



Key Stage 4 Options 2025

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Key Stage 4 Options

Northgate provides a large number of curriculum options. We can help you to match these together to find a route appropriate to your strengths and needs. There are lots of places that you can get advice and we will work with you to check that your options are suitable before Year 10 begins.

From September 2025 your examination-based subjects will consist of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Triple Science (separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics) or Combined Science (double award) and four other 'option' subjects.

You will choose one subject from each of the option blocks below and you will identify some reserves. Your choices **must include at least one of** French, German, Spanish, Geography, History or Computer Science.

You should consider your progress in each subject, as well as your commitment to studying it, when deciding which subjects to study.

Option Block 1

Art
Business
Child Development*
DT – Timbers / Metals
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
History
Physical Education
Sociology
Spanish*

Option Block 2

Art
Computer Science
Dance*
DT – Timbers / Metals
Economics*
Food Preparation and Nutrition
French*
Geography
History
Photography
Psychology
Textile & Fashion Design*

Option Block 3

Business
Creative iMedia*
DT – Electronic & Mechanical Systems*
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
German
Graphic Communication*
History
Music*
Physical Education
Psychology
Sociology

Option Block 4

Computer Science
DT – Timbers / Metals
Drama*
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Geography
German
Health and Social Care*
History
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics*
Photography
Psychology

*Subjects in one block only

Some subjects examine very similar skills and are seen as effectively 'equivalent' to one another.

For this reason, you should usually **avoid taking** any combination of Art, Graphic Communication, and Textile and Fashion Design.

You are **not allowed** to study DT Electronic and Mechanical Systems with DT Timbers and Metals.

Some Questions Answered

What are the important dates in the options process?

- 27th February 2025: Options Evening
- 7th March 2025: Deadline for completion of the online Options Form
- 10th March 2025: Options interviews with school leaders begin

Where can I get advice?

There are several people who can discuss your future with you, but in the end, the choices you make are up to you. You may find it useful to talk to:

- Your parents/carers
- Your teachers
- Your tutor
- Mrs Calder (Careers Leader)

In addition, you will receive a personal interview with a member of school leadership. During this interview we will discuss the appropriateness of your option choices, for example ensuring that they provide variety and play to your strengths.

How should I choose courses?

You should base your choices on:

- subjects you are good at, as this should lead to better examination results: good qualifications are very important!
- subjects which interest you, that you enjoy and which you want to study.
- subjects which may help you with your future career (if you already have some ideas of what this might be).

Are there any restrictions to the courses I can choose?

Your first choices must include **at least one of** French, German, Spanish, Geography, History or Computer Science, although you can pick as many of these subjects as you wish.

You should usually **avoid** choosing any combination of Art, Graphic Communication, and Textiles and Fashion Design.

You **must not** choose DT Electronic and Mechanical Systems with DT Timbers and Metals.

Will I get my first choice of subjects?

We will try to give you your first choice of subjects and most students do get the choices they make. However, we cannot guarantee this because we are limited by the number of teachers of a subject, the number of students in a class and, in some cases, the number of specialist rooms available. Also, undersubscribed courses may not run. Therefore, we require you to indicate your first choices, including a priority order, and also some reserve choices.

If you have a particular reason to study a specific subject or combination of subjects, **you should explain this on the online Options Form** so that this can be taken into account when allocating places to oversubscribed subjects.

Can I swap courses if I change my mind?

Changing options can cause many difficulties, so you are discouraged from making late option change requests. The sooner you can let us know of any requested changes, the better.

It is important to make the right choices in the first place. This is why you should discuss your option choices with your parents/carers and teachers now, so that you make the best choices possible. Make sure you are selecting courses for the right reasons – e.g. you enjoy those subjects, or they fit in well with future career plans. Your individual interview will help with this process.

Once all options have been finalised changes can only be made if there is space in the requested subject, and so long as all subject restrictions are still followed. From that point forwards changes are dealt with on a first come, first served basis.

Once in Year 10, there will be no option changes after 26th September.

What is the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)?

The Ebacc is not a qualification in itself. Instead, it is a recognition that you have studied a broad mix of core subjects that keep your options open for further studies and future careers. You will have completed the English Baccalaureate if you study all of the following:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Two Sciences
- A Foreign Language
- Geography or History.

At Northgate it is not compulsory to study *all* of the English Baccalaureate subjects. However, you should consider doing this if you could do well across this broad range of subjects. We do think that you should be studying most of the subject areas shown above, and we strongly advise you to include a foreign language where this fits your strengths.

So, our advice is simple: once you have chosen at **least one of** French, German, Spanish, Geography, History or Computer Science to study, select your other three options based on what suits you best, even if these will not cover all of the Ebacc subjects.

Options Form Completion

Once you have read the Options Booklet, discussed the subjects with specialist staff and used the online subject videos to explore your options, you need to fill in the online Options Form. You will receive a link to this by e-mail and as a homework task on Bromcom. You will need to sign in as yourself to complete

You will be asked to:

- select one subject from each option block
- rank your choices from most important to least important
- select 3 reserve subjects (you can explain if these are reserves for specific first choices)
- let us know if there were any subject combinations you wanted, but couldn't choose
- give us any further information to support your choices.

When the information is processed, we will automatically try moving your options between different blocks to give you the best chance of getting all of your first choices. Therefore, please don't repeat any of your first choices when selecting your reserves.

You can only complete the form **once**.

There is no advantage to submitting your form early, so please take your time to think it through carefully. All forms submitted by the deadline (7th March 2025) will be treated equally. It is **not** first come, first served.

Remember the subject restrictions

Your first choices **must** include **at least one of** French, German, Spanish, Geography, History or Computer Science, although you can pick as many of these subjects as you wish.

You should usually **avoid** choosing any combination of Art, Graphic Communication, and Textiles and Fashion Design.

You **must not** choose DT Electronic and Mechanical Systems with DT Timbers and Metals.

What should I do with my form?

Once you have completed your form online, just click 'Submit'.

If you need to make any changes after this point, you will need to get in contact with Mr Grainger, or discuss your requested changes during your interview.

What will happen next?

You will have an interview with a member of school leadership. You may be advised to change one or more options if you have chosen a very narrow range of subjects, or if your achievement or engagement up to this point indicate that your choices are not suitable for you.

The Key Stage 4 Courses

The following pages give some detailed information about the courses you can take in Year 10.

Art

What will I learn?

The course teaches you about the process of making art and design, it also teaches the language of art and design enabling you to become a more thoughtful and discerning consumer of art, design, fashion, architecture etc. Within the coursework you will learn at least three of the following skills:

- 3D Sculpture, Ceramics
- 2D Drawing, Painting (watercolour, acrylic and oil painting), Print-making, Mixed Media, Textiles, Digital Photography
- Critical Studies, exploring the work of other artists and craftspeople

How will I be assessed?

