularly the nineteenth-century novel and the Shakespeare text. Students should also read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction in order to improve their reading and writing skills.</p> <p>A key component of both courses is students' grasp of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (worth 20% of the marks), and students are encouraged to complete additional work in their own time to improve these areas.</p>

Mathematics

Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Linear (Mathematics A) 1MA1 Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
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What will be studied in years 10&11	Students will study the full range of topics under the umbrellas of algebra, shape & space, number and probability & statistics.
Internal Assessment Details	In years 10 and 11 there are numerous opportunities for assessments including homework, end of module tests, in-class tests, as well as three main assessment points through the year. In year 11 the assessment points become more regular as the exam approaches.
External Assessment Details	There are three papers, all of 1 hour and 30 mins duration, one of which is non-calculator. There are two tiers: Foundation (grades 1-5) or Higher (grades 4 to 9).
What you need to know	Students should be regularly working independently on <i>Mathswatch</i> .

Biology GCSE (Part of Triple Science)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA 8461 Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology
Internal Assessment Details	Formative assessment of each topic covered in class. Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar. Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on mathematical and practical skills.
External Assessment Details	What is assessed: Paper 1: Topics 1-4 Paper 2: Topics 5-7 How it is assessed: 2 written exams Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes Each paper is 100 marks Each paper is 50% of the GCSE Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available A minimum of 10% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.
What you need to know	Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.

Chemistry GCSE - (Part of Triple Science)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA 8462 Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Atomic structure and the periodic table2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter3. Quantitative chemistry4. Chemical changes5. Energy changes6. The rate and extent of chemical change7. Organic chemistry8. Chemical analysis9. Chemistry of the atmosphere10. Using resources
Internal Assessment Details	Formative assessment of each topic covered in class. Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar. Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on mathematical and practical skills.
External Assessment Details	What is assessed: Paper 1: Topics 1-5 Paper 2: Topics 6-10 How it is assessed: 2 written exams Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes Each paper is 100 marks Each paper is 50% of the GCSE Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available A minimum of 20% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.
What you need to know	Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.

Physics GCSE - (Part of Triple Science)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA 8463 Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year.

What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism & Electromagnetism 8. Space physics
Internal Assessment Details	<p>Formative assessment of each topic covered in class.</p> <p>Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar.</p> <p>Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on mathematical and practical skills.</p>
External Assessment Details	<p>What is assessed</p> <p>Paper 1: Topics 1–4 Paper 2: Topics 5-8</p> <p>How it is assessed</p> <p>2 written exams Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes Each paper is 100 marks Each paper is 50% of the GCSE</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available</p> <p>A minimum of 30% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.</p>
What you need to know	Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.

Combined Science GCSE

Course Details:	<p>Exam Board: AQA 8464</p> <p>Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%</p> <p>Physics, Chemistry, Biology are equally weighted.</p>
	<p>Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year.</p>
	<p>Biology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology <p>Chemistry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table

<p>What will be studied in years 10 & 11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources <p>Physics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle Model 4. Atomic Structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism & Electromagnetism
<p>Internal Assessment Details</p>	<p>Formative assessment of each topic covered in class. Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar. Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on mathematical and practical skills.</p>
<p>External Assessment Details</p>	<p>What is assessed:</p> <p>Paper 1 - Biology topics 1-4 Paper 2 - Biology topics 5-7 Paper 3 - Chemistry topics 1-5 Paper 4 - Chemistry topics 6-10 Paper 5 - Physics topics 1-4 Paper 6 - Physics topics 5-7</p> <p>How it is assessed: 2 GCSEs 6 written exams Each paper is worth 17% of the pair of GCSEs Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes Each paper is 70 marks</p> <p>A student's grade is based on their total mark across all 6 papers There are 18 grades available for combined science: 1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 3-2, 3-3 etc. up to 9-9.</p> <p>Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available. Higher Tier students can achieve grades 4-3 to 9-9 Foundation Tier students can achieve grades 1-1 to 5-5.</p> <p>A minimum of 20% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.</p>
<p>What you need to know</p>	<p>Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.</p>

	While Combined Science is two GCSEs, it involves the study of all 3 sciences. The double grade they achieve will be based upon their achievement across all 3 sciences.
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Religious Studies

