

PARK VIEW SCHOOL



Passionate about learning

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Preference Booklet
2012

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INTRODUCTION

Next September Year 9 students move into Key Stage 4, the most important phase of their compulsory education. As a school we are committed to the achievement of all, regardless of their ability. To maximise student enjoyment and achievement we offer a wide variety of different subjects and it is important that the courses students end up taking are the correct ones.

This booklet is intended to inform you of the different choices you and your child have to make and to outline the various subjects on offer. It will be supported by individual interviews for every student, to be carried out before Easter, and parents / carers are welcome to attend these with their child.

HOW TO DECIDE STUDENT PREFERENCES

Students do not have to carry on studying all the subjects they have studied up to now. Also they may get the opportunity to study new subjects. Whereas we will do all we can to provide students with the subjects they prefer, this will not always be possible due to the limitations of the timetable and the popularity of subjects. We would recommend that students and parents / carers consider the following points when making their preferences.

1. **Enjoyment-** Does the student enjoy the subject? The more they enjoy the subject the more motivated and interested they will be. Remember do not be influenced by whether they like the teacher or if their friends are choosing the subject, as they will probably not get the same teacher as this year and may well be in a different class than their friends; indeed many students will change population between Year 9 and 10.
2. **Career Routes and Achievement-** Will the subjects chosen allow them to access the post-16 courses and careers that your child aspires to? Will they realistically achieve in the subjects they have chosen?
3. **National Agenda and Benchmarks-** We are currently at the start of a time of great change in education and although we have an idea of what these changes will be, we cannot be certain of what will be important in the future. In this booklet and during the individual interviews that all students will have, and which parents / carers will be invited to, we will give you what we believe will happen over the years to come, but we unfortunately cannot be certain. We are reasonably confident that the following national benchmarks are what students will be measured by when apply for college, universities and jobs, and we would ask you to consider these when considering preferences-
 - 5A*-G GCSEs (Careers and courses may ask for more than 5).
 - 5A*-C GCSEs (Careers and courses may ask for more than 5).
 - 5A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths
 - The Ebac- This is the newly introduced English Baccalaureate, and is made up of Grades A*-C at GCSE English Language, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Modern or Ancient Foreign Language and History or Geography. Whereas we are not certain how far this standard will be the 'future gold standard' we will be strongly recommending that all students likely to gain Cs in the Maths, English and Science also take a Modern Foreign Language and History or Geography GCSE. We feel it better to play it safe and ensure relevant students are eligible for this award so as not to possibly be disadvantaged in the future.

4. **Our Recommendations-** Whereas no one knows your child better than you, we pride ourselves on our knowledge of their academic ability. Whereas in most areas the choice of which subjects to choose is yours, we would ask you to consider our recommendations and think carefully before rejecting our advice. You will of course get the chance to discuss this at the individual guidance interviews that take place before Easter.
5. **The Compulsory Core-** Whereas the preferences made are very important, remember the majority of students' timetables are compulsory, providing both breadth and depth.

THE COMPULSORY CORE- SUBJECTS YOUR CHILD HAS TO DO

All students study the following subjects:

- GCSE English
- GCSE Mathematics
- A GCSE Science course providing at least 2 GCSEs
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Go Ahead / Tutorial Work

Compulsory subjects are usually organised in ability groupings, although movement is possible between these depending upon attitude and progress made. Option subjects are more likely to be mixed ability, although this will depend on the subjects' popularity and nature of student opting for them.

SUBJECTS YOUR CHILD HAS TO CHOOSE FROM

1) GCSE Courses

GCSE grades range from A*-G, allowing all of our students to enjoy a degree of success. Most subjects have controlled assessments / coursework elements within them, but the weighting that these are given varies. All also contain final examinations, the majority of which have tiered papers. Option courses tend to be taught in mixed ability classes. Students have to choose two, three or five GCSEs, depending on if they do a Vocational Course.

Option GCSE Subjects:

Art	Business Studies
Drama	French (Ebac)
Geography (Ebac)	German (Ebac)
Graphic Products	History (Ebac)
ICT	Music
Physics (Compulsory for separate sciences)	Sports Studies (GCSE PE)
Product Design	Spanish (Ebac)

NB: Students cannot do both Graphic Products and Product Design

2) Applied Courses:

Most of the Vocational Courses we offer will be taught in school by Park View teachers. Each of them are the equivalent of one GCSE, and students must choose two courses. Students would study for one of these for four hours a week in Year 10 and the other for four hours a week in Year 11. These courses aim to be more vocational in their nature, including opportunities to spend time out of school and complete practical tasks. They offer a pathway into vocational courses at post 16 and at University. These are assessed mainly by coursework with far less exams than GCSEs.

Option Applied Subjects:

- Media
- Health and Social Care
- Business

All of these subjects are NVQ level 2 qualifications and students must take two of these. They would then choose three of the GCSE subjects listed earlier.

A small group of students will be given the opportunity to spend a day at college. They will either choose construction (BTEC Level 1 or 2 in Construction) or hairdressing (Level 1 or 2 NVQ in Hairdressing). These students also choose two of the GCSE subjects listed above.