Coursework	60%
Exam	40%

All work done throughout the course is coursework. Towards the end of the course you will have an eight-week preparatory period which leads to a 10-hour exam over two days.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught in small mixed ability groups. Teaching will involve mainly practical work but there is a requirement for a small written element to the course. Work will initially be teacher led, but as the course progresses you will be encouraged to develop your own ideas and think independently. You will be taught in one of the specialist art studios and will have access to digital cameras, scanners, and A3 printers as well as more traditional materials. You will also visit both local and national galleries to engage with art works first hand.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel – GCSE Art & Design: Art, Craft and Design

Progression

The course provides a platform for progression into:

- A Level → Foundation Course → University
- College: 2-year Foundation
- Careers: Graphic Design, Advertising, Architecture, Illustration, Set Design, Ceramics, Product Design, Games Design, Website Design, Photography, Sculpture, Painting, Interior Design, Animation, Film and Media, Teaching, Lecturing, Landscape Design, Hairdressing, Fashion Design, Make Up Design, Textiles...

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr D Beattie

Business

What will I learn?

You may be wondering how businesses operate and what makes them successful. Business teaches you just that, and requires you to write in depth and solve numerical problems to justify and evaluate business concepts.

While in Year 10 you will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. You will find out how businesses develop an idea and spot an opportunity and turn that idea into a success. You will understand how a business operates effectively and manages cash. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses despite it often being outside of their control.

Year 10 work is based around these business concepts:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

In Year 11 you will study how businesses grow, the key functions or departments in a business, then look into the influences from the world that surrounds them.

Year 11 topics are:

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

How will I be assessed?

- 2 exam papers, that each last 1 hour 45 minutes; each is worth 50% of your GCSE.
- One exam is on the knowledge you study in Year 10, and the other on the knowledge we cover in Year 11.
- The exams are predominantly mid-long written answers with some multiple-choice questions and calculations. Both exams will include case studies.

How will I be taught?

This course is very challenging and requires a great degree of written and numerical skills. You need to be good at writing essay style questions and will learn how to develop analysing and evaluating skills in your writing. You should not be afraid of learning tricky concepts and working with numbers and formulas to solve business problems. You will learn how to make business decisions and also learn about the world of business through research and investigation as well as through practical tasks. The subject is predominantly individual based tasks with some elements of group work. The subject lends itself to class discussions and the use of video in places. GCSE business students will be expected to keep themselves up to date with business news and current topical events in order to effectively enhance their studies.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel – GCSE Business

Progression

Business is a successful and popular GCSE subject and leads naturally to A Level in either Business Studies or Economics. At Advanced Level, the subjects are chosen by a large number of students and particularly those who are considering professional careers in occupations such as Accountancy, Banking, Insurance, Hotel & Catering, Tourism, Retailing and General Management.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss J Hyland

Child Development

This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Child Development. At the end of this course you will gain a level 1 or a level 2 qualification in child development. The course provides a secure starting point if you are considering a career involving working with younger children or you intend to study further pathways into teaching, nursing, midwifery, nursery work to name but a few.

What will I learn?

R057 (Exam)

Health and well-being for child development. This is an examined unit that will be taken in the summer of year 11. In this unit, students will learn about the importance of both pre-conception health and creating conditions in which a child can thrive, including the prevention and management of childhood illnesses and creating a safe environment. Knowledge gained would be of use for further studies including Biology and Health and Social Care.

R058 (Coursework)

Creating a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years. In this unit, students will learn how to create a safe environment for children from birth to five years in childcare settings. Students will investigate and choose equipment that is both suitable and safe for use and will learn about nutrition and dietary needs. Evaluation skills are developed in this unit, which would be of use in further studies in most areas.

R059 (Coursework)

Understand the development of a child from one to five years. In this unit, students will learn the expected developmental norms for children from one to five years. They will use observation, research techniques and skills to investigate these development norms and explore their findings. Students will also learn the importance of creating plans and providing different play activities to support children in their development. These transferable skills will support further studies in many other subjects.

How will I be assessed?

A mixture of coursework and examinations.

How will I be taught?

The lessons will be taught in a variety of ways including whole class teaching, group projects, practical exercises, presentations and independent research. You will be expected to work independently in order to carry out and complete controlled assessment coursework. You will learn how to develop analysis and evaluation skills in your writing. ICT and the internet are used.

Further recommendations

You should have an interest in 'how children learn' and be prepared to consider a work placement in this sector in Year 10 to support your understanding of the knowledge gained on this course.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR – Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Child Development

Progression

This course provides an excellent foundation for students who wish to continue their studies or follow a career and/or apprenticeship working in the childcare sector.

- A Levels in Health and Social Care (AS/A Level), Psychology and Sociology.
- College courses such as Child Care, Health and Social Care.
- Employment in childcare that would work alongside gaining qualifications in a related topic.
- Degrees in Psychology, Sociology, Teaching, Nursing.

Future career prospects:

Teacher (primary and secondary), child psychologist, educational psychologist, social worker, nursing, nursery management, nursery nurse, childminder, midwifery, play-worker, play therapist, social worker.

Teacher to contact for further information

Ms J Huggins

Computer Science

What will I learn?

The course will cover two main components:

1. Computer Systems

The first component is focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.

Topics include: Systems Architecture, Memory and Storage; Computer Networks; Connections and Protocols; Network Security; Systems Software; Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology.

2. Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

Students learn to programme in Python whilst also learning about the core theory of computer science principles.

Topics include: Algorithms; Programming Fundamentals; Producing Robust Programs; Boolean Logic; Programming Languages; Integrated Development Environments.

How will I be assessed?

Written examination

Both components are examined and carry an equal weighting of 50% of the final mark. Both exams are paper based and will last for 1 hour 30 minutes each.

How will I be taught?

The lessons will be a varied combination of both computer theory and of learning coding concepts using the Python coding language. You must be willing to extend your programming skills outside lessons using an online tutorial system.

The practical part of the course relies heavily on mathematical concepts and the confident use of logic and algebra. If you are not expected to achieve a grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics, you will find the course challenging.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR – GCSE Computer Science (J276)

Progression

The course provides an excellent basis for entry into Computer Science at A Level.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr A Howard or Ms S Calow

Creative iMedia

What is Creative iMedia about?

By studying Creative iMedia you will learn to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media, including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations.

You will develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations whilst thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

You will develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely such as designing, planning, creating and reviewing digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements.

What will I learn and how will I learn it?

The first two modules are mandatory; these are followed by one optional unit.

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry
Completing this unit will provide you with the basic skills for further study or a range of creative job roles within the media industry. Some examples being: Web designer, Indie Games developer, Graphic designer, CGI specialist.
How it is assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ External written paper: 1 hour 30 mins. Contributes 40 % of the final mark■ Set and marked by OCR
R094: Visual identity and digital graphics
In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience.
How it is assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Centre-assessed tasks: approximately 10 – 12 hours. Contributes 25 % of the final mark.■ OCR moderated
R097 Interactive Digital Media
This is assessed by completing a set assignment. You will learn how to plan, create and review interactive digital media products. Your interactive digital media product will usually take the form of a website or Kiosk.
How it is assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Centre-assessed tasks: approximately 10-12 hours. Contributes 35 % of the final mark.■ OCR moderated

How will I be taught?