Course Details:	Religious Studies: Catholic Christianity with Judaism Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p><i>There are three papers, two that assess knowledge and understanding of Catholic Christianity and one on Judaism.</i></p> <p>Content overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Beliefs • Teachings and sources of wisdom • Practices and ways that belief is expressed • Philosophical approaches to religion • Ethical issues associated with faith • Jewish Beliefs • Jewish Practices
Internal Assessment Details	Each half term students are assessed using GCSE past paper questions on what they have learnt.
External Assessment Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course is assessed in 3 exam papers • Two papers are Catholic Christianity focused <p>The final paper is focused on Judaism</p>
What you need to know	<p>Our department website is a collection of resources and activities to support Religious Studies across the school. For year 9 we are bringing together materials to support the new GCSE structure.</p> <p>http://hfcsw.net/login</p> <p>Kerboodle gives students on-line access to the school textbook. They are able to read it and add notes / highlight as they wish.</p> <p>http://www.kerboodle.com</p>

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education/Citizenship (PSHCE)

Course Details:	Internally assessed, no formal examination
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>Students will follow modules each half term. PSHCE is split into five key strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSE (Relationships & Sex Education) • Health & Wellbeing • Politics, Law & Citizenship • Careers • Finance <p>Students cover a range of topics within the five strands including key transition points (e.g. transition to KS4), healthy and respectful relationships, financial literacy, diversity, human rights, the roles of parliament, careers & preparation for life beyond school, alcohol & drug awareness,</p>

	managing mental health through building resilience, study skills & effective revision, social media and interventions.
Internal Assessment Details	There will be regular peer and self-assessment in class. Students will also take part in one dropdown day (an off-timetable enrichment day) each term.
What you need to know	Our PSHCE curriculum is bespoke to Holy Family and is made to suit the needs of our students. It is underpinned by our Catholic values and informed by the statutory content set by government. It is a compulsory subject.

Core Physical Education (non-examined)

Course Details:	The core curriculum at KS4 encourages the involvement in a range of activities which develop personal fitness and promote an active, healthy lifestyle.
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Students participate in a variety of activities. Sports offered include football, basketball, netball, personal fitness, badminton, table tennis, trampolining, athletics, rounders, tennis and cricket.
What you need to know	Physical Education is a compulsory subject in the KS4 curriculum. Students are expected to bring school PE kit and participate fully in the lesson.

Option Subjects

Art GCSE

<u>Course Details:</u>	Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is coursework: 60% Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>The course teaches students about the full artistic process: studying the work of artists, generating ideas, experimenting with materials, and the technical side of producing finished drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and sculpture. As a teaching team we hope to inspire our students to become creative and critical thinkers in their own right.</p> <p><u>Component 1: Personal Portfolio 60%</u> <i>Thematic Project</i> 30% – the first GCSE project introduces many new techniques and media, particularly in drawing and painting, through short, focused tasks leading to a sequence of small outcomes. Students also get experience in spray painting, printmaking and ceramics. <i>Mock Exam Theme</i> 30% – the final Coursework project allows students to select a title/theme from the previous year exam paper. Students will research, experiment and develop ideas into a final outcome.</p> <p>Completion of Mock Exam Theme Project by January of Year 11. <u>Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40%</u> <i>The Exam Project</i> – this project requires you to work more independently on a chosen title/theme set by the exam board. The outcome and media are decided individually between teacher and student to choose what best suits you.</p>
Internal and External	Components 1 and 2 are internally marked and standardised and then externally moderated. Both components are graded by four Assessment Objectives, each worth 25%:

Assessment Details	Artist Analysis (AO1), Ideas and Experimenting (AO2), Recording Ideas (AO3), Final Outcomes (AO4)
What you need to know	All the work completed over the two years and where work takes longer than lesson time it needs to be completed in your own time. Homework makes up 50% of the book work. An interest in art is key to success in this course! You can prepare by practising your drawing, whilst many London galleries run free Art courses during the summer about which the Art Department can provide information. If you have a camera, this will be really useful, and you will be required to buy an art kit that contains all necessary equipment for you to do.