3) Languages at Key Stage Four

At Park View we consider being able to communicate in a foreign language as a tool to widen students' horizons, improve their employability and allow the North East to improve international trade and competitiveness. Also a Modern Foreign Language is needed for the Ebac. Therefore most students are recommended to follow one foreign language at Key Stage Four.

Students can study French, Spanish or German and they can opt for a second or third language if they wish.

In order to maximise each student's chance of success, we will be recommending what types of courses your child follows, although in **most** areas the choice will ultimately be yours.

Most students have two areas where we need to know their preferences. We will give you our recommendations in both of these.

Option Subject Preference.

The college course will only be made available to a small number of students who we will identify. Most students need to-

1. Decide whether to do either five GCSEs, or three GCSEs and two Vocational Courses. We will recommend what we feel is best to maximize student enjoyment and achievement.
2. Decide which exact subjects to follow. We recommend that all students taking five GCSEs choose a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History so as to qualify for the Ebac and we will also recommend some of these students choose Physics to allow them to do all three Separate Science subjects.

THE OPTIONS PROCESS

All parents / carers will either have already or will soon receive a letter setting out our recommendations. You will also receive your child's school report in the next few days. We will then ask you to complete the Options Form at the back of this booklet and return to school by **NO LATER** than Monday 20th February. Whereas we do not operate a 'first come first served' system, if your child's form is returned late they may not get the choices they wish.

You will then have an opportunity next half term to meet your child's subject teachers at Parents' Evenings. Obviously the Parents' Evenings are after the closing date for the Options Form, but this is necessary to allow us the time to complete the options and timetable process in readiness for the next academic year. It will not be a problem for you to change your child's Option Form after the Parents' Evening.

Between half term and Easter all students will have an individual guidance interview with their Learning Co-ordinator or one of our Senior Leaders. We would aim to have completed the whole process by Easter and inform you of the final subjects your child will be taking around this time. We will do all we can to give your child the preferences they wish, but when we are unable to do this we will discuss why and alternate options with you.

The Compulsory Core

KEY STAGE FOUR COMPULSORY COURSES

THE ENGLISH GCSES

There are **two pathways available for students** to take: English only **or** separate English Language and Literature. The pathway each student will take depends on their ability.

1) English

English is an integrated programme, involving reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Opportunities are provided for candidates to demonstrate their ability to:

- understand and convey information;
- order and present facts, ideas and opinions;
- select relevant information;
- express what is felt and imagined;
- recognise implicit meaning and attitudes;
- show a sense of audience and an awareness of style;
- exercise control of appropriate grammatical structures, paragraphing, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling;
- communicate effectively and appropriately in spoken English.

Assessment methods:

Controlled Assessments (40%)

Speaking and Listening Assessments (20%)

Examination (40%)

Speaking and Listening counts for 20% of the final mark - students will be assessed on at least three occasions engaging in a variety of tasks e.g. preparing for a debate; taking part in whole class discussion; giving an individual presentation; taking part in dramatic improvisation.

Controlled Assessments count for 40% of the final mark - students will produce four pieces covering poetry, media, and various writing purposes.

Examination 40% One 2 hour exam (three questions):

- 1: response to a prose text
- 2: response to Shakespeare
- 3: writing task for a specified audience

Levels of entry:

There are two tiers of paper for which students can be entered. Levels of entry will depend upon ability.

2) English Language And Literature

Students have to complete both Language and Literature, although only Language counts towards 5A*-C with English and Mathematics.

English Language

Assessment methods:

Controlled Assessments (40%)

Speaking and Listening Assessments (20%)

Examination (40%)

Speaking and Listening counts for 20% of the final mark - students will be assessed on at least three occasions in a variety of tasks e.g. preparing for a debate; taking part in whole class discussion; giving an individual presentation; taking part in dramatic improvisation.

Written work counts for 40% of the final mark - students will produce four pieces covering spoken language, media, and various writing purposes.

Examination 40% - One hour 45 min exam (two questions):

- 1: response to a prose text that would have been studied in class
- 2: writing task for a specified audience

English Literature

Candidates will be engaged in the detailed study of literary texts. They must demonstrate their ability to:

- acquire first-hand knowledge of the content of literary texts;
- grasp the meaning of themes and attitudes; appreciate ways in which writers use language to achieve desired effects;
- communicate a sensitive and informed personal response to what is read.

Texts from a variety of cultures, covering three genres will be studied during the course.

Assessment methods:

Controlled Assessments 25%

Examination (75%)

Controlled Assessments:

Two assignments are required: a response to a contemporary drama and a comparative study of Shakespeare with a modern adaptation

Examinations.

Paper 1 (one hour 45 mins) Students will answer two essay questions on texts studied.

Paper 2 (one hour 45 mins) Candidates will be required to answer two essay questions. One question will relate to a collection of poetry the students would have studied in class; the other question will focus on a poem they would have not seen previously.