You will be taught by a mixture of whole-class teaching, individual practical tasks and group work. We hope to make some links with industry experts with the possibility of field trips to some relevant locations to the coursework.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR – Cambridge National (J834)

Progression

There are many things you can go on to do with this qualification. The course provides you with a range of skills to progress further in your education. You could go on to take an A Level in Media or Computing, or a Vocational A Level in ICT. This qualification, if studied further, can also provide employment opportunities in the IT or Media sector.

Teacher to contact for further information

Ms S Calow

Dance

What is GCSE Dance about?

Dance is both exhilarating and liberating to watch or do. The instinct to dance is fundamentally joyous and no matter how hard you try you can't get away from that for long! Dance uses movement symbolically as a form of human expression. GCSE Dance is both physical and expressive, it promotes fitness and well-being. You will enjoy GCSE Dance if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative, and if you enjoy working individually and as part of a team.

What will I learn and how will I learn it?

Component 1: Performance and Choreography
What is assessed? Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ You will choose 2 out of 4 set phrases to present for solo assessment (approximately one minute in duration). These are choreographed by the exam board and taught to you by Miss Patrick.■ You will use the remaining 2 set phrases to develop a duet or a trio group performance (approximately three and a half minutes duration). Miss Patrick helps you to choreograph this and it is approached as a group.
Choreography <p>You will choose one task from a list set by AQA and choreograph either a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes). This will be all your own work and will require you to choreograph all the movement, select the music and run rehearsals in lesson.</p>
How it is assessed <p>Internally marked and externally moderated.</p>
Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 30% of GCSE■ 40 Marks – 16 marks for set phrase solo performance and 24 marks for duet/trio performance
Choreography <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 30% of GCSE■ 40 Marks
Total component 60%
Component 2: Dance appreciation
What is assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.■ Critical appreciation of own work.■ Critical appreciation of professional works.
How it is assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 40% of GCSE■ Written exam: 1 Hour 30 Minutes■ 80 marks <p>Please note that although this is a theoretical component, we approach it practically to embed knowledge in our movement memory.</p>
Questions <p>Based on your own practice in performance and choreography and the AQA dance anthology.</p>

How will I be taught?

You will be taught by a mixture of whole-class teaching, practical dance exercises, practical performances and written work. Workshops are provided and led by current practitioners and you will also get the chance to talk to dancers and choreographers in pre and post-performance talks during dance visits. Use of Lighting, Sound and Video recording equipment are all common practice within the Dance Department.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA - GCSE

Progression

There are many things you can go on and do with a GCSE in Dance. The course provides you with a range of skills to progress further in your education. These skills include developing a creative and confident mind, teamwork skills that allow you to work closely with others and perform under pressure, and skills that enhance an appreciation of art and culture where critique and analysis are used to develop questions and justify thoughts.

You could go on to take an A Level in Dance or Performance Studies, or a Vocational A Level in Performing Arts or a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts. This qualification, if further studied, can also provide employment opportunities in such careers as an entertainer or a dancer.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss H L Patrick

Design and Technology

– Focusing on Electronic & Mechanical Systems

What will I learn?

This subject focuses on the design process and understanding how to develop products to successful outcomes. It will develop your drawing and design skills, further your knowledge of technical products and will be biased towards electronic & mechanical devices. Approximately 70% of the course will be delivery of theory. The remaining 30% will involve students taking part in practical activities that will enhance their understanding of the course content.

How will I be tested?

This qualification consists of two components:

Component 1:	Design and Technology in the 21st Century Written Examination (2 hours).
	A mix of short answers, structured and extended writing questions assessing your knowledge and understanding of technical principles, designing and making principles and their ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions.
Component 2:	Design and Make Task (35 hours)
	A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board, assessing your ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities. Simulate, design, develop and make circuit prototypes, analyse and evaluate design decisions and the practical outcome.

How will I be taught?

The subject content is presented under two headings: technical principles & designing, and making principles. Within each area, the content is further divided into core knowledge & understanding, and in-depth knowledge & understanding. In this case we cover the core knowledge content and then specialise in the area of electronic systems, programmable components and mechanical devices.

You will be taught through a series of projects which include elements of practical skills, theoretical knowledge and design skills for working with electronic systems. Homework tasks, videos, practical demonstrations and computer aided design software will be used as key learning tools.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA – GCSE Design & Technology

Progression

A GCSE in Design & Technology is required for entry into A Level Graphic Design and A Level Product Design at grade 6. Many students that have studied a similar route have gone on to careers in Aerospace, Marine & Power Engineering, Architecture, Construction & Product Designing.

Many important life skills such as time management, planning and organisational skills are key to the designing and making process.

As well as a GCSE Level qualification you will also leave the course with a portfolio of design evidence and a practical piece of work that can be shown to future employers and educational institutes to help demonstrate your designing, practical skills and potential for the future.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr J Jenner

Design & Technology

– Focusing on Natural & Manufactured Timber / Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Metals

This subject focuses on the design process and understanding how to develop products to successful outcomes. It will develop your drawing and design skills, further your knowledge of technical products and will be biased towards natural and manufactured timbers. Approximately 70% of the course will be delivery of theory. The remaining 30% will involve students taking part in practical activities that will enhance their understanding of the course content.

How will I be tested?

Component 1:	Design and Technology in the 21st Century Written Examination 2 Hours
	A mix of short answers, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of technical principles, designing and making principles and their ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions.
Component 2:	Design and Make Task of 35 Hours
	A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board, assessing candidates' ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities. Design and make prototypes, analyse and evaluate design decisions.

How will I be taught?

The subject content is presented under two headings: technical principles & designing, and making principles. Within each area, the content is further divided into core knowledge & understanding, and in-depth knowledge & understanding. In this case we cover the core knowledge content and then specialise in the area of natural and manufactured timber.

You will be taught through a series of projects which include elements of practical skills, theoretical knowledge and design skills for working with timber. Homework tasks, videos, practical demonstrations and computer aided design software will be used as key learning tools.

Progression

A GCSE in Design & Technology is required for entry into A Level Graphic Design and A Level Product Design at grade 6. Many students that have studied a similar route have gone on to careers in Aerospace, Marine & Power Engineering, Architecture, Construction & Product Designing. Many important life skills such as time management, planning and organisational skills are key to the designing and making process.

As well as a GCSE Level qualification you will also leave the course with a portfolio of design evidence and a practical piece of work that can be shown to future employers and educational institutes to help demonstrate your designing, practical skills and potential for the future.

Examination Board & Course Type

EDUQAS – GCSE Design & Technology

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr J Jenner

Drama

What is GCSE Drama about?

All the world's a stage, and a qualification in GCSE Drama will prepare you for the role of a lifetime by providing you with the skills to communicate clearly and confidently, work closely with others and perform under pressure. This course is an enjoyable and practical approach to Drama, with the

emphasis on learning through doing. By following the GCSE Drama course you will gather knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre and of the influences that inform the way drama is devised and structured. It allows you to improve your performance skills, by creating your own work and preparing existing texts for performance. You will become multi-skilled, which gives you the opportunity to progress further in your education.