Creative iMedia (Technical Award)

Course Details:	Exam Board: OCR (Cambridge National L1/2) Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>This course is made up of three units:</p> <p>R093 – Creative iMedia in the media industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How media products are created and used • Different sectors (film, gaming, advertising, publishing, etc.) • Job roles in the media industry • Pre-production documents (mood boards, scripts, storyboards, mind maps) • Legal issues: copyright, intellectual property, permissions • How to plan and review media products <p>R094 – Visual identity and digital graphics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes a strong brand identity • How to design logos and visual styles • Creating digital graphics using industry-style software • Working to a client brief • Developing ideas and refining designs <p>This will be developed through a practical brief, for example, designing and producing a leaflet for a new theme park.</p> <p>R095 – Characters and comics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding comic conventions (panels, speech bubbles, layout) • Designing characters (appearance, personality, purpose) • Creating a comic strip or pages digitally • Planning and developing ideas from a brief <p>This will be developed through a practical brief, for example, designing and producing a multipage comic with a strong story line and a message about the key theme of ‘belonging’</p>
Internal Assessment Detail	<p>R094 & R095 (Coursework Units)</p> <p>Assessed through coursework (NEA – Non-Exam Assessment). Students will complete practical projects based on a set assignment. Tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpreting a client brief • Creating pre-production documents • Producing a final media product • Evaluating work

External Assessment Detail	<p>R093 (Written Exam) 1hour 30minutes exam worth 40% of the course that includes a mix of multiple choice and short-answer questions and extended responses. Students will be tested on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media industry knowledge • Pre-production planning • Legal and ethical issues • Analysis of media products
What you need to know	This is a creative and practical course with some theory. Students will use design software to create real media products. Students will cover how media products get their meaning across, create impact and appeal to people as well as how to create original digital graphics for specific audiences

Computer Science GCSE

<u>Course Details:</u>	Exam Board: OCR (J277) Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>J277/01: Computer systems This component will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Systems architecture • 1.2 Memory and storage • 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols • 1.4 Network security • 1.5 Systems software • 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology <p>J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming This component will assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Algorithms • 2.2 Programming fundamentals • 2.3 Producing robust programs • 2.4 Boolean logic • 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments
Internal Assessment Details	All students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s), either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during their course of study. Students may draw on some of the content in both components when engaged in Practical Programming.
External Assessment Details	<p>J277/01: Computer systems Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE This is a non-calculator paper consisting of multiple-choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.</p> <p>J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE This is a non-calculator paper including questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.</p>
What you need to know	<p>Entry requirements: You will need to be in set 1 or 2 for maths and you will need to have performed highly in the recent IT assessment</p>

Design Technology GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA (8552) Percentage of the course that is coursework: 50% Percentage of the course that is exam: 50%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p><u>Knowledge of Materials and Components</u> Investigate properties of plastics, card, metals, textiles and smart material through practical activities. During practical lessons, mini projects will be made using the above materials by up-cycling. The first mini project will be the Siege engine (card, wood, hot glue gun and string will be used). The second will be the use of recycled products to design and make a wall clock. Both mini projects will require students to show evidence of research, designing, safe working practices and critical evaluations.</p> <p>The rest of the course is dedicated to the controlled assessment task related to the 'design and make' coursework. Single periods are used mainly to prepare the candidates for the theoretical knowledge to reinforce skills, understanding and use of resources for the successful completion of their coursework and final project. All other lessons will be dedicated to the 'design and make' coursework. These activities will be varied and offer opportunities for students to handle products, discuss products and key topics, quizzes and games.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	<p><u>Assessment objectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and investigating design possibilities • Producing a design brief and specification • Generating design ideas • Developing design ideas • Realising design ideas • Analysing & evaluating <p><u>Unit 2: Design and Making Practice (Non-Exam Assessment)</u> 50% of total GCSE marks Approximately 30-35 hours 100 marks Consists of a single design and make activity selected from a range of board set tasks</p>
External Assessment Details	<p>Unit 1: Written Paper 1 50% of total GCSE marks 2 hours Candidates answer all questions in two sections Pre-release material issued</p> <p>Section A – Core technical principles A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Section B – Specialist technical principles Several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical issues.</p> <p>Section C – Designing and making principles A mixture of short answers and extended response questions.</p>
What you need to know	Because students have to produce coursework that comprises of 50% of their final GCSE grade, there is an emphasis on problem solving skills, written communication, graphical skills and the ability to use new making techniques. Appropriate health and safety regulations will be adhered to for all work involving tools and machinery.