MATHEMATICS

The syllabus requires candidates to demonstrate their ability in:

Ma1 Using and Applying Mathematics (Functional Mathematics)

- make and monitor decisions to solve problems
- Communicate mathematically
- Develop skills of mathematical reasoning

Ma2 Number and Algebra

- understand place value and the decimal number system
- understand and use relationships between numbers and develop methods of computation
- solve numerical problems
- understand and use functional relationships
- understand and use equations and formulae

Ma3 Shape, Space and Measures

- understand and use properties of shape
- understand and use properties of position, movement and transformation
- understand and use measures

Ma4 Handling Data

- collect, process, represent and interpret data
- estimate and calculate the probabilities of events

The final examination consists of two written papers and students are entered for examination at one of two tiers. These two overlapping Tiers of Entry allow a full and balanced opportunity for students at all levels of attainment to show what they know, understand and can do. The department will enter students at the appropriate tier determined by achievement throughout the Key Stage.

GCSE GRADES AVAILABLE :

Tier F Foundation	G, F, E, D, C
Tier H Higher	D, C, B, A, A*

SCIENCE

Students will be entered for one of three GCSE Science courses depending on their prior performance and ability.

1. SEPARATE SCIENCES GCSEs

For our most gifted science students we will offer and strongly recommend they follow separate science courses. This means they will gain separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry. To do this they will need to select Physics as one of their GCSE options. Students will be unable to do only one / two of the three single sciences; they will either have to do all three or the Additional Double Award (see below).

These are provided by the AQA exam board and cover the same content as core science and additional science (additional double award science GCSE) but includes three extra modules B3, C3 and P3 which explore a range of areas in biology, chemistry and physics that extend knowledge and ideas about science providing a deeper understanding of scientific ideas. These modules include the topics such as the skeletal system, photosynthesis, respiration, ecosystems and new technologies like genetics, green chemistry, organic chemistry, analytical techniques and energy, medical applications of physics, forces and electricity.

The coursework is the same as core and additional science; however, this must be produced for each subject area. This course is aimed at the most able students.

2. ADDITIONAL DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE GCSE

Most students will study GCSE Additional Double Award Science. This provides two GCSEs combining all three science areas and allows students with suitable GCSE grades to study A level science subjects. This comprises of 3 units in their first year.

AQA Core Science

This comprises of 3 units in their first year.

Unit B1	Unit C1	Unit P1
Nutrition, Disease, Homeostasis, Drugs, Immunity	Carbonate chemistry. Crude oil, extraction	Energy transfers, electricity

There are two or three one hour or one and a half hour exams potentially.

Controlled Assessment accounts for 25% of the qualification. Students carry out a practical on their own or as part of a group and then analyse and evaluate the data in an examination invigilated in school.

Then in Year 11 students will study the following units as well as a second controlled assessment.

Unit B2	Unit C2	Unit P2
Cells, cell division, protein synthesis, respiration, speciation	Structure and bonding, rates, acids, electrolysis	Forces, radioactivity and nuclear fission

3. APPLIED DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

Some of our students will study for the Applied Double Award Science GCSEs, which will provide two science GCSEs and, for students with appropriate grades, provides a route into A levels in Applied Sciences. In Year 10 students study the same core science course as all other students gaining a GCSE from Year 10.

In Year 11 students study AQA Additional Applied Science GCSE gaining a GCSE from year 11. This course focuses on how science is applied in the workplace as well as practical techniques in science.

N.B. Students do not have a free choice of Science GCSE courses, which are dependent on ability and prior attainment. Decisions on whether a student studies for Additional or Applied Science will be made in Year 10.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Students at Park View have the opportunity to gain a GCSE in RE at the end of Year 11. We begin teaching Edexcel's 'Religion and Society' paper when students come to Church Chare in Year 9, and study the course throughout their time at this site.

Students study modules such as medical ethics, crime and punishment and matters of life and death. The course offers students the opportunity to interact with contemporary moral issues and make informed opinions for themselves on issues that matter to them. They are asked to compare their own views against the views of both Christian and Muslim believers.

The course is taught by specialist humanities teachers and is well supported by varied and modern teaching styles. Resources include a textbook written for the course, DVD, and Interactive activities. Students will take part in debates, presentations and problem solving, whilst developing independent learning skills and a positive attitude to group work.

It has proved to be a popular and purposeful approach to RE across Key Stage 4, with GCSE awarded in Year 11. Student's understanding of the society in which they live is both challenged and supported, resulting in increased social, moral and cultural awareness

GO AHEAD PROGRAMME

The Go Ahead programme in Key Stage 4 plays an important part in preparing students for life after school, and raises awareness of some of the relevant issues facing young people today. Topics forming part of the Go Ahead programme include health education, economic awareness, citizenship, study skills, careers and enterprise.

Students are encouraged to think about the future range of career possibilities in terms of their personalities, skills and potential by continuing the Action Planning process. This focuses the student's attention on the future by identifying skills and setting goals, which is an integral part of the scheme. The three career strands of Career Exploration, Development and Management will continue in KS4.