What will I learn and how will I learn it?

GCSE Drama will equip you with a range of skills much sought after in the wider world of work and education. GCSE Drama will:

- Develop ways of communicating confidently and creatively
- Encourage cooperation and the understanding of others
- Provide the skills of working with others – you can choose to work individually, in pairs or in a group for all units
- Introduce the tools and the language of drama
- Look at actions and their consequences in a dramatic setting
- Explore the creative work of the designer, deviser and director... as well as the performer

The course consists of three units of study:

Component 1: Understanding Drama	Component 2: Devising Drama	Component 3: Texts in practice
What's assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre ■ Study of one set play (currently Blood Brothers) ■ Evaluation of live theatre 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The process of creating your work ■ Performance of your work ■ Evaluation of your work 	What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Performance of two extracts from one play Teachers will suggest suitable plays to look into
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Written Exam: 1 Hour and 45 minutes ■ 80 marks ■ 40% of the GCSE 	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Devising log (60 marks) ■ Performance (20 marks) ■ 80 marks ■ 40% of the GCSE 	How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Performance of extract 1 ■ Performance of extract 2 ■ 40 marks in total ■ 20% of the GCSE
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sec A: Multiple choice ■ Sec B: Four questions on a given extract of the play ■ Sec C: one essay style question (from a choice) about the live theatre you have seen 	This is a practical component where you are put into a small group to create an original piece of drama which is to be performed to an audience.	This is another practical component where you work in a small group to rehearse the extract of the play. Your teacher helps to direct you and you perform your work to an audience.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught by a mixture of whole-class teaching, practical drama exercises, practical performances and structured written notes. Workshops are provided and led by current practitioners and you also get the chance to talk to actors and directors in pre and post-performance talks during theatre visits. Use of Lighting, Sound and Video recording equipment are all common practice within the Drama Department.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA - GCSE

Progression

There are many things you can go on and do with a GCSE in Drama as it provides you with a range of skills to progress further in your education and the work place. GCSE Drama will prove valuable to anyone considering a future role or position that requires Creativity, Confidence, Communication, Team work and/or Leadership skills. You could go on to take an A Level in Drama, Theatre Studies or Performance Studies, or a Vocational A Level in Performing Arts or a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts or Performance Design and Technology.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss H L Patrick

Economics

What will I learn?

An engaging and relevant GCSE subject for today's students. Economics is about people and their economic choices. The GCSE in Economics shows students that we are all part of the economy and that economics relates to every aspect of our lives - from the decisions of individuals or families to the structures created by governments and producers. It develops their understanding of how economic issues affect choices about resources and markets and vice versa.

A GCSE in Economics equips students with the skills and confidence to explore how consumers, producers and governments interact in markets nationally and internationally. By learning how to explain and evaluate economic problems and possible solutions, students will acquire a way of thinking as economists and develop a logical approach to thinking and reasoning.

Year 10 work is based on *Component 1* which introduces students to the main economic agents, the basic economic problem, and the role of markets, including the labour market and the importance of the financial sector.

Introduction to Economics	
■ Main economic groups and factors of production	■ The basic economic problem
The role of markets and money	
■ The role of markets	■ Demand
■ Supply	■ Price
■ Competition	■ Production
■ The labour market	■ The role of money and financial markets
Year 11 work is based on <i>Component 2</i> which focuses on the main economic objectives, such as economic growth, low unemployment, fair distribution of income and price stability, and other roles of government. Other aspects are the importance of international trade and the impact of globalisation.	
Economic objectives & the role of government	
■ Economic growth	■ Low unemployment
■ Fair distribution of income	■ Price stability
■ Fiscal policy	■ Monetary policy
■ Supply side policies	■ Limitations of markets
International trade and the global economy	
■ Importance of international trade	■ Balance of payments
■ Exchange rates	■ Globalisation

How will I be assessed?

There will be two question papers assessing the two components. Each question paper will have 20 *multiple choice questions* and short case studies with related short and medium response questions as well the opportunity for extended writing (maximum of 6 marks).

■ **Paper 1: Introduction to Economics** – 80 Marks – 1 hour 30 minute written paper

■ **Paper 2: National and International Economics** – 80 Marks – 1 hour 30 minute written paper

How will I be taught?

GCSE Economics requires *both written and numerical* skills. In terms of the numerical skills, both question papers will have questions assessing the some of the following quantitative skills:

Calculations
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. calculation of percentages and percentage changes, including interest on savings2. calculation of averages, including cost3. calculation of totals, including revenue, costs and profit4. calculation of income, including gross and net pay
Construction of graphs
<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. construction of graphs from data, including supply and demand curves
Interpretation and use of quantitative data to support and justify economic decisions
<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. interpretation and use of information from graphs and charts7. interpretation and use of economic data, such as unemployment figures, exports and imports

Economics enables students to become better-informed and more responsible citizens, consumers and producers, by developing an awareness of the importance of the economic dimension to our lives. This will allow them to become more confident in the economic choices relating to their life and work. GCSE Economics students will be expected to keep themselves up to date with news and topical events, these will enhance knowledge and classroom debate.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR – GCSE Economics

Progression

Students will gain transferrable skills that will benefit them in their further study and employment: By learning how to use economic data from a range of sources (tables, charts and graphs) students will acquire the skills to make informed judgements and to communicate in a clear and concise way. By learning how to explain and evaluate economic problems and possible solutions, students will acquire a way of thinking as economists and develop a logical approach to thinking and reasoning. It provides a well-rounded introduction to this subject and an excellent foundation for the A Level.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr W Pierce (Head of Economics) & Miss J Hyland (Head of Business)

English Language and English Literature

What will I learn?

In September you will embark upon two GCSEs in English Language and Literature. The course is divided up as follows:

How will I be assessed?

English Language GCSE

All of the GCSE will be assessed at the end of Year 11 via two exam papers.

■ **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)**

To test your reading ability you will be given an unseen extract from a novel. You will then answer a series of questions on how it is written, considering the writer's use of language and structure and effect. To test your writing ability you will be given a photograph to describe or asked to write a piece of narrative writing to test your creative skills.

■ **Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (50%)**

You will be given two unseen texts, one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction. You will answer a series of questions to test your reading ability, considering how language is used for effect and how the two texts compare and contrast in terms of writers' attitudes. To test your writing ability you will be asked to write in a particular form, presenting a particular point of view, such as an article for a newspaper.

Spoken Language Endorsement (not assessed as part of GCSE, a separate qualification issued)

Throughout the two year course you will also take part in a number of speaking and listening activities. You will deliver a Spoken Language assessed presentation.

English Literature GCSE

All of the GCSE will be assessed by two exam papers at the end of Year 11.

■ **Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40%)**

This paper will assess your knowledge and understanding of two set texts, a play by William Shakespeare and a novel published in the 19th century. You will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. You will also be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. You will not be allowed to take your set texts into the exam with you.

■ **Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60%)**

You will study a modern novel or play and fifteen poems from an anthology studied in class and you will answer one essay question on each of them. You will also respond to and compare two unseen poems. You will not be allowed to take your set texts into the exam with you.