Digital Information Technology (BTEC)

Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is coursework: 60% Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p><u>Component 1: Explore</u> Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Develop</u> Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.</p> <p><u>Component 3: Apply</u> Effective Digital Working Practices This component will give learners an opportunity to explore how the developments in technology over recent years have enabled modern organisations to communicate and collaborate more effectively than ever before. The component is designed to allow learners to explore the digital systems available to organisations and how their features have an impact on the way organisations operate. They will explore how developments in technology have led to more inclusive and flexible working environments, and how regulation and ethical and security concerns influence the way in which organisations operate.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	Components 1 & 2 are internally assessed, with each worth 30%. There will be one opportunity to resubmit improved evidence, once approved by the Lead Internal Verifier.
External Assessment Details	There is one externally assessed component (Component 3), which is worth 40% of the total course and designed to be synoptic (drawing together knowledge from the previous components) and taken near the end of the course. This is a 1 hour 30-minute exam to be taken in February or May/June in Year 11. Students will have one opportunity to resit if required.
What you need to know	The average digital salary in the UK is significantly higher than the average non-digital salary.

Drama GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is coursework/internally assessed: 40% Percentage of the course that is exam/externally assessed: 60%
What will be studied? What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>Component 1: Devising 40% of the qualification Students will create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus and will be marked on either their performance of this devised piece or their design realisation for this performance. This will take place in the Autumn Term of Year 11. Students will also create a portfolio, which will document the creating process. This unit will be internally assessed by the classroom teacher and recorded. The recording of the devised performances alongside the portfolios are sent to the exam board for moderation. There are two parts to the assessment: 1) A portfolio 2) A devised performance/design realisation (15 marks)</p> <p>Component 2: Performance from Text: - 20% of the qualification This unit will take place in the Spring Term of Year 11. Students will study and either: perform in or design for two key extracts from a performance of a chosen play. Assessment overview: This unit is externally assessed by a visiting examiner. This exam which you have prepared for in year 10 will be sat during May-July of the Summer Term in Year 11</p> <p>Component 3: Written examination: (Preparation) - 40% of the qualification Students will practically explore and study the play text 'An Inspector Calls'. As well as this, students will visit the theatre to see a performance, chosen by their teacher. All work undertaken for this component will be in preparation for a written exam which will take place in the Summer of Year 11. This written paper will be 1 hour and 30 minutes long.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	Component 1 is marked by your teacher (recording of practical performance and portfolio and sent to the exam board for moderation)
External Assessment Details	Component s2 and 3 are marked by an external examiner. For component 2 the examiner will visit the school and grade you individually within your performance of two extracts. For component 3 you will sit your written exam which will be marked by an examiner from the exam board.
What you need to know	Drama is a practical subject; however, you must be able to write about your work in detail to get a good grade!

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA Percentage of the course that is coursework: 50% Percentage of the course that is exam: 50%
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<p>What will be studied in years 10 & 11</p>	<p>Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new and exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure that each student develops a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.</p> <p>This course aims to enable students to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● what food is composed of, why we need it and how it affects our long-term health. ● how food can be prepared and cooked skilfully and safely to produce delicious and nutritious meals for different people and situations ● what happens to the ingredients in food when you prepare and cook them ● where food comes from and how it is produced and sold ● which foods are traditionally eaten in different cultures throughout the world ● how the food choices people make affect the health and well-being of themselves, their families and the people who produce the food ● how the food choices people make affect the global environment and its natural resources ● how you can become an informed and thoughtful consumer of food. <p>Food preparation skills are integrated into the five sections that the course is delivered in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food, nutrition and health - Food science - Food safety - Food choice - Food provenance <p>The majority of the course specifications will be delivered through preparation and making activities. By the end of the course, you should be able to make the connections between theory and practice and be able to apply your understanding of food and nutrition to practical preparation using a range of appropriate skills and techniques. You should also be able to analyse and evaluate different aspects of nutrition, food, food preparation and cooking.</p>
<p>Internal Assessment Details</p>	<p>The coursework, referred to as the non-exam assessment (NEA) allows you to be assessed on your practical skills. This NEA is worth 50% of the overall qualification and allows you to be assessed across two tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Task 1 - Food investigation: worth 30 marks (15%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of 10 hours will be spent on ● Task 2 - Food preparation assessment: worth 70 marks (35%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A maximum of 20 hours will be spent on this task, this includes 3 hours for the final preparation of three dishes. <p>Both tasks are completed in year 11. The AQA exam board releases a new set of tasks every year. You will be given a choice of three tasks in both Task 1 and Task 2 to choose from. The completed tasks will be marked by the teacher then moderated by the AQA exam board.</p>
<p>External Assessment Details</p>	<p>A written examination that is 50% of the qualification. 1 hour 45 minutes The paper is divided into two sections, multiple-choice and longer, extended answer questions.</p>
<p>What you need to know</p>	<p>This qualification is designed for students who have a passion for food, nutrition and cooking. It will provide you with the knowledge and experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable you to use these within further education or apprenticeships. The food industry is one of the largest employers in the job market and provides a vast range of job opportunities such as employment roles in research and development, sales, marketing, manufacturing, hospitality, teaching or in government. There is an employment opportunity for everyone. You will cook every week and therefore will need to be organised by bringing in your ingredients so that you can participate in practical lessons.</p>