There are opportunities for individual careers guidance with Ms Gulliver, the Director of Information, Advice and Guidance. Parents are equally welcome to discuss their child's career plans with Ms Gulliver at any stage. During Year 11 all students have interviews with Senior Staff or Ms Gulliver to ensure the best route for each student post 16. Students are actively encouraged to explore all potential routes beyond Year 11, especially as the participation age in education or training has increased to 17 for the current Year 9 cohort.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students will receive two hours of Physical Education each week.

There are five working groups to choose from, each following a specific programme of activities. Each student is able to select a programme that offers the most suitable range of activities to meet his or her specific interests. These groups remain together throughout the year and students will then choose again at the beginning of Year 11.

Students are given the opportunity to take part in alternative activities such as rock climbing, spinning, skiing, and rowing. If students choose these pathways they will be taken out of school to participate in these activities at local sports facilities. In most instances, these pathways require a voluntary parental contribution.

Students will be placed in groups by the PE staff, the choices of the students will be taken into consideration when designing the pathway. Students will be in ability groupings, thus improving the skills and fitness of our Gifted and Talented performers and improving differentiation. A leadership pathway is available for students who staff feel would benefit in developing confidence and organizational skills.

Some lessons are specifically designed to promote fitness through participation in activities such as boxercise, circuit-training and aerobics. Students are encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards continued participation in vigorous forms of activity and to establish habits that will promote a healthy lifestyle.

**The subjects
which students
may choose from**

OCR LEVEL 2 NATIONAL IN BUSINESS

Do you love ‘Dragons Den’ or wonder why your town doesn’t have a McDonalds?

OCR National Business looks at the how, what and why of business from your local chip shop to Tesco’s.

OCR National Level 2 explores the dynamics of business structure, operations, finance and marketing. You will examine the things that influence business success, from how to spot a market opportunity to how to plan and forecast accurately. These business skills — essential for success in employment and higher education — are given practical expression within this level.

You will also take part in vocational based experiences such as setting up your own business.

Course Overview

What would I study?

The topics are wide ranging and we try to fit the needs of all students who are looking to use business theory in the future.

You will complete units over the course of the 2 years. An overview of the topics covered includes;

- Marketing
- Finance
- Enterprise
- Business Communication
- Motivation
- Customer Service

How will work be assessed?

The course utilises a number of skills throughout the units to assess knowledge and understanding.

This includes:

- Presentations,
- Letters
- Reports
- Discussions
- Video recording
- Role plays and much more.

OCR LEVEL 2 NATIONALS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

If you are interested in going on to work, or study in areas related to Health, Social Care or in an Early Years environment, like a primary school or nursery, then this qualification will give you the opportunity to experience what happens in these sectors of care.

This qualification is based around coursework that has an engaging and practical approach to the assessment and learning of health, social care and early year's education. The work you produce will have theoretical tasks and practical, vocational tasks.

There are compulsory units which include learning about communication skills in care settings. This will involve you planning and carrying out a creative activity with children in a nursery, or you may prefer to conduct your activity in a residential care home. Whichever you choose, the core units will give you the opportunity to learn vital applicable skills that are needed by today's employers.

You'll learn the theory behind good communication skills and learn how to use equipment and resources to support clients both in and outside of care environments.

You'll also learn about some of the laws that protect different service users and produce a variety of documents (posters, leaflets, presentations) to demonstrate what you have learnt.

There is a range of optional units available. Recently the most popular ones include:

- Practical first aid in care settings
- Preparing to work with young children
- Creative activities with individuals in care settings.

These units include studying, for example, a British Red Cross first aid course; writing a care plan for a client in a residential care home; creating a learning aid for a child; developing a fitness plan for a teenager and planning and running a children's Christmas party.

This work will be assessed by your teacher and an external examiner at the end of the course, but you will be able to see your own progression through the qualification as you build up your unit portfolios.

OCR NATIONAL LEVEL 2 CREATIVE MEDIA AND ICT

The one year course offers exciting opportunities for real, hands on media and IT experience as well as providing excellent preparation for the world of work and post-16 courses.

What can I expect from the course?

From personal computers to smartphones, apps to websites, all our lives are enhanced through the creative use of ICT and media products. This course reflects this and will provide a solid foundation for understanding and applying this subject in your future learning lives. Throughout the course you could study:

- Creating Interactive Multimedia
- Print Production
- Photography Techniques
- Animation Techniques
- Web Authoring
- Creative Digital Imaging
- Using ICT to create media solutions
- Creative Sound and Vision Production
- Deconstructing Computer Games
- Computer Games Testing
- Advertising Production
- Factual Production for the Creative Media
- Media Audiences and Products

How is it assessed?

You will work through a series of tasks, to a set brief. This means that all your work counts towards your final qualification. This work is primarily assessed by your teacher and there is a small element of the course which is assessed by an external examiner.

What do I need to do the course?

All you will need is to be interested in the Media/ IT sector and in developing the knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in this exciting curriculum area. You must be prepared to do a combination of practical and written work. Do not worry if you have no prior creative media experience – interest and enthusiasm are the main requirements for success!

Where does it lead?