How will I be taught?

English Language and English Literature are treated as a combined course in which you will experience a wide range of teaching methods designed to encourage participation, independence, enjoyment and success.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA - GCSE Language 8700 & Literature 8702

Progression

These subjects both lead directly to A Level English Language and English Literature courses. A good pass grade in English is also a requirement for some other subjects at A Level. Employers value the subject as it focuses on success in the core life skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Teachers to contact for further information

Miss G Smy or Mrs C Wright

Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I learn?

This course focuses on:

- A wide range of practical skills including knife skills, sauce making, setting a mixture, raising agents, looking into different types of dough, preparation techniques with meat, fish and vegetables and cooking methods such as using the grill and oven.
- Investigating the properties of food commodities such as flour, milk, eggs & cheese.
- The relationship between diet and health.
- Nutritional and dietary needs of different groups of people.
- Energy balance and the relationship between food intake and physical activity.
- The analysis of the micro and macronutrients.
- Looking into and understanding food provenance.
- The food processing and production systems.
- Factors affecting food choice.
- Investigating food science.

This is a practical course which is heavily supported by detailed and through understanding shown through accompanying written work. The key factors that you should think about when choosing this option include a real enthusiasm for food and cooking with an interest in why food behaves as it does when cooked and how we choose and cook with food in the UK. It is worth remembering that everyone eats and this course is about the choices we make as individuals and as a society.

How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into three units, one of which will be assessed through a written external examination and two that will be assessed through non exam assessment (NEA).

■ Exam	Written exam at the end of Year 11 worth 50%
■ Non Exam Assessment 1	Food commodity investigation – 15% and completed at the start of Year 11
■ Non Exam Assessment 2	Food preparation task (you will have a 3-hour practical exam with accompanying written work) – 35% and completed in Year 11.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught through a range of strategies including practical work, experimental work and formal teaching. You are expected and encouraged to become an independent learner who can work with a range of information to present your own opinions.

You will be expected to provide your own ingredients for focused practical tasks where a dish or product is produced. Some ingredients will be provided for other tasks.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR - GCSE

Progression

This subject can lead on to careers in the food industry, including product development, marketing, dietician, sports nutritionist, teaching, journalism and food writing.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss H Carpenter

French

What will I learn?

You will learn to communicate in French around the following six themes:

- 1. My personal world:** - family, friends, relationships, equality
- 2. Lifestyle and wellbeing:** - food and drink, physical well-being, mental well-being, sports, music, TV and film
- 3. My neighbourhood:** - places in town, shopping, transport
- 4. Media and technology:** - social media and gaming
- 5. Studying and my future:** - school, future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)
- 6. Travel and tourism:** - accommodation, tourist attractions, the natural world, environmental issues

How will I be assessed?

In French, the language is assessed at Foundation or Higher level.

Listening	25%	Foundation: 45 mins	Higher: 60 mins
Reading	25%	Foundation: 45 mins	Higher: 60 mins
Speaking	25%	Foundation: 7-9 mins	Higher: 10 -12 mins
Writing	25%	Foundation: 1hr 15 mins	Higher: 1hr 20 mins

How will I be taught?

You will already be familiar with the way languages are taught in Key Stage 3. New language is introduced by whole-class teaching using the interactive white board, course book and other authentic materials. Then it is practised with a partner or in a small group, using role-play and language games. The work is then consolidated through listening, reading and/or writing activities. You will use ICT regularly. It is the tradition of the French department to organise and carry out yearly educational visits to France and take part in the annual Café Day event at Sidegate School, which is one of our local feeder primary schools. Elements of the French cultural history such as the famous Bastille Day celebrations and popular French traditions like Christmas and Pancake Day animate the curriculum and are complemented with popular films among which are Kirikou, Le petit Nicolas, Les choristes, and Entre les murs, to mention a few.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel - GCSE

Progression

The aim of this course is to enable you to use the language confidently both in Britain and abroad and to give you an understanding and appreciation of the culture of the country where the language is mainly spoken. The GCSE course will give you a firm foundation for study at A Level.

Teacher to contact for further information

Dr VC Ohakwe
Head of French

Geography

What is GCSE Geography about?

There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With a growing interest in global issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation, natural disasters and poverty, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Put simply, it is the subject which holds the key to our future.

Whatever your passion for the world whether it is a fascination with landscapes or a concern about inequality, geography will provide you with knowledge and help you to develop many transferable skills.

What will I learn?

Throughout the course you will:

- Study the features of the earth and understand how they were formed.
- Develop knowledge about our rapidly changing world and how humans are impacting on the planet.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures and backgrounds of people from all over the world.
- Study topics first hand on fieldtrips and learn the skills of data collection and analysis.
- Develop intellectual skills such as thinking critically about issues, evaluating evidence and developing reasoned arguments.
- Build transferable skills such as teamwork, problem solving, ICT skills and communication skills (presentation, writing, debating).

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of three examinations:

Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment – 35% of the final GCSE: 1½ hour examination

- *The Challenge of Natural Hazards*
Tectonic hazards, tropical storms, extreme weather & climate
- *Physical Landscapes of the UK*
Coastal landscapes & river landscapes
- *The Living World*
Tropical rainforests & Hot Desert environments

Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment – 35% of the final GCSE: 1½ hour examination

- *Urban Challenges*
Investigating cities in the developed and developing world
- *The Changing Economic World*
Causes & consequences of the development gap, a study of a developing/emerging country & an investigation into the economic challenges & opportunities facing the UK
- *The Challenge of Resource Management*
The global distribution of resources, resource challenges in the UK & a study on food supply

Paper 3 – Geographical Applications – 30% of the final GCSE: 1 hour examination

- *Issue Evaluation*
A decision-making exercise involving a contemporary geographical issue
- *Fieldwork*
Questions based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context & questions based on students' own enquiry work

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA - GCSE Geography

Progression

Studying Geography provides you with valuable skills and a firm base for life-long learning. GCSE Geography encourages students to continue the subject at A Level where it makes an excellent link between science and arts subjects.

Geographers enter a very wide range of career areas; there is no such thing as a geography job but there are jobs that Geographers do.

Some examples of careers include: conservation worker, environmental health officer, architect, urban planner, pollution analyst, environmental consultant, financial risk assessor, accountant, transport/ logistics manager, lawyer, economic advisor, aid worker, human rights officer, travel writer, refugee and asylum advisor, diplomat, surveyor, teacher, human resource manager, market research analyst, weather presenter, flood protection manager, cartographer.

A wider range of possible careers can be found on the Royal Geographical Society's website – www.rgs.org

Teacher to contact for further information

Ms A Turner

German

What will I learn?

You will learn to communicate in German on the following six themes:

1. **My personal world**:- family, friends, relationships, equality
2. **Lifestyle and wellbeing**:- food and drink, physical well-being, mental well-being sports, music, TV and film
3. **My neighbourhood**:- places in town, shopping, transport
4. **Media and technology**:- social media and gaming
5. **Studying and my future**:- school, future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)
6. **Travel and tourism**:- accommodation, tourist attractions, the natural world, environmental issues

How will I be assessed?