French GCSE

Course Details:	<p>Edexcel</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of final award) Paper 2: Speaking exam (25% of final award) Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of final award) Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of final award)</p> <p>All papers will be taken at the end of Year 11 and will be externally marked.</p>
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>Topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identity and relationships with others ● Healthy living and lifestyle ● Education and work ● Free-time activities ● Customs, festivals and celebrations ● Celebrity culture ● Travel and tourism, including places of interest ● Media and technology ● The environment and where people live <p>In addition to the above topics, GCSE students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout the course. The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation and Higher.</p> <p>Students will gradually learn the GCSE French vocabulary list prescribed by the exam board and use it across a range of contexts and assessment tasks. The vocabulary list includes 1,200 lexical items for Foundation tier, and a further 500 lexical items for Higher tier.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be given ongoing assessments on all 4 skills to assess and monitor progress throughout the course. Following these assessments students will be given next steps on how to improve their performance.
External Assessment Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All exams are taken at the end of Year 11. ● The Speaking exam is conducted by the students' classroom teacher but externally assessed. This exam will be in three parts: reading aloud, role-play, photo-card task and further conversation. ● The Listening, Reading and Writing exams are externally set and marked. ● The course will finish by the end of March to allow for plenty of past paper practice.
What you need to know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the online subscription to ActiveHub which mirrors the resources used in lessons. ● Past papers, mark schemes and MP3 sound files can be accessed on the Exam Board website. ● All students are provided with a Student Guide to Success with exam strategies, vocabulary pages and assessment criteria ● Students will be entered for Higher (9-4) or Foundation (5-1) tier for all four exam papers. Students must do the same tier in all papers. ● Students need to have studied French for at least 2 years to be able to opt to do it for GCSE

Geography GCSE

Course Details:	<p>Exam Board: AQA</p> <p>Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%</p>
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What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p><u>Unit 1: LIVING WITH THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</u> A: The challenge of natural hazards (Tectonic Hazards, Atmospheric Hazards, Climate change). B: The living world (Ecosystems). C: Physical landscapes of the UK (Coastal and River Landscapes)</p> <p><u>Unit 2: CHALLENGES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT</u> A: Urban issues and challenges. B: The changing economic world. C: The challenge of resource management</p> <p><u>Unit 3: GEOGRAPHICAL APPLICATIONS</u> Part A: Issue evaluation (place study / synoptic assessment): Assessment will consist of a series of questions related to a contemporary geographical issue(s). A resource booklet for this will be released in March of Year 11. Part B: Fieldwork: Two geographical fieldwork enquiries, with questions based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context and students' individual project work.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	Formal end of unit tests, to be held at the end of every half term. Students will be required to improve their work throughout the course, based on their teacher's feedback.
External Assessment Details	All three exams in May/June of Year 11
What you need to know	With a focus on contemporary topics and challenges facing the world in the 21st century, students will understand the world economy and environment and their place within it.

Graphics GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: 60% Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 40%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>Graphic Communication is an exciting and creative course that introduces students to a visual way of conveying information, ideas and emotions, using a range of graphic media, processes and techniques. Areas of study include communication graphics, advertising, branding, packaging design, typography, web/app and motion graphics. Students will look at different approaches to design and will develop their skills both physically and digitally, with emphasis on industry standard design programmes such as Photoshop, Illustrator and in Design.</p> <p><u>Component 1: Personal Portfolio - 60%</u> Each student must work through a sketchbook in order to submit a portfolio representative of their course of study. The portfolio must demonstrate a personal creative journey including initial ideas, experiments and the final outcome. There is no restriction on the scale of work, media or materials used. The portfolio must include both:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A sustained project developed in response to a task or brief evidencing the journey from initial ideas to the finished outcome. 2. A selection of further work resulting from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; responses to gallery, museum or site visits and independent study. <p><u>Component 2: Externally Set Assignment - 40%</u> AQA will provide students with different design briefs and students must choose one to work on. Students are given preparation time followed by 10 hours of supervised time to make the final piece in school. Outcomes may be evidenced in any two-dimensional, three-dimensional, digital or non-digital format. There is no restriction on scale of work, media or materials used.</p>
Internal & External	Components 1 & 2 are marked by the school and then moderated by AQA.