You may choose to proceed to a college or sixth form course perhaps focusing on a particular skill or area you have learnt. You might also progress into Creative Media sector jobs such as in advertising, journalism, web design, animation or film. The skills you gain will be valued in any workplace as you develop your ability to work independently and as part of a team to meet deadlines and responsibility for your own work.

ART

Art can be as imaginative, creative, experimental, and exciting, as you make it.

Art gives you an opportunity to develop your ideas while exploring new ways of working as well as refining skills you already have. You will explore contemporary and traditional artists, gain influences from different cultures and the world around you. It is important that you have a genuine interest in art, with a willingness to work hard. You will create a body of course work for display as well as sketchbooks used to record, explore and experiment with ideas and materials.

WHAT SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

- Painting
- Textiles
- Photography
- Drawing
- Mixed media
- Printmaking (card, lino, silkscreen);
- Sculpture (modeling/construction, and relief);

Throughout the course you will be developing your skills, knowledge and understanding of a variety of art forms

You will be expected to show initiative in developing ideas and ability to work independently, both inside and outside the classroom situation. Apart from improving observational drawing skills, it also helps to form an enquiring active mind and to be aware of the wealth of resource material in the immediate environment. Recording such experiences in visual and note form will be encouraged at all times. Homework is an integral part of the course and will be set as a series of tasks or assignments covering each project.

WHERE MIGHT IT LEAD YOU ?

Many Art students go on to study fine art or photography at A-level. From there you can progress either to an art foundation course or go straight into university where there are so many possibilities. It could lead you into architecture, animation, illustration, fashion, graphic design, set/costume/make up design, art therapy, the list is endless.

ASSESSMENT

Coursework is continuous throughout Years 10 and 11

Examination - a controlled test where you will be given starting points to develop ideas and research over several weeks before completing a final piece over 10hrs

- (i) Controlled Test (40 %)
- (ii) Coursework (two - three projects) (60 %)

It is an examination requirement that both elements are presented for assessment.

BUSINESS STUDIES

**.Do you love 'Dragons Den' or wonder why your town doesn't have a McDonalds?
GCSE Business Studies looks at the how, what and why of business
from your local chip shop to Tesco's.**

Why choose business?

People choose Business Studies as a GCSE as it is relevant to the world of work and you will learn valuable skills. Employers value the qualification and it provides **real** opportunities to progress whether you choose to stay in education or look for employment when you leave school.

When the time comes for you to get a job, you will understand about the way a business works. Alternatively, if you see yourself as the next Levi Roots, James Dyson or Alan Sugar, you will perhaps have the skills and knowledge to start your own business.

Course Overview

Unit 1 Introduction to Small Business - Year 10

This unit contains 5 topics:

- Spotting a business opportunity.
- Showing enterprise.
- Putting a business idea into practice.
- Making the start-up effective.
- Understanding the economic context.

Assessment

- Written Exam– 45 mins.
- Paper consists of multiple-choice and objective test questions.
- 40 marks available.

Unit 2 Investigating Small Business - Year 10

This unit is based on the topics covered in Unit 1.

This unit requires you to complete a piece of coursework under controlled conditions.

Unit 3 Building a Business - Year 11

This unit contains 5 topics:

- Marketing.
- Meeting customer needs.
- Effective financial management.
- Effective people management.
- The wider world affecting business.

Assessment

- Written Exam – 1 hr 30 mins..

DRAMA

What is GCSE Drama all about?

GCSE Drama is all about what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people.

The GCSE Drama course is in three parts:

- In part one of the course you will use drama to express your feelings and ideas about a range of issues through improvisation.
- In part two of the course you will look at a play to see how a playwright expresses his/her ideas about a theme or topic and explore ways of making the play work on stage.
- In part three of the course you will have the choice of being involved in the performance of a play from an existing script or one you create yourselves.

Will I enjoy the course?

You will enjoy the course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. You may have done some acting before, helped backstage on a production or enjoyed the improvisation work you have done at Key Stage 3. At GCSE, you will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level than at Key Stage 3. You will also look at plays in more detail and look at different ways of bringing a script alive on stage. **It is important that you enjoy working as part of a team if you take Drama as the subject involves a lot of group work.**

How will I be examined?

60% of your mark is based on coursework. You will be assessed on your contribution to **practical work** during lessons and on a **written portfolio** of supporting evidence. You will take part in two workshop sessions which will run over a number of lessons. In one of the workshops you will use all that you have learnt about Drama to explore your responses to a range of material presented to you by your teacher. In the other workshop you will explore a play and show your understanding of drama by taking part in a number of activities based on the text.

40% of your mark is based on a practical performance which you present to a visiting examiner. You will take part in a play you have created as a group or rehearsed from a script. You can either be examined on your acting skills in the performance or on your design and technical skills (e.g. costume, lighting, set design)

What skills might I develop?

As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing Drama, you will also be able to acquire skills in working with others, problem solving and communication. You will also find that Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people. The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills you can take into any career or job.

GEOGRAPHY

Have you ever wondered why

- Natural disasters are always occurring?
- People live in shanty towns?
- We are getting more old people than young people?
- Countries are arguing over water?