In German, the language is assessed at Foundation or Higher level.

Listening	25%	Foundation: 45mins	Higher: 1hr
Reading	25%	Foundation: 45mins	Higher: 1hr
Speaking	25%	Foundation: 7-9mins	Higher: 10-12mins
Writing	25%	Foundation: 1hr 15mins	Higher: 1hr 20mins

How will I be taught?

You will already be familiar with the way languages are taught in Key Stage 3. New language is introduced by whole-class teaching using the interactive white board, course-book and other authentic materials. Then it is practiced with a partner or in a small group, using role-play and language games. The work is then consolidated by writing activities. You will use ICT regularly. The German department runs an exchange visit.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel - GCSE

Progression

The aim of this course is to enable you to use the language confidently both in Britain and abroad and to give you an understanding and appreciation of the culture of the country where the language is mainly spoken. The GCSE course will give you a firm foundation for study at A Level.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr A Cobbold

Graphic Communication

What will I learn?

You will learn to use a variety of drawing, painting, computer-aided techniques and digital photography and effects to enable you to design and produce graphics for posters, fashion items, illustrations, including cartoons and animation, games, packaging, display units and advertisements. You will learn how to gather research effectively including looking at the work of other designers and artists. During the course you will attend a trip to Colchester Zoo to take a variety of first-hand photos, these will later be developed into animal character designs.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification consists of two parts:

Part one is worth 60% of the GCSE and consists of at least two practical projects set and marked by your teacher both of which include sketch book work and a practical finished outcome such as themed merchandise, food packaging or product advertisement.

The second part is a controlled assessment project set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the GCSE, you will have a choice of projects and produce the work as if it were a normal coursework project. There is no written examination, just a supervised time of 10 hours to make the final piece in the classroom.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught through at least three practical coursework projects across Years 10 and 11. (You choose only the best two to enter for the GCSE). You will use industry-standard computer graphics software and printers. The course also consists of digital photography then, from your first-hand photos, you will learn how to add digital effects to enhance your final outcomes.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA – GCSE Art & Design: Graphic Communication

Progression

GCSE Grade 6 in Graphics, Resistant Materials or a visual art subject is required for entry into A Level Graphic Design. GCSE Grade 6 in Graphics, Resistant Materials or Electronics is required for entry into A Level Product Design.

Many students who have studied this route have gone on to careers in Graphic Design, Packaging Design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Animation, Architecture, Signage and Illustration.

As well as a GCSE grade, you will also leave the course with a portfolio of design evidence and a practical piece of work that can be shown to future employers and educational institutes to help demonstrate the student's designing, practical skills and potential for the future.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss S Hunting

Health and Social Care

What will I learn?

The qualification is designed to create independent students that can make informed decisions about further learning opportunities or continuing into related career choices. It will equip students with transferable skills that are relevant to the sector and more widely. It covers the rights of individuals, person-centred values of care, health promotion, and the impact of life events.

How will I be assessed?

Students will cover two mandatory units (R032 and R033) and one optional unit (R035)

■ Unit R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings (40%)

In this unit you will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them. You will also learn about the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for service users in health and social care settings and the procedures and measures used to protect individuals such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

1 hour 15 mins written paper, OCR set and marked.

■ Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events (30%)

In this unit you will learn about life stages and the factors that affect them. You will understand expected and unexpected life events and the impact they will have on physical, social/emotional, and socio-economic aspects in an individual's life. You will research the service providers and practitioners that can support individuals, recommend support, and justify how this will meet the needs of a specific individual.

10-12 hours of ongoing non-examined assessment (NEA*)

■ Unit R035: Health promotion campaigns (30%)

In this unit you will have the opportunity to explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing and the importance of this to society. You will understand the factors affecting a healthy lifestyle so that campaigns can be designed to target different groups of people. You will also learn how to plan and deliver your own small-scale health promotion campaign and how to evaluate your planning and delivery.

10-12 hours of non-examined internal assessment (NEA*)

The 2 NEAs are designed to provide learners with the opportunity to build a portfolio of evidence to meet the marking criteria for that unit.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Progression

These skills will help you progress onto further study in the health and social care sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Health and Social Care, A levels in psychology, biology or sociology and the following apprenticeships:

- Adult care worker
- Allied Health Profession Support
- Health and Social Care
- Healthcare science assistant
- Maternity and Paediatric Support.

Teacher to contact for further information

Ms J Huggins

History

What will I learn?

The units are listed below.

1. Understanding the Modern World
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Germany , 1890 - 1945: Democracy and Dictatorship■ Conflict and Tension, 1918 - 1939
2. Shaping the Nation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Britain: Health and the People: 1000AD to present day■ Elizabethan England: c 1568 - 1603
All units are assessed by two exams in Year 11.

How will I be taught?

You will develop a range of skills including

- How to write developed explanations
- How to research and present information independently
- How to summarise and cross reference a range of information
- Working in groups
- Discussion
- Effective use of ICT and Internet research

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA – GCSE History

Progression

History links well to both careers and further study as it also develops self-confidence and the ability to deal with information, as well as building literacy skills.

History GCSE counts towards the English Baccalaureate.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss Z Quinton

Mathematics

What will I learn?

You will develop the ability to

- use and apply mathematics effectively in everyday situations
- set out mathematical problems clearly using the appropriate symbols
- think abstractly using algebra
- organise and present information in a variety of forms (e.g. tabular or graphical)
- perform calculations by suitable methods (including mental methods and the use of calculators)
- work accurately
- recognise patterns and structure
- recognise and use spatial relationships in 2 and 3 dimensions
- use mathematical instruments to draw to an acceptable degree of accuracy
- carry out investigational work
- discuss mathematical ideas.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed through written examination papers only. There will be three papers.

You will be entered for your final examination papers at either Higher or Foundation level, according to your individual progress and attainment:

Higher level will award grades 4-9 (with 9 being the highest)

Foundation level will award grades 1-5

Two of the three GCSE examination papers are set with the expectation that you will have a scientific calculator.

How will I be taught?

There are opportunities for a variety of learning styles. These include problem-solving; investigations; practical Mathematics; teacher exposition; routine practice; use of dynamic geometry and graphing computer programs; strategy games and discussion. Homework will be regularly set in order to consolidate on previously learned concepts, to gauge understanding and act as ongoing revision.

All specialist mathematics rooms are equipped with interactive screens.

Examination Board & Course Type

OCR - GCSE

Progression

GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics will be needed for many further education courses, apprenticeships, jobs and university degrees. Grade 5 may be required for certain post-16 courses and careers; Grade 6 will be needed for some specific A Levels including Mathematics and Grade 7 for Further Mathematics.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss C King

Music

What will I learn?

This course is divided into three units:

- Performing
- Composing
- Listening

Each unit will be integrated into a programme of study looking at a variety of styles and genres of music. The course will be divided into four main areas of study incorporating these different styles and genres. The four areas are as follows:

- Instrumental Music (1700-1820)
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

In each area of study, you will undertake an in depth study of two set works (a total of eight set works over two years). You will also be required to complete some wider listening of other pieces of music in a similar style and apply your knowledge to more unfamiliar music.