Assessment Details	
What you need to know	Students will work solely in a sketchbook that they will be required to take home for independent study outside of school Access to a computer/laptop would be very useful for this course.

History GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>Paper 1 - A thematic study and historical environment. Medicine in Britain 1250-present and The British sector of the Western front. In this unit you will learn about developments in medicine from the Middle Ages until the modern day. You will study the achievements of fascinating people such as Mary Seacole, Walter Tull, Florence Nightingale and Louis Pasteur. <i>This unit is assessed at the end of Year 11 through a 1-hour and 15-minute examination and is worth 30% of the final grade.</i></p> <p>Paper 2 - A British depth study and a worldwide study of 50 years. The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1198-1216 and Conflict in the Middle East 1945-1995. The first half of this paper assesses how British life changed under the two Kings. The second half of this paper is about how Israel was created after WW2 and the problems faced between the Palestinians and Israelis. <i>This unit is assessed at the end of Year 11 through a 1 hour 45-minute examination and is worth 40% of their final grade.</i></p> <p>Paper 3 - A modern depth study. Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1938. In this unit you will learn about the reasons for and the impact of the development of Nazism in Germany. <i>This unit is assessed at the end of Year 11 through a 1-hour and 15-minute examination and is worth 30% of their final grade.</i></p>
Internal Assessment Detail	Students will complete past questions fortnightly and sit end of unit exams which do not go towards their final exam.
External Assessment Detail	They are assessed on a range of skills; source, interpretation, essay writing and evaluative skills.
What you need to know	History is a great choice to make sense of what is going on today. By looking at the history of different cultures, a history student can build up a better understanding of why people behave the way they do.

Music GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: Eduqas Percentage of the course that is controlled assessment: 60% Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
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<p>What will be studied in years 10 & 11</p>	<p>Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo and Ensemble performing • Approaches to performing <p>Composing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing musical ideas • Compositional techniques and strategies • Ensuring technical control and coherence • Methods of notating composition scores <p>Appraising</p> <p>Area of study 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Classical Tradition • Structural Forms • Devices • SET STUDY: Badinerie <p>Area of study 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonority, Timbre and Texture • Musical Ensembles • Chamber Music • Musical Theatre • Jazz and Blues <p>Area of study 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Film Industry • Use of Elements in Film Music • Devices and Techniques in Film Music • Composing to the Film Brief • Appraising Film Music <p>Area of Study 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock and Pop • Musical Features of Pop music • Fusion • Bhangra • SET STUDY: Africa by Toto
<p>Internal Assessment Details</p>	<p>30% Component 1: Performing - You must perform at least 2 pieces: One piece must be an ensemble, the other(s) can be ensembles or solos. You can sing or play any instrument.</p> <p>30% Component 2: Composing - You must compose two original pieces of music. Each is equally weighted. One is a free composition, which you can complete at any time in the course. The other must be written in response to a brief released by Eduqas on the 1st of September in the same school year as you take the exam.</p>
<p>External Assessment Details</p>	<p>40% In your exam there will be 8 questions. Each will have an extract of music which is played out loud for you to answer the questions on what you hear. Question 1 and question 7 will always be on the set works.</p> <p>The questions will focus on three things</p> <p>Elements of Music – melody, harmony, tonality, form and structure, dynamics, sonority, texture, tempo, rhythm, metre.</p> <p>The context – the time, place or purpose of the music</p>

	Musical Language – the list of musical terms, notes in the treble and bass clef and any specific vocabulary which goes with the set works.
What you need to know?	<p>Entry requirements:</p> <p>Students should be able to either play a musical instrument or sing at around grade 1 level. This standard can be checked on YouTube by entering their instrument and typing <i>Rockschool</i> or ABRSM grade 1.</p> <p>The average standard for the performance element is grade 3, however, this can be developed during the 2-year GCSE course.</p> <p>If students are not able to read music at a basic level (grade 1), this will need to be developed at the beginning of the course (or preferably before).</p>