GCSE Geography provides the opportunity for students to:-

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places and environments and the physical and human processes which affect their development.
- Develop a sensitive awareness of the environment.
- Assess the significance of attitudes and values of decision makers in the management of planet earth.
- Develop an awareness of the ways in which people interact with their environments and appreciate the opportunities, challenges and constraints that face people in different places.
- Acquire and apply skills and techniques - including those of map work, fieldwork and information technology needed to conduct a geographical enquiry.

Geography lessons will involve you in:-

decision making, understanding people's feelings, collecting information, interpreting data, problem solving, working in groups, role play, drawing maps and diagrams, using ICT, investigating an issue, fieldwork and expressing opinions.

Areas of Study:

The Natural Environment	The Human Environment
Tectonic Activity	Population Change
A Watery world	A Moving World
Geographical skills	Geographical Investigation (Fieldwork)
Challenges to the Planet	

Assessment:

This will comprise of three examinations that account for 75% of the overall mark and an individual fieldwork investigation which is worth 25%.

The fieldwork investigation must include the collection of first hand (primary) data and research information will be completed in controlled conditions.

IF YOU:

- enjoy Geography
- have an interest in local, national and global issues
- want to learn more about the world around you
- are interested in how people live and why

you should consider GCSE Geography

GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

If you have a natural flair and imaginative mind then **Graphic Products** may be the course for you.

Graphic Products GCSE...

is all about working in card and paper, along with developing your ICT and CAD (Computer Aided Design) skills. This means that you need a degree of artistic ability linked with a good imagination so that you can produce accurate, beautifully made graphic products which might include menu's, company stationery, pop-up cards and a variety of packaging. Although this is obviously a practical subject it's important that you realize that every product you make will be accompanied by an extensive design portfolio presented through a series of Powerpoint presentations.

Alongside this you will be trained to put together an innovative **design portfolio** that shows your talents in communicating ideas as well as developing your own strong **corporate identity**. You will learn how to show your thinking in a 2D and 3D way and you will be encouraged to model your ideas and show how you might develop your thinking further. We will show you how to draw formally and informally and help you to get to grips with perspective, scale, colour and presentation techniques.

Naturally all *Graphic Designers* in industry today rely heavily upon their excellent ICT skills and we would expect no less of you. Most of your practical work will be produced using CAD CAM as well as a range of desktop publishing and graphic software. You will be trained further in the use of 2D Design and Photoshop and this will play a large role in most of your project work.

Where will it lead you?

You might find yourself going on to study **A Level Product Design** followed by either an Arts Foundation course or a Design Degree. Many past students have successfully followed careers in Web Design, Animation, Graphic Design, Illustration, Fine Art and many more.

How will I be assessed?

This will be in two different ways. The first is a major piece of coursework, carried out in Yr11, which is worth **60%** of your final grade. For this piece of coursework you will be asked to design and make a pop-up book. This will require you to produce a Powerpoint tracking all of your design work and a pop-up book that is both imaginative and professional looking. To support this you will work with a published paper engineer and some Year 3 students from a local primary school. The second part of your qualification will be a written exam paper, this is worth **40%** of your final GCSE grade. The exam paper will test your design skills as well as your subject knowledge of graphic products and techniques.

HISTORY

.Have you ever wondered....

- Why ancient civilisations cut holes in people's skulls?
- How people dealt with the terror of the Black Death?
- Why Native Americans scalped their enemies?
- What it was like to live during the world wars?
- What was Prohibition?

GCSE History provides the opportunity for students to:

- acquire knowledge of key people, big events, developments and changes in British and World History which had an impact on people.
- acquire an appreciation of different types of history including political, social and economic history;
- learn to interrogate historical sources by analysing their reliability;
- develop the ability to independently investigate an issue, construct a reasoned argument and present a case in a clearly thought out manner;
- acquire study skills, revision techniques and exam skills as well as developing literacy;

History lessons will involve you in:

group work, independent study, research, ICT, problem solving, decision making, thinking skills, role play, active display, empathising with others, debates, use of various sources including film and audio and much more.

Areas of Study:

- Developments in medicine and medical treatment and the impact this had on society from the 14th century to the present day.
- The USA from c.1919-c.1941
- The American West c1840–c1895
- The impact of war on Britain c1914–c1950

Assessment:

This will include a controlled assessment accounting for approximately 25% of the total GCSE and examinations at the end of year 11.

IF YOU:-

- enjoy History,
- are interested in people and their lives,
- like a variety of learning styles,
- want to develop a variety of skills,
- understand your world more,

you should consider taking this subject.

ICT

Welcome to GCSE ICT! A new and exciting course developed with the idea of being futuristic in its approach to ICT. Covering the latest in digital technology, you can feel confident in studying a course that is up to date and relevant in today's digital world.

How is the course set up?

The Course consists of 2 Units:

Unit 1 – Living in a Digital World

You will explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. You will learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts e.g. learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and well-being and 'on the move'.