The set works are listed below:

AREA OF STUDY 1	Set Works:	AREA OF STUDY 2	Set Works:
Instrumental Music 1700-1820	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto No.5 in D ■ Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata No 8 in C minor 	Vocal Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ H Purcell: Music for a While ■ Queen: Killer Queen
AREA OF STUDY 3	Set Works:	AREA OF STUDY 4	Set Works:
Music for Stage and Screen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ S Schwartz: Defying Gravity from Wicked ■ J Williams: A New Hope Star Wars Episode IV 	Fusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Afro Celt Sound System: Release ■ Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio

How will I be assessed?

60% of the course is coursework and you will be internally assessed for these units by your teacher. These units will then be moderated by an external examiner. The written examination is externally assessed.

- Performance coursework (30%): You will perform at least two pieces (one piece **MUST** be as part of an ensemble). The two pieces must have a combined duration of four minutes in total. The second piece can be either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.
- Composition Coursework (30%): You will submit two compositions in contrasting styles with a combined duration of at least three minutes.
- Written Examination (40%): You will sit a 1¼-hours written paper with listening CD. There are two parts to the exam.
Part A contains listening questions based on the set works and some unfamiliar music in similar styles to your set works.
Part B contains an essay comparison question based on one of the set works and an unfamiliar piece of music.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught via a mixture of whole-class teaching, written and listening work, practical music exercises and practical performance sessions. Use of computers and recording equipment are common practice in the music department.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel - GCSE

Progression

The course provides a good basis for study of Music at A Level. It is advisable to boost knowledge with ABRSM Grade 5 theory if considering progressing to A Level in the subject.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mrs C Rutter or Miss J Tournay-Godfrey

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

What will I learn?

P.R.E gives you the opportunity to consider your own, and others' responses to the biggest questions in life. It will allow you to explore a range of Philosophical, Religious and Ethical issues to form an understanding and appreciation of many different views.

1) Religious beliefs, teachings and practices

During this part of the course you will focus on Christianity and Buddhism. You will learn about their way of life, and how their beliefs and teachings impact on their actions. You will also learn about how and why they differ in their beliefs on issues such as: the concept of God, evil and suffering and life after death.

2) Themes

During this part of the course you will critically consider Religious and Non-Religious views on Ethical and Philosophical questions including:

Religion and Life <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Abortion■ Euthanasia■ Animal experimentation■ Origin of the universe	Peace and Conflict <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ To what extent is religion a cause of conflict?■ To what extent does religion promote peace?
Philosophy of Religion <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Do miracles happen?■ Can we prove the existence of God?■ Does evil disprove the existence of God?	Crime and punishment <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ What are the key causes of crime?■ Does punishment reduce crime?■ Is the death penalty morally justifiable?

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two papers; each will be 1 hour 45 minutes. They will contain a range of questions from defining key concepts to presenting arguments.

Examination Board and Course Type

AQA, GCSE Religious Studies (8062)

How will I learn?

You will learn using a range of different methods including – group work, discussion, debate, investigation, research, case studies and reading.

How will P.R.E help me in the future?

Studying P.R.E will help you to develop a range of important skills that are essential in any workplace. For example, the ability to recognise and appreciate different points of view, to express your views using well thought out arguments, to understand how beliefs affect behaviour and how to manage conflict. These skills can help you in a range of careers including: Law, Teaching, Social work, Project management, Politics, Psychology and many more

Teacher to contact for further information

If you have further questions, please ask Mrs Smith (fxs@northgate.suffolk.sch.uk)

Photography

What will I learn?

Students will learn about visual communication and what makes an image aesthetically appealing. Students will examine the history of photography and learn traditional analogue methods in our darkroom as well as modern digital techniques and processes. The course has links to the creative industry and students will be given advice and information about careers and development within the subject area.

- Within the coursework you will learn the following skills:
- Photoshop editing skills
- How the camera works and the exposure triangle
- Digital and darkroom photography skills
- Critical Studies, exploring the work of other photographers, artists and craftspeople

How will I be assessed?

Coursework	60%
Exam	40%

All work completed during the course is submitted as coursework. Towards the end of the course you will have an eight-week preparatory period which leads to a 10-hour exam over two days.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught in small mixed ability groups. Teaching will involve mainly practical work but there is a requirement for a small written element to the course. Work will initially be teacher led, but as the course progresses you will be encouraged to develop your own ideas and think independently. You will be taught in the photography room with access to a professional studio space and editing suit with photoshop software, scanners and specialist printers. You will work with Digital cameras and photographic kit as well as learning basic darkroom techniques and processes. You will visit both local and national galleries to engage with photography and art first hand.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel – GCSE Art & Design: Photography

Progression

The course provides a platform for progression into:

- A Level → Foundation Course → University
- College: 2-year Foundation
- Careers: photography, Commercial photography, Graphic Design, Advertising, Architecture, Illustration, Set Design, Ceramics, Product Design, Games Design, Website Design, Photography, Sculpture, Painting, Interior Design, Animation, Film and Media, Teaching, Lecturing, Landscape Design, Hairdressing, Fashion Design, Make Up Design, Textiles...

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss Gladding

Physical Education

The GCSE Physical Education specification allows for an in-depth study of the body in performance; investigating the body systems at work and looking at the socio-cultural context of the sports performer.

It also gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your physical ability as a practical performer in different activities whilst encouraging you to analyse and evaluate your own and others performance.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed via written examination including short and extended answer questions. The theory content is worth 60% and is examined over two papers which are both 1 hour 15 minutes in length. Paper 1 will test your knowledge of the human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Paper 2 will test your knowledge of the socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

Within the practically assessed area of the course, which accounts for 40% of the qualification, you will demonstrate your practical performance within isolated skills practices and competitive situations. It is for this reason that it is **highly advantageous** for GCSE Physical Education students to be **playing competitive sport** outside of normal lesson times to ensure that you progress to the appropriate standard. You will also complete controlled assessment work relating to analysis and evaluation of your own performance in a chosen activity.

How will I be taught?

You will have two lessons per week

During theory lessons you will cover the following content:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Social-cultural influences on participation
- Health, fitness and well-being

During practical lessons you will demonstrate your physical capabilities in three activities (one team, one individual and one other). You will demonstrate skills in isolated practices as well as in a fully competitive game or situation.

You will then analyse your own performance and make judgements on your own strengths and weaknesses, highlighting areas for improvement during controlled assessment.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA - GCSE

Progression

This qualification forms a sound basis for progress to further education within A Level and BTEC and other National Diploma studies.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr S Clark

Psychology

What will I learn?

Have you ever wondered why people behave the way that they do? Have you ever wondered how you would be different if your environment was different? Would you be more intelligent if you went to a private school? Do you always make your own decisions, or do you 'follow the crowd'? Are people born bad?

Psychology tries to answer questions like these by studying behaviour and looking for the reasons why people act in the ways they do.

The course is separated into two units.