PE (GCSE)

Course Details:	<p>Exam Board: AQA</p> <p>Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: 40%</p> <p>Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 60%</p>
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applied anatomy and physiology 2. Movement analysis 3. Physical training 4. Use of data 5. Sports psychology 6. Socio-cultural influences 7. Health, fitness and wellbeing
Internal Assessment Details	<p>Component 3: Performance in Physical Education (40%)</p> <p>Practical performance - Performance of three activities taken from the two approved lists*.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One from the 'individual' list (10%) ● One from the 'team' list (10%) ● One other from either list (10%) ● Evaluating and analysing performance (10%) ● This unit is assessed under controlled conditions. ● This unit is externally moderated.
External Assessment Details	<p>Component 1: Physical factors affecting performance (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Applied anatomy and physiology ● Physical training ● This unit is assessed through an externally set examination. ● The examination is 1 hour 15 minutes long <p>Component 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (30%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Socio-cultural influences ● Sports psychology ● Health, fitness and well-being ● This unit is assessed through an externally set examination. The examination is 1 hour 15 minutes long.
What you need to know	<p>Entry requirements: It is essential that you play club level sport outside of school and are regularly playing in competitive matches.</p>

Spanish GCSE

Course Details:	<p>Edexcel</p> <p>Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of final award) Paper 2: Speaking exam (25% of final award) Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of final award) Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of final award)</p>
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	<p>Topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identity and relationships with others ● Healthy living and lifestyle ● Education and work ● Free-time activities ● Customs, festivals and celebrations ● Celebrity culture ● Travel and tourism, including places of interest ● Media and technology ● The environment and where people live <p>In addition to the above topics, GCSE students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout their course. The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation and Higher.</p> <p>Students will gradually learn the GCSE Spanish vocabulary list prescribed by the exam board and use it across a range of contexts and assessment tasks. The vocabulary list includes 1,200 lexical items for Foundation tier, and a further 500 lexical items for Higher tier.</p>
Internal Assessment Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be given ongoing assessments on all 4 skills to assess and monitor progress throughout the course. Following these assessments students will be given next steps on how to improve their performance.
External Assessment Details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All exams are taken at the end of Year 11. ● The Speaking exam is conducted by the students' classroom teacher but externally assessed. This exam will be in three parts: reading aloud, role-play, photo-card task and further conversation. ● The Listening, Reading and Writing exams are externally set and marked. ● The course will finish by the end of March to allow for plenty of past paper practice.
What you need to know?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the online subscription to ActiveLearn which mirrors the resources used in lessons. ● Past papers, mark schemes and MP3 sound files can be accessed on the Exam Board website. ● All students are provided with a Student Guide to Success with exam strategies, vocabulary pages and assessment criteria ● Students will be entered for Higher (9-4) or Foundation (5-1) tier for all four exam papers. Students must do the same tier in all papers. ● Students need to have studied Spanish for at least 2 years to be able to opt to do it for GCSE

Textiles GCSE

Course Details:	<p>Exam Board: AQA</p> <p>Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: 60%</p> <p>Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 40%</p>
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<p>What will be studied in years 10 &11</p>	<p>Textile design is an exciting and creative course that introduces and teaches students how to create designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non-functional purpose. Textile design will develop students' skills in techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example: weaving, felting, stitching, appliqué and printing.</p>
<p>Internal Assessment Details</p>	<p>Component 1: Personal Portfolio - 60% Each student must work through a sketchbook in order to submit a portfolio representative of their course of study. The portfolio must demonstrate a personal creative journey including initial ideas, experiments and the final outcome. There is no restriction on the scale of work, media or materials used. The portfolio must include both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sustained project developed in response to a task or brief evidencing the journey from initial ideas to the finished outcome. • A selection of further work resulting from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; responses to gallery, museum or site visits and independent study.
<p>External Assessment Details</p>	<p>Component 2: Externally Set Assignment - 40% AQA will provide students with different design briefs and students must choose one to work on. Students are given preparation time followed by 10 hours of supervised time to make the final piece in school. Outcomes may be evidenced in any two-dimensional, three-dimensional, digital or non-digital format. There is no restriction on scale of work, media or materials used.</p>
<p>What you need to know?</p>	<p>Students will work solely in a sketchbook that they will be required to take home for independent study outside of school, Access to a computer/laptop would be very useful for this course.</p>