This Unit is exam based with a 90 minute written paper based around the topic studied in the classroom. (40% Overall Grade)

Unit 2 – Using Digital Tools

This is a practical unit. Here you will broaden and enhance your ICT skills and capability. You will work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts. You will learn to reflect critically on your own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice.

This unit is a controlled assessment completed over 40 hours of classroom time. (60% Overall Grade)

What will ICT lessons consist of?

The lessons will focus on learning with students researching and developing portfolios of resources and information. Some opportunity will be given to taking field trips to analyse ICT in action, as well as undertaking a range of tasks and activities to develop knowledge and understanding. Access will be given to computers to do online research and study.

During Controlled Assessments students will be undertaking independent study on a topic set by the exam board and will complete a project based around this area.

What grades can I receive from this qualification?

The qualification is a GCSE and therefore is graded A*-G.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES - FRENCH / GERMAN / SPANISH

Students follow the GCSE course for the Edexcel syllabus specification A.

Assessment Overview

- **Unit 1** : Listening and Understanding in French/ German/ Spanish : 20%
- **Unit 2** : Speaking in French/ German/ Spanish : 30%
- **Unit 3** : Reading and Understanding in French/ German/ Spanish: 20%
- **Unit 4** : Writing in French/ German/ Spanish : 30%

Throughout the two years students follow the following themes:

- Family Life
- Lifestyle – Health & relationships
- Leisure – Free time, media & holidays
- Environment
- Tourism
- Culture
- School
- Home Town & Region

Homework is essential to success at GCSE level and is an integral part of the course. Students should expect to spend approximately 50 minutes – 1 hour per week completing a variety of homework tasks.

Work in lessons focuses on all language skills and use is made of a wide range of teaching and learning styles as well as multi media software.

Why should I study this course?

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE French / German / Spanish is an excellent choice for you!

Of course you will learn to understand a lot more French / German / Spanish when you hear it or read it and be able to say and write a lot more in these languages. But there are many other reasons for taking this GCSE course:-

- ✓ You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak French / German / Spanish;
- ✓ You will learn about the countries where French / German / Spanish is spoken and get a lot more out of a trip there;
- ✓ You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for;

- ✓ You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies, etc;
- ✓ You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links. Many employers look for people who speak a foreign language.
- ✓ You will have the opportunity to work with foreign language assistants and discover more about the target language country.

How will I be assessed?

Speaking and Writing. This is worth 60% of your total GCSE!!!!

In speaking and writing, you and your teacher will select which of the activities you have done best at so you get several chances to perform well.

For the **speaking** part, your teacher will assess you. You will submit your best two activities from the following:-

- An open interaction. This will be like a non-scripted role-play and could relate to a transactional situation.
- A discussion with your teacher about a photo or picture that you have brought in
- Something personal to you
- A short presentation about something that interests you

For the **writing** part, you will be assessed by Edexcel. You will submit your best two pieces of writing, for example an article for a magazine, a web page, a blog, or a letter.

Listening and Reading. This is worth 40% of your total GCSE!!!!

Listening and Reading are both assessed by exam papers in June. You can take either a Foundation Tier or Higher Tier paper in each skill. In the **listening** test, you will answer questions on recorded material from different topic areas. Some material will be formal (for example a telephone message) and some informal (for example a conversation between friends). In the **reading** test, you will answer questions about short texts on different topics, for example text messages, advertisements and emails.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE French / German / Spanish means you will:

- Have much more fun when traveling to a French / German / Spanish speaking country
- Be able to study AS and A2 French / German / Spanish courses
- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or to work abroad.

MUSIC

GCSE Music is only available to students who

- already play a musical instrument or who can sing confidently and tunefully
- are having a regular weekly instrumental or vocal lesson
- have either passed Grade 1 Theory (ABRSM) or are willing to work towards it

The course is divided up into three main areas:

Listening and Appraising (40%)

There are four Areas of Study:

- Western classical tradition 1600 – 1899
- Music in the 20th Century
- Popular music in context
- World Music

Three set works from each Area of Study will be analysed in detail by students and questions will be answered on the music in an end of course Listening examination.

Performance (30%)

This requires the student to perform on their chosen instrument. Weekly instrumental lessons must be maintained throughout the course to achieve a top mark in this area. You should be around Grade III level with either Associated Board or Rockschoool exams. Students will also be asked to perform as a member of an ensemble. This can be two or more players or singers – the more experience candidates can gain in ensemble playing/singing the better the interaction and understanding in performance. We therefore encourage students to take part in school ensembles where at all possible.

Composition (30%)

Students are taught how to compose two pieces of music, the styles selected from two of the four Areas of Study. All pupils' compositions will use a significant degree of ICT, so a computer at home would be desirable.

If you:

- already have lessons on a musical instrument or receive vocal tuition
- listen to a wide range of music and want to know more about how music has developed,
- enjoy being creative in terms of composing your own music and are not afraid of using Music ICT,

then you should definitely consider taking GCSE Music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Are you interested in sport and physical activity....

This exciting 2 year course is made of of 60% practical and 40% theory and demands students to be organised, highly motivated and interested in sport.