Unit 1 – Cognition and Behaviour	
Unit 1 consists of memory, perception, development and research methods.	
<i>Memory</i>	You will look at the different process and structures of memory. You will also consider factors affecting the accuracy of memory, including interference, context and false memories.
<i>Perception</i>	You will look at the differences between sensation and perception. You will consider the effects of nature and nurture on perception. You will also study explanations for visual illusions
<i>Development</i>	You will study early brain development and the roles of nature and nurture in the brain's growth. You will study Piaget's theory of the development of intelligence in children. You will also study the effects of learning styles and approaches on development, including the role of a growth mindset.
<i>Research Methods</i>	You will look at the different ways to investigate behaviour and how to make the study of people as scientific as possible.
Unit 2 – Social Context and Behaviour	
Unit 2 consists of social influence, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology and psychological problems	
<i>Social Influence</i>	You will study factors affecting conformity and obedience. You will look at factors affecting whether or not you will help a stranger in need of assistance. Finally, you will study the behaviour of crowds and why they behave aggressively or prosocially.
<i>Language, Thought and Communication</i>	You will study the development of language and differences between human and animal communication. You will also study the different types of non-verbal communication and explanations of how they develop.
<i>Brain and Neuropsychology</i>	You will study the nervous system, including the role of the autonomic nervous system in the fight or flight response. You will consider how brain scans have been used to examine the functions of different parts of the brain. Finally, you will look at the effects of brain damage on motor abilities and behaviour.
<i>Psychological Problems</i>	You will study mental illness including its effects on the individual and society. You will focus on depression, considering theories explaining its causes and ways of treating it. Finally, you will study addiction, looking at why some people develop addictions and how to treat them.

How will I be assessed?

There are two examination papers each worth 50% of your GCSE.

How will I be taught?

Teaching methods will include whole class teaching, discussion, debate, presentations, individual and group work and investigation. You will also use DVDs, the Internet and articles from magazines and newspapers.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA - GCSE

Progression

This course will be excellent preparation for those who want to go on and study Psychology at A Level, although many of the skills you learn will be transferable to other subjects. Students who have studied Psychology in the past have gone on to careers in Educational Psychology, Forensic Psychology, the Police Force, Nursing, Teaching, Advertising and lots of other professions involving working with people.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr S Wootton

Sociology

What will I learn?

Sociology studies how society works. It will help you to understand how individuals fit into a wider social network and encourage you to question beliefs about society which you may have previously taken for granted. Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way it that does and the extent to which our behaviour and opportunities can be shaped by our social class, gender, ethnicity, age and sexuality.

You should choose Sociology if you are interested in the world around you. It is a subject that you will have experience of and one that will help you understand many aspects of your future. You can bring your own life events and ideas into the classroom in a way you might not be able to in other subjects.

The topics that will be studied in GCSE Sociology are:

- The sociological approach
- Social structures, social processes and social issues
- Families
- Education
- Crime and deviance
- Social stratification
- Sociological research methods

How will I be assessed?

- Two written exam papers (1 hour and 45 minutes each) both worth 50% of your GCSE.
- A mixture of multiple choice questions, short responses and extended essays.
- There is no coursework in Sociology.

How will I be taught?

This course is active, enjoyable and challenging. You need to be good at communicating and prepared to debate and discuss contemporary issues. There is a mixture of whole class teaching, group work and individually based approaches to the subject, including the use of ICT and video. Good GCSE Sociology students will keep themselves up to date with current affairs and topical events.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA – GCSE Sociology

Progression

There are many careers where a qualification in Sociology is useful. For example, many sociologists go into social work – community projects, charity work, welfare advisors and other areas of social services. Other careers include the civil service, prison officers, journalists, the police and teaching.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mr S Evans

Spanish

What will I learn?

You will learn to communicate in Spanish on the following six themes:

1. **My personal world**:- family, friends, relationships, equality
2. **Lifestyle and wellbeing**:- food and drink, physical well-being, mental well-being sports, music, TV and film
3. **My neighbourhood**:- places in town, shopping, transport
4. **Media and technology**:- social media and gaming
5. **Studying and my future**:- school, future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)
6. **Travel and tourism**:- accommodation, tourist attractions, the natural world, environmental issues

How will I be assessed?

In Spanish, the language is assessed at Foundation or Higher level.

Listening	25%	Foundation: 45mins	Higher: 1hr
Reading	25%	Foundation: 45mins	Higher: 1hr
Speaking	25%	Foundation: 7-9mins	Higher: 10-12mins
Writing	25%	Foundation: 1hr 15mins	Higher: 1hr 20mins

How will I be taught?

You will already be familiar with the way languages are taught in Key Stage 3. New language is introduced by whole-class teaching using the interactive white board, course-book and other authentic materials. Then it is practised with a partner or in a small group, using role-play and language games. The work is then consolidated by writing activities. You will use ICT regularly. The Spanish department runs an educational trip to Spain and includes many cultural activities throughout the years.

Examination Board & Course Type

Edexcel – GCSE

Progression

The aim of this course is to enable you to use the language confidently both in Britain and abroad and to give you an understanding and appreciation of the culture of the country where the language is mainly spoken. The GCSE course will give you a firm foundation for study at A Level.

Teacher to contact for further information

Miss C Martins

Textile and Fashion Design

Exciting and highly creative, this design course will be focused on the following elements:

- Fashion design and illustration
- Costume design
- Constructed textiles
- Printed and dyed textiles
- Surface pattern
- Stitched and/or embellished textiles
- Digital textiles

You can experiment in your sketchbooks with various textile-based media and develop ideas for a final garment based on your own inspiration and that of other artists and designers. This course will develop your creative research, designing and manufacture skills. You will use digital technology to print onto your own fabrics and develop these fabrics into a fashion garment, costume or interior product.

What will I learn?

1. You will learn how to collect inspirational images relevant to the project title and produce drawings and sketches from these. You will also learn how to critically analyse your investigation work. This will all be documented in your A3 sketchbook.
2. You will learn about different art and textile based media relevant to the project you are studying. You will learn how to manipulate these exciting decorative techniques and get time to do personal experimentation.
3. You will learn about new vibrant artists and designers, their work and their inspiration. You will be able to develop your own work in the style of one or more of your chosen artists. You will learn how to critically explain how you have been influenced in your own work.
4. You will learn how to develop your ideas into either a Fashion, Costume or Interior final piece using traditional and contemporary methods of manufacture.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio Portfolio and sketchbooks, Year 10/11	Component 2: Externally set assignment Practical Exam, Year 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ No time limit■ 96 marks■ 60% of GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time■ 96 marks■ 40% of GCSE

How will I be taught?

The course specification will be taught through a wide range of focused practical tasks. The majority of work will be completed during lesson time and through set homework tasks. Assessment and the relevant feedback will be given on a regular basis.

Examination Board & Course Type

AQA – GCSE Art & Design: Textile Design

Progression

Northgate High School offers AQA Art & Design, A Level Textile Design and Fashion. Many students will progress through to higher education in studying, Design, Fashion, Architecture, Interior Design and much more.

Teacher to contact for further information

Mrs A Fisk