Two lessons per week are split up into 1 lesson of theory and 1 lesson of practical. The practical sessions will develop students' abilities and skills not just in performing but in officiating and coaching also. Students will have the opportunity to improve all three roles within a wide range of activities such as trampoline, dance, rounders, volleyball and many of the traditional sports and games.

Students are assessed in four practical sports as either performers, officials or coaches in the spring term of Year 11, it is almost imperative that students are taking part in sport (whether that be performing, officiating or coaching) outside of PE lessons. In addition to their practical exams students will need to prepare and complete a six week personal exercise training programme which makes up 10% of their final grade.

In terms of the theory side of the course, students will learn all sorts of information in relation to sport. The course starts with looking at why people take part in sport, what motivates them, what influences them and why people drop out of sport.

It then continues by looking at diet and how food can affect sports performance, as well as the effects of smoking, alcohol and drugs, including performance enhancing drugs, on sports performance.

A large part of the theory side of this course is science based and looks at the human body, in particular the lungs, heart, muscles and bones. The lessons focus on the short and long term effects of exercise on the major organs of the human body, this is taught in part practically.

Where might this lead you.....?

Many GCSE PE students go on to study A-Level PE and follow this up with a sports related degree. This GCSE, however can also complement people who would like a career in science, physiotherapy or sociology.

PRODUCT DESIGN

Do you see yourself as the next Charles Rennie Mackintosh or Philippe Stark? Yes? Then read on...

This exciting two year course will give you the opportunity to work in any material but most of all it will demand the use of your imagination, creative talent, innovation and flair. You will be asked to design and manufacture a number of products, solving design problems that arise from a variety of situations and different clients, working mainly in the workshop with wood, metal and plastic. Although this is obviously a practical subject it's important that you realize that every product you make will be accompanied by an extensive design portfolio presented through a series of Powerpoint presentation.

As well as being able to produce practical work of a high standard you will need to be able to put together an imaginative design portfolio that shows your own clear identity and style as a designer. We will show you how to communicate your ideas in a 2D and 3D way and you will develop both formal and informal drawing skills.

Like all modern designers in industry you will need excellent ICT skills and over the two years will be expected to develop your expertise in the use of both CAD (computer aided design) and CAM (computer aided manufacture). You will be further trained in the use of a range of subject specialist software and be expected to use this as part of all project work. There is also the need to become more familiar with the use of the laser cutter and the CNC router.

The course is assessed through two different ways. The first is a major piece of coursework, carried out in Year 11, which is worth 60% of your final grade. For this piece of coursework you will be asked to design and make a bird house or feeder. This will require you to produce a Powerpoint tracking all of your design work and a practical outcome that is both imaginative and professional looking. To support this you will work with Washington Wildfowl Centre and of our school Governors who will be your clients. The second part of your qualification will be a written examination paper, this is worth 40% of your final GCSE grade. The exam paper will test your design skills as well as your subject knowledge of materials and techniques.

Where might it lead you...?

Many Product Design students go on to study A Level Product Design and then follow this up with a design degree. Basically the sky is the limit, with past students taking up university courses in Automotive Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Jewellery Design, Product Design, Web and Animation Design, Fashion and Textiles and many more.

If your future plans include a creative career or perhaps a degree in DESIGN then you should consider GCSE Product Design.

FULL NAME:.....

Tutor Group.....

PLEASE PRINT

PREFERENCES FORM

1) Science Preference (*Tick in ONE box*)

	YES	NO
I am happy for my child to do separate sciences (Physics, Biology and Chemistry) as you have recommended.		
I am happy for my child to do Double Award Science as you have recommended.		

2) Option Preference

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING BEFORE COMPLETING THIS SECTION:-

- Have we recommended you do Vocational Courses? If you agree you must do TWO of these and THREE GCSE Options.
- Have we recommended separate sciences? If you agree you must choose GCSE Physics.
- Have we recommended the Ebac? If you agree you must do a Modern Foreign Language AND History or Geography.
- Have we recommended college? If you agree ONLY CHOOSE TWO GCSEs and nothing else.

Vocational Courses– Consider if we have recommended these. IF you are planning to do vocational courses rank order from 1 to 3 the options below, in order of preference with 1 being the one you wish to do the most.

Subject	Preference
Business Studies	
Creative Media and ICT	
Health and Social Care	

GCSE Choices- Remember the points above and:

- If you are going to college tick next to 2 subjects.
- If you have chosen Vocational Courses tick next to 3 subjects.
- Otherwise tick next to five subjects.

Subject	Preference
Art	
Business Studies (Not if you have chosen vocational Business Studies)	
Drama	
French	
Geography	
German	
* Graphic Products	
History	
ICT (Not if you have chosen vocational ICT)	
Music	
Physics (separate sciences only)	
* Product Design	
Spanish	
Sports Studies (GCSE PE)	

*** You cannot choose both Product Design and Graphic Products**

If you could not do one of your GCSE preferences
 what other subject would you prefer to do?

Student Signature:

Parent/Carer Signature:
