

Year 10/11
Curriculum Options
2019 - 2021



Dear Parents and Students,

It is always difficult to make decisions about which courses to follow at GCSE and often there are no right or wrong answers. However, the more informed you are, the easier the decision making process. Hopefully this booklet will give you the information you need to help you make the best possible decision for your future.

In the following pages you will be able to read about the subjects you can study in Years 10 and 11. When making your decisions it is important to think about:

- The subjects you like. You will always be more successful at what you enjoy.
- Where you want to be in the future; which subjects will help you with Sixth Form, University or gain an apprenticeship.
- Your studies and not your social life. Don't study a subject just because your friends are—you need to think about the best thing for you.
- Asking the questions which will help you to find out as much as you can about each course.

Good luck!

Deadline for return of entries is: 29th March 2019.

Unfortunately, we are unable to guarantee any course for any student. You may need to re-negotiate your curriculum choices. We do our best to provide the course that you want. Timetable and staffing restrictions mean that some changes may be necessary, but we will try and keep these to a minimum. Not all students get their first choices but last year we managed to get 97% to have their first choices.

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Guidance for Parents & Carers:

Having a son or daughter choose subject options in Year 9 must seem like a tricky decision with plenty of unknown factors that then, somehow, lead onto future paths in education or work. So what can be done to provide a little clarity to the process? We hope these tips help:

- It's okay not to have a career plan –

A pupil in Year 9 still has a long way to go in education (your son/daughter will be required to attend suitable work, education or training until at least age 18 but they can continue beyond that if they want to!) so it's perfectly fine not to have a clear career idea at this age and become focused on specific career areas at a later point.

- A broad and balanced curriculum will keep future options open –

Making choices that lead to an unbalanced or too narrow a curriculum can have the consequence of closing future routes you did not intend to. Choosing across a range of subject areas will ensure that the widest possible choice of future routes is open to your son or daughter when they leave us in Year 11.

Where we think students may be too narrow in their choices we will meet with them to guide and discuss.

- Keep in mind the next stages –

The range of routes beyond Stopsley might seem mindboggling – Apprenticeships, University, 6th Forms, College, Traineeships could all figure in your child's future – but success can be achieved through all of them. At the Options Evening representative from Luton Sixth Form College and other local colleges will be present for you to ask about their courses and the entry requirements they will require. There will also be an opportunity for parents and students to attend an apprenticeship information evening.

- Give your child the best chance of getting the best grades they can –

After reading the subject pages in this booklet and talking to the teachers at Options Evening it is important to discuss with your son/daughter about their strengths and areas of interest. Being as sure as you can that these 'fit' with not just the subject matter each option covers, but also the way the subjects are assessed and taught can lead to a more successful course.

Making suitable Year 9 options choices can be a transformative moment for students. Suddenly they have the opportunity to focus on subjects they find interesting and discover a new motivation to succeed. We hope to help your child on this journey at Stopsley so, if you do have any questions, please get in touch.

Louise Lynch
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Careers Co-ordinator

EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

General Certificate of Secondary Education (G.C.S.E.)

The majority of students will be entered for G.C.S.E. examinations.

The GCSE grades awarded range from:

The majority of subjects will be graded 9 to 1.

9	Exceptional performance
5	Minimum grade required to continue in a subject to A level**

** Please note that some colleges have very specific qualification requirements for entry to A level courses.

For some students GCSE certification may not be appropriate and some subjects will offer alternatives called Entry Level. These courses are usually taught alongside GCSE and offer students a chance to achieve success and a chance of certification for students who have found GCSE too difficult.

The levels awarded are:

Level 1	Comparable to National Curriculum level 1
Level 2	Comparable to National Curriculum level 2
Level 3	Comparable to National Curriculum level 3

BTEC

BTEC qualifications are Vocational qualifications that have been developed to meet the Department for Education's technical guidance for technical awards.

Level 2 BTECS have internally assessed units and one externally assessed unit.

How are they graded?

At **Level 2**:

Pass = 4 Merit = 5 Distinction = 7 Distinction* = 9

If Level 2 is not met a Level 1 qualification is available.

More information on BTEC is available here:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/about-us/qualification-brands/btec.html>

Or by contacting Mrs P Ramsay, Curriculum Lead, at

pramsay@stopsleyhighschool.co.uk

The English Baccalaureate or 'EBACC'

EBACC subjects are:

- English;
- Mathematics;
- a Science, or Computer Science
- a Humanities subject (Geography or History);
- a Modern Foreign Language.

Choosing subjects that cover all elements of 'EBACC' ensure that you follow a broad and balanced curriculum.



THE PROCESS



28th February 2019

Go to Year 9 Options Evening



**Speak to your parents, subject teachers, Mr Williets,
Mrs Ramsay and the Careers Co-ordinator, Louise Lynch**



**Complete the form online by logging onto the hyperlink
sent in your student email: Choose any 3 subjects but
include one or more from the first column. It is essential
that you put them in order of preference. You must also
include your reserve choices.**



**Thursday 28th March 2019
Year 9 Parents Evening Final Check
and talk to subject teachers**



**Friday 29th March
Deadline for online submission of choices**

Questions I would like to get an answer to:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____
- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____
- 15) _____

Notes:

GCSE: Art

People who have studied Art



Childish Gambino

Lady Gaga

Jim Carrey

James Franco

Jobs you can get with an Art qualification

Architect	Pattern cutter	Photographer
Web design	Animator	Teacher
Graphic designer	CAD technician	Product designer
Illustrator	Curator	Textile designer

What will you study?

You will initially develop a coursework portfolio that will allow you to develop your creative skills, working in a wide range of different materials to produce your own outcomes. You will have access to a range of specialist workshops to develop other skills such as life casting, lino cutting and felt making. Outcomes can take any form so you can really develop your own passions and interests through ceramics, painting, photography... the possibilities are endless! The coursework portfolio is worth 60% of your overall grade. You will also sit an externally set paper, this takes a similar structure to your coursework, ending with a 10 hour practical exam where you will create your final piece. The paper is worth 40% of your final grade. Written work and drawing are key areas of assessment and must be present in work to meet all the assessment objectives. All work from year 10 and 11 is submitted to create your final grade.

How might it be useful in the future?

If you have a passion for Art, don't be persuaded to take a more 'useful' option – unless you want to or are good at it. If you have ability in a creative area: grasp it. Let it shine! Students that are multi-skilled are more accomplished, well-rounded, hireable and capable of outrivalling their peers in a much wider range of professions. Creative students often have a wide range of transferable skills such as analytical thinking, problem solving and dedication.

Total employment in the creative economy has increased by 5.1% creating 2.9 million jobs in the UK

New data shows that the UK creative industries are growing at twice the average of the UK economy

What do Year 10 and 11 students say about the course?

“Overall in Art we learn many skills, in which we use to create great pieces of work to a high level. Art is a challenge, but in the end after all the hard work and effort you put in, it's a fantastic course, which we are glad we took”

Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care



Career Pathways for Child Development

- Apprenticeships in early years education
- Level 3 in child development
- Teacher
- Social Worker
- Nursery / Pre-School Assistant
- Midwifery

What Will You Study?

Unit 1 - An Introduction to working with children aged 0-5 - Assignment 25%

Introductory unit that gives an overview of the types of setting and local provisions available for young children. You will look into the responsibilities of early years workers and will gain an insight into preferred learning styles.

Unit 2 - Development and well-being 0-5 years - Assignment 25%

This unit focuses on factors that may affect the holistic development of children. This includes an introduction to observing children so that you can support development through the use of appropriate activities and routines. You will also observe how children's behaviours changes as they move from one setting to another.

Unit 3 - Child care and development 0-5 years - Short answer question exam 50%

This exam requires an understanding of the stages of development a child will go through, knowledge of types of care setting and an understanding of supporting learning. This exam summarises Unit 1 & 2

How might it be useful in the future?

This course offers the opportunity to gain an insight into your own learning style which you can apply all subjects areas you study to ensure you get as much out of your education as possible. The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become.

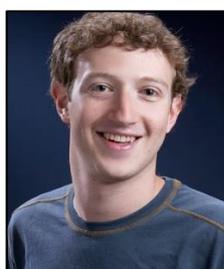
There is potential for this course to lead onto careers and apprenticeships as shown above.

GCSE: Computer Science

People who have studied programming:



Larry Page
Google
Worth £19.5bn



Mark Zuckerberg
Facebook
Worth £29bn



Jack Dorsey
Twitter
Worth £1.4bn

Jobs you can get with a Computing qualification

- * Games Developer
- * Systems Analyst
- * Network Engineer
- * Multimedia Programmer
- * Software Developer
- * Internet Security
- * Software Engineer

What will you study?

The GCSE in Computer Science is a challenging academic qualification that is aimed at high flyers with excellent analytical and problem solving skills who want to learn to become accomplished coders. Students will sit two written papers and complete a programming project by the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 is a technical examination about what happens inside a computer including hardware, software, networks, security and the social impacts of technology.

Paper 2 is a written paper where students learn to think like a computer scientist using established techniques to represent data and solve problems using algorithms.

Paper 3 is a project where students learn how to write software code to create a product using Python or BYOB.

How might it be useful in the future?

This course is designed to allow students to develop their programming and problem solving skills. As well as this, student's use of ICT software is also improved. This qualification will give students experience of working to a brief and programming as they would be expected to do in a professional environment. Students who choose GCSE Computing often progress to study Computing or ICT at A Level, and then move on to study Computing or Engineering at University.

What do Year 11 students say about the course?

"GCSE Computing is an excellent option to take when advancing into years 10 & 11. It focuses on creating programs such as something simplistic like a miles-to-kilometres converter, or more advanced like a student registration system with a menu. Computing can be demanding, time consuming and requires logical thinking when coding programs, so think carefully before opting to take it."

WJEC: CONSTRUCTING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

People who used to work in construction

Carpenter



Harrison Ford

Plasterer



Ian Wright

Bricklayer



Whoopi Goldberg

Jobs you can get with a Construction qualification

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| *Plumber | *Electrician |
| *Bricklayer | *Gas Fitter |
| *Decorator | *Plasterer |
| *Joiner | *Surveyor |
| *Architect | *Quantity Surveyor |

What will you study?

Practical areas covered include:

Plastering	Electrical Installation
Bricklaying	Plastering
Plumbing	Decorating

Each unit has a written aspect that contributes towards the final grade. Coursework and a final test aimed to assist student retention

How might it be useful in the future?

This course is now in its thirteenth year and has close links to local companies who regularly employ our students. The WJEC qualification is available at both Level 1 and Level 2, this can lead on to a level 3 course at college or directly into apprenticeship training at sixteen.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

- Real life job training and key skills for the future
- Excellent course, actually get to wire our own area like a bedroom and plumb sinks in.
- Bricklaying, realistic setting working outside

GCSE: Dance

People who have studied Dance



Natalie Portman

Rio Ferdinand



Mila Kunis

Jobs you can get with a Dance qualification

- *Creative and performance work
- *Performer and/or Choreographer
- *Marketing/Sales
- *Teaching
- *PR and Promotion
- * Business in Performing Arts
- *Director of a dance company

What will you study?

During the GCSE Dance course, students will learn technical skills through a variety of dance styles, including contemporary, hip hop and ballet. Students will be given the opportunity to learn, choreograph and perform dances as well as learning theoretical aspects and concepts of dance. Students will study and analyse various professional choreographers' dance works in order to gain a deeper understanding of styles, meaning and choreographic intention.

How might it be useful in the future?

As well as choreography and performance skills, you will develop excellent teamwork and communication skills and learn how to work with others as well as on your own. You will learn how to research tasks effectively, create and develop your own ideas and manage your time in order to adhere to deadlines. These skills are very important in today's workplaces. The subject will teach you how to express yourself effectively, how to communicate appropriately through both the use of speech and movement and show your ability to be confident.

What do Year 11 students say about the course?

'I have learnt about different styles of dance and I have had the opportunity to explore how to choreograph dance pieces effectively.'

'I have enjoyed working as part of a team and I would recommend this course to anyone who has a passion for the subject.'

'My confidence has really grown on this course by performing a variety of dance works.'

GCSE: Design Technology

People who have studied DT



James Dyson



Adrian Newey



Zara Hadid

Jobs you can get with a Design Technology qualification

- *Product designer
- *Civil engineer
- *Architect
- *Mechanical engineer
- *Graphic designer



“Students are arriving at medical school without the required manual dexterity to perform simple, necessary surgical tasks such as sewing up patients after operations.”

Comments made by Prof. R Kneebone as part of a campaign by the Edge Foundation for more creativity in UK school curriculums

What will you study?

Through a series of activities, which will include designing and making, pupils will explore a wide range of design technology areas. Pupils will study the areas of: metals, paper and board, polymers, systems, timbers and textiles. We will also learn about the wider areas of design and production processes.

The course requires a lot of independent working and the ability to see a long project through from brief to a finished product. Pupils will also need to have a good ability in mathematics and able to transfer skills other subject areas and personal interests.

Course is assessed by 50% Controlled assessment and 50% exam.

How might it be useful in the future?

The course teaches many high level skills such as independent working, problem solving and time management as well as subject specific skills. These skills are highly sort after by both employers and universities.

The country needs to fill 2.8 million creative/engineering jobs by 2030 to work in a diverse industry that is worth £71.7billion to the UK economy.

What do students say?

“I find the course a real balance of technical and creative tasks and skills. We are free to explore our ideas using all the materials and tools in school. If our ideas do not work... we try again to improve it. There is a real focus on employability skills”

GCSE: Drama



Jobs you can get with a drama qualification:

- Creative and performance work including acting, light/sound production, costume etc.
- Work in Media industries including TV and Film.
- Marketing and sales.
- Teaching.
- PR and promotion, including event planning.

What will you study?

You will learn how to create original work from stimuli, collaborating with others. There will also be exploration of current and traditional scripts, from Shakespeare to Berkoff. Opportunities will be given to see live theatre performances, both UK based and further afield. Some students may wish to explore the technical aspect of drama with lighting/sound, costume and make-up.

How might it be useful in the future?

The skills that are learnt by studying drama are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, and the skill of planning that is required in any production, are useful in many careers. Drama can be a good basis for a career not only in the theatre, but in advertising, the film industry and even in events planning, among many others.

What do students say about the course?

“I am really glad I took Drama. It helps me in everyday situations”

“Drama has really helped my self-confidence.”

“Drama has helped me make life-long friends!”

“The teachers are encouraging and supportive.”

GCSE: English Language and Literature

People who have studied English Language and Literature



Susie Dent



J K Rowling



Stephen Fry



George Alagiah

Jobs you can get with an English qualification

- *Careers in advertising
- * Teacher
- * Journalist
- *Lawyer
- *Technical Author

What will you study?

You will study both English Language and Literature, working towards two full GCSEs. Core areas of study include: reading literary fiction and literary non-fiction from the 19th, 20th and 21st century; poetry and media texts; writing, such as creating your own television reviews and narrative writing. Throughout the course students will also practise speaking and listening to help develop their wider communication skills.

How might it be useful in the future?

Most jobs will require you to be able to read and write at a fluent level. English teaches you how to communicate what you are thinking in a mature and effective way, to think critically and analyse words used in texts. This can come in useful for simple things such as reading the newspaper, or in more complicated situations such as reading your contract for a new job. All jobs require these skills.

What do students say about the course?

'I like English because we get to express ourselves and give our opinions on what we read and see, including good books and poems, and current affairs'

'Getting better at English has helped me in my other subjects'

'We always learn in different ways. I look forward to these lessons'.

GCSE: Ethics & Philosophy

People who have studied
Ethics & Philosophy



Martin Luther King JR

Tinie Tempah

With an Ethics &
Philosophy qualification
you can get work in:

- * The legal profession
- * Media
- * Public and private sectors
- * Education

What will you study?

- Christianity
- Islam
- War and peace
- Religion and life
- Crime and punishment
- Relationships

How might it be useful in the future?

This is a subject which embraces the biggest questions in life, like 'Why are we here?' and 'Is there a God?' People who study Religion, Philosophy and Ethics think deeply. The topics we investigate will affect all of us on some level at some time in our lives.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

Ethics & Philosophy is such a great subject, it really helps you understand the world around you and you have a good time doing it.

Ethics & Philosophy challenges your mind and strengthens you to go into a changing world. It allows you to thrive and become aware of today and the future.

GCSE: Food Preparation and Nutrition



People who have studied Food Preparation and Nutrition



Paul Hollywood



Nadiya Hussain



Jamie Oliver

Jobs associated with a Food Preparation and Nutrition qualification:

Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to Further Education/employment in a wide variety of areas, such as:

- Product Development
- Nutrition/Dietician
- Food Marketing/Production
- Environmental Health
- Hotel Management /Catering positions

What will you study?

Food preparation and Nutrition is a very exciting and creative subject in which you will be 'learning-through-making', in addition to planning, preparing to cook and present a final menu of three dishes.

Food Preparation and Nutrition involves:

- Learning about food, ingredients, processes and techniques;
- Understanding special diet and allergy requirements
- Experimenting, investigating and testing products
- Planning and costing a 3 course meal
- Developing practical skills when making food products.
- Managing time allocation for set tasks.

You will have the opportunity to plan, develop and make a creative range of products as part of the Controlled Assessment.

How might it be useful in the future?

As well as learning many practical and life skills, Food Preparation and Nutrition involves developing study skills such as: Food nutrition and health, Food Science, Food safety, Food Choice and Food Provenance. The Food Industry continues to expand and there are a wealth of careers associated with food. The Food industry is one of the largest employers in the UK.

What do Year 11 students say about the course?

"I am glad I chose Food Technology as I have learnt many new cooking skills and become more independent in practical lessons"

"I have learnt important life skills"

"Food Technology has taught me the benefits of a balanced and healthy diet"

"This course will enable me to further my education in catering"

GCSE: French



People who speak French



Natalie Portman



Sol Campbell



Emma Watson



J K Rowling

Jobs you can get with a French qualification:

*almost **any** career in businesses that trade internationally

* translator * interpreter

*journalist *marketing & sales

What will you study?

- You will practise and enhance your language skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- You will study topics which relate to you and your life on a personal basis, e.g. teenage issues, work related themes, relationships, your personal dreams and aspirations.
- You will study topics about the world in which you live e.g. new technologies, the environment
- You will have opportunities to study songs and texts written by French-speaking artists/writers.

How might it be useful in the future?

- You become smarter: studies have shown that learning a foreign language increases the functionality of your brain.
- Your English improves: learning a foreign language draws your focus onto the mechanics of language, and the skills that you acquire make you a more effective communicator.
- It is estimated that the ability to speak a foreign can add at least 10-15% to your wage.
- For those looking to stand out in a tough jobs market or to add oomph to their CV when applying for university, learning a language could be just the thing.

What do Year 10 & 11 students say about the course?

- "I chose French because I felt it would balance out my options. The skills that are learnt in French lessons have helped my English, especially being aware of the tenses that I am using."
- "Learning French opens up a lot of job opportunities and it's amazing to be able to know a different language. The lessons make everything easier to learn in a supportive environment."
- "French is a subject that colleges and universities like to see on your CV. Learning a language helps you to develop a wide range of skills."

GCSE: Geography

Famous People who have studied Geography



Prince William



James Cracknell



Amy Macdonald

Jobs you can get with a Geography qualification

Students who have studied Geography have gone on to work in the following sectors: law, science, sales, business, environment, information technology, management, finance, banking, marketing, research, manufacturing, teaching, childcare, engineering and building, arts, design and media, town planning, working abroad.

“Geography has one of the highest rates of graduate employability and is highly valued by employers for its combination of knowledge, integration and competence at training in the key skills” The Guardian

What will you study?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world. This course offers students the opportunity to develop skills in the following areas: communication skills, graphical and cartographical skills, technological skills including ICT and GIS, interpersonal skills through debate and discussion, literacy and numeracy skills, problem-solving skills, entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career possibilities. You will study topics such as Tropical Rainforests, a range of management of physical landscapes, investigating slum and squatter settlements famine, world hunger, global economics and resource management.

How might it be useful in the future?

The GCSE Geography is a course that:

- Encourages students to develop their own views, opinions and arguments
- Explores global sustainability investigating economic, social and environmental issues that affect all our futures
- Emphasises decision-making and problem solving skills
- Helps students understand how we are all connected - local actions have global impacts!
- Data analyses, interpretation and evaluation skills
- Spatial thinking and interdependence
- Understanding complex interrelated issues centred on economic and political geography

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

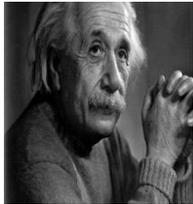
“Geography is my favourite subject.....I find it really interesting and really relevant to the world around me.....I enjoy the lessons as they are varied and help me practise a wide range of skills.”

“I enjoy Geography.....I find the work interesting, relevant to my life and it really helps me to understand the world now and how it might change in the future.”

GCSE: History

People who have studied History

Einstein



Sacha Baron Cohen

Shakira



Jobs you can get with a History qualification

- * The legal profession
- * Media
- * Public and private sectors
- * Education

What will you study?

- Crime and Punishment through time, 1000- Present day
- Case study on Jack the Ripper
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
- Russia and the Soviet Union :The Rise of Stalin
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War

How might it be useful in the future?

- It will help you develop lots of skills that are valued by employers and universities such as logical argument and critical thinking.
- You will improve your communication skills, which are important in all subjects and careers.
- You will gain a respected academic qualification which is recognised throughout the world.
- You will understand more about the world around you, for example the complex relationship between USA and Russia.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

- What I like about History is that we study the really big events - where huge changes took place.
- The lessons go so fast and we are always doing something different.
- The behaviour in class is always perfect and it creates a great atmosphere for learning whilst having fun.
- I enjoyed History in Year 9 so much that I didn't want to give it up. I'm really glad I didn't.

Information Technologies: Cambridge Nationals

People who have studied ICT:



John T Stankey
CEO at AT&T



Martha Lane Fox
Co-founder of
lastminute.com



James Cash Jr
Board of Directors
for Microsoft,
General Electric &
Wal-Mart

Jobs you can get with an ICT qualification:

- * Data Analyst
- * Animator
- * Project Manager
- * Website Developer
- * Business Analyst
- * Technical Support
- * System Tester

What will you study?

This exciting course is designed to develop a range of skills to produce and document different projects using a range of software tools. Students also become aware about the impacts of digital technologies on the wider world.

This course is aimed at students who enjoy using technology and are interested in careers related to digital tools without wanting to be a computer programmer. It is a good choice for students who enjoy the challenge of learning new skills and are organised and independent to work on long term projects. Students need to be comfortable about writing long documents to show what is happening in detail at each stage of a project.

This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the creative use of information technologies. Units include creatively developing meaningful information for customer distribution, Collecting, manipulating/processing and storing data, Awareness of the importance of legal, moral, ethical and security factors, Project initiation, planning and review.

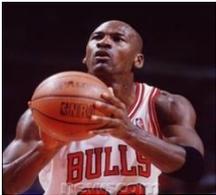
How might it be useful in the future?

This course will ensure that students develop a broad range of ICT skills which are required by most businesses and further education courses. It will allow students to progress to ICT courses at Level 3 and beyond. An ICT qualification is important in today's society where computers play a vital role in everyday life. This qualification will equip students to manage projects effectively and efficiently using IT tools and show future employers that they have a solid foundation in ICT and possess essential skills in the modern day workplace.

Compulsory Subject

GCSE: Mathematics

People who have studied Maths:



Michael Jordan



Carol Vorderman



Rachel Riley

Darra O'Briain

Jobs you can get with a Maths qualification:

- * Accountant
- * Engineer
- * Pilot
- * Teacher
- + more

What will you study?

At GCSE you will cover all the mathematical topics including Number, Algebra, Geometry, Probability and Statistics, Ratio and proportion. The course is split into 20 sections over 6 half termly blocks per year starting in year 9. You will learn how Mathematics can be used outside the classroom and you will gain problem solving skills that can be used across school.

How might it be useful in the future?

The vast majority of careers and college courses will require a good grade in Mathematics in order to apply and access them. Mathematics is used in most everything we do and use every day. Students must be able to leave school with a sound knowledge of Maths and be able to apply these Maths skills to everyday events to help them thrive in the ever changing Mathematical world.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

“Maths is involved in everything in life from domestic to business, which is why it interests me so much. The challenge that comes with solving the problem gets you thinking realistically and the feeling when you figure out the answer is why I love it so much”

GCSE Music

People who have studied Music



Adele

Craig David

Sam Smith

Emeli Sandé

Jobs you can get with a music qualification

- * Performer
- * Composer
- * Music Teacher
- * Music Therapist
- * Music Business

The list is endless!

What will you study?

Similar to KS3, you will continue to develop your skills in solo and ensemble performance, composition, listening and appraising music. You will study a range of areas of study including The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop. You will continue to develop knowledge of music theory, use of notation and general musicianship skills.

How might it be useful in the future?

It can lead you almost anywhere and develop important life skills along the way. Music is one of the best transferable GCSE subjects recognised by the Russell Group Universities so it is both enjoyable and really useful. This is because in music you will learn to work in a group; be creative and spontaneous; develop as an imaginative thinker; be a reflective and thoughtful worker; be confident and positive in your outlook; be independent and self-aware with the ability to self-assess; be a good self-manager; work to goals and develop an appreciation and openness to new experiences and ideas.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

“I like music because we learn so much about music from around the world and in the past. I learn about performing and the way you perform different genres of music.”

“I like music because I like gaining more knowledge about music and it gives me confidence to perform in front of other people.”

BTEC Music Technology

People who have studied Music



Ed Sheeran

Foxes

Hardkaur

Seal

Jobs you can get with a Music qualification

- * Performer
- * Song/writer
- * Music Teacher
- * Music Producer
- * Sound Engineer
- * Music Technician

The list is endless!

What will you study?

Similar to KS3, you will continue to develop your skills in performance, composition, listening and theory. As part of your Music Technology course you will complete a number of compulsory and optional units which may include Recording and Mixing Multi Track Audio, Producing Dance Music, Working With Digital Audio, Sound Design, Microphone Technique in Music Production, Sequencing, Performance, Composition, Music industry and Location Sound Recording.

How might it be useful in the future?

It can lead you almost anywhere and develop important life skills along the way. In music you will learn to work in a group; be creative and spontaneous; develop as an imaginative thinker; be a reflective and thoughtful worker; be confident and positive in your outlook; be independent and self-aware with the ability to self-assess; be a good self-manager; work to goals and develop an appreciation and openness to new experiences and ideas. Colleges and universities welcome music students with open arms, as they display a wide range of important transferable life skills and have proved they can show commitment and dedication to their work.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

"I like studying music because it allows me to make new friends as well as allowing me to experiment with my musical ideas."

"I love music because the teachers are nice and the course is fun. We learn about recording and working well together in teams."

GCSE: Physical Education

Core PE is a Compulsory Subject

GCSE PE is an option

People who have studied Physical Education

Jessica Ennis-Hill

Frank Lampard



Anthony Ogogo

Jobs you can get with a Physical Education qualification

- *Physiotherapist
- *Sports Coach
- *Personal Trainer
- *PE Teacher
- *Sports Journalist

What will you study?

5 lessons a fortnight – 4 theory, 1 practical

Theory = 60% of final mark – 2 written examinations – total 3 hours

Practical = 30% of final mark – practical moderation of 3 selected sports (see list)
1 team, 1 individual, 1 option

Coursework = 10% of final mark – design a Personal Exercise Plan

Course topics are:

- *Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- * Movement Analysis
- * Physical Training
- * Use of Data
- * Health and Performance
- * Sports Psychology
- * Socio-Cultural Influence

How might it be useful in the future?

The GCSE course provides a link into further studies including A level and BTEC level 3, and to degree courses including Sports Science and Sports Coaching. In addition to developing your subject specific knowledge from the course topics (listed above) you will also use transferable skills including independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills.

What Year 10 students say about the course?

“The course lets you understand in detail what affects a sportspersons’ performance. I have also enjoyed learning about the body in particular the heart, muscles and the skeleton”

“As well as the interesting topics we have learnt about, there are also good trips including the residential climbing and kayaking trips, and the visit to the University of Bedfordshire”

NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness



Career Pathways for Health and Fitness

- * A Level in Physical Education
- * Apprenticeships as Health Assistants, Fitness Instructors, Personal Trainers.
- * Exercise and Fitness instructors
- * Sports coach
- * Physical activity and sports science

What Will You Study?

Unit 1 - Introduction to body systems and principles of training in health and fitness - Externally assessed written examination - 40%

Understand the structure and function of body systems and they apply to health and fitness.

Understand the effects of health and fitness activities on the body.

Understand health and fitness and the components of fitness

Understand the principles of training.

Unit 2 - Preparing and planning for health and fitness - Internally assessed synoptic project - 60%

This unit provides learners with the knowledge and understanding to be able to prepare and plan for health and fitness. Learners will know and understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness and be able to apply health and fitness analyses to set goals. Learners will know and understand how to rest and develop components of fitness. Learners will know and understand how to structure a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely for health and fitness activities.

How might it be useful in the future?

This course offers the opportunity to gain an insight into your own learning style which you can apply all subjects areas you study to ensure you get as much out of your education as possible. Level 2 technical level qualifications prepare learners for progression into further education, employment or onto an apprenticeship in the health and fitness sector. In addition technical level qualifications provide post-16 learners with the knowledge and skills they need for skilled employment or further technical study.

GCSE: Photography

People who have studied photography

Annie Leibovitz



David Hockney



David Bailey

Jobs you can get with a photography qualification

- Medical photographer
- Portrait photographer
- Photo journalist
- Sports photographer
- Advertising
- Photo technician
- PR and promotions
- Forensic photography
- Photo editor

What will you study?

You will initially develop a coursework portfolio that will allow you to develop your creative skills, working in a wide range of styles to produce your own outcomes. You will have access to a range of specialist workshops to develop other skills such as Photoshop, mixed media and green screen. Outcomes can take any form so you can really develop your own passions and interests through portraiture, still life and landscape photography... the possibilities are endless! The coursework portfolio is worth 60% of your overall grade. You will also sit an externally set paper, this takes a similar structure to your coursework, ending with a 10 hour practical exam where you will create your final piece. The paper is worth 40% of your final grade. Written work and drawing are key areas of assessment and must be present in work to meet all the assessment objectives. All work from year 10 and 11 is submitted to create your final grade

How might it be useful in the future?

If you have a passion for Art, don't be persuaded to take a more 'useful' option – unless you want to or are good at it. If you have ability in a creative area: grasp it. Let it shine! Students that are multi-skilled are more accomplished, well-rounded, hireable and capable of outrivalling their peers in a much wider range of professions. Creative students often have a wide range of transferable skills such as analytical thinking, problem solving and dedication.

Total employment in the creative economy has increased by 5.1% creating 2.9 million jobs in the UK

New data shows that the UK creative industries are growing at twice the average of the UK economy

What do Year 11 students say about the course?

"Photography is a good course as you can express yourself through your work"

"Photography is a fun course to do, but at times can be quite challenging. I've enjoyed it since year 10 and hopefully you will too."

GCSE: Science

Compulsory Subject

***But those doing Triple
must tick Science***

People who have studied Sciences:

Darra O'Briain



Brian Cox



Stephen Hawking



Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Jobs you can get with a Science qualification:

- * Forensic Scientist
- * Electrician
- * Zoologist
- * Mechanic
- * Medicine
- * Veterinary Practice

What will you study?

In year 9 all students have already started the Combined Science GCSE topics that are the core topics and encompass the fundamental skills required in examination of the Combined Science specification. The topics are taught under titles within Biology, Chemistry and Physics areas. At the end of Year 9 students will be assessed in their investigative skills and knowledge of the topics in order to be grouped for the continuation of the course. This will lead to the one group in each band to then follow the Single Science route; it has more content and will be examined separately so as to give students 3 GCSE grades; for each Biology, Chemistry and Physics. For this reason, we expect these students to have one option blocked for Single Science. The other groups will continue on the Combined Science course which is examined across the three disciplines and will have their scores totalled in order to be awarded 2 GCSE grades; therefore, the spread of topics will be such as to underpin skills and knowledge across a wide range of topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How might it be useful in the future?

Your Science GCSE develops skills and problem solving techniques that you are able to apply to new situations. Many employers will be interested in your GCSE science results since these skills are vital in almost every job. Science can keep your options open by providing the opportunity to achieve GCSE grades in a respected subject but it will also allow you to carry on studying Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A Level if you achieve the grades required. Achieving the required grades at A Level could then enable moving onto high performing Universities and careers with huge potential in Medicine, Science and Engineering.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

'Science lessons and the science teachers have built my confidence and motivated me to get my best potential in my Science GCSEs

"Science is great! It is absolutely *electrifying*. You will develop great *bonds* with other students and teachers. Keep focused and don't let *gravity* pull you down. "

"Science is all about discovering how everything is interconnected and it's fun doing exciting experiments to further my knowledge of the world around us."

GCSE: Sociology

People who have studied Sociology

Russell Brand



Shami Chakrabarti

James Blunt



Martin
Luther King

Jobs you can get with a Sociology qualification

- * Legal profession
- * Civil Service / Local authority
- * Medical profession
- * Education
- * Social Work
- * The Police Force

What will you study?

- Social Structures, social processes/research and social issues
- Families
- Education
- Crime and Deviance
- Social Stratification and Inequality

How might it be useful in the future?

- It will help you develop lots of skills that are valued by employers and universities such as logical argument and critical thinking.
- You will improve your communication skills and understanding of society, which are important in all subjects and careers.
- You will gain a respected academic qualification which is recognised throughout the world.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

- “Studying Sociology has helped me to look at the world in a new and interesting way.”
- “We are always able to give our opinions about a whole range of issues.”

Sociology is an academic and challenging course which in part explains why very few schools offer this at GCSE. Like all subjects, the workload should not be underestimated and students should consider this aspect carefully before applying. However, if you feel you are able to meet the challenge, this course is both enjoyable and rewarding.

GCSE: Spanish



People who speak Spanish



Gary Lineker



David Beckham



Tom Daley



Gwyneth Paltrow

Jobs you can get with a Spanish qualification

- *almost **any** career in businesses that trade internationally
- * translator * interpreter
- *journalist *marketing & sales

What will you study?

- You will practise and enhance your language skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.
- You will study topics which relate to you and your life on a personal basis, e.g. teenage issues, work related themes, relationships, your personal dreams and aspirations.
- You will study topics about the world in which you live e.g. new technologies, the environment.
- You will have opportunities to study songs and texts by Spanish-speaking artists/writers.

How might it be useful in the future?

- You become smarter: studies have shown that learning a foreign language increases the functionality of your brain.
- Your English improves: learning a foreign language draws your focus onto the mechanics of language and the skills that you acquire make you a more effective communicator.
- It is estimated that the ability to speak a foreign can add 10-15% to your wage.
- For those looking to stand out in a tough jobs market or to add oomph to their CV when applying for university, learning a language could be just the thing.

What do Year 10 students say about the course?

- “I chose Spanish because I think it’s a good skill to have when I leave school and I am applying for jobs.”
- “My cousin took Spanish and she inspired me to take it. I love Spanish and Latin American culture. I would encourage people to take Spanish because it’s fun and something different.”
- “Taking Spanish has been fun so far, and I hope to progress and, one day, to be able to speak it fluently.”

ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

- Keep this paper copy as a record of your choices
- You will study 3 option subjects.
- You need to make a total of 5 choices:
 - Three first choices (1-3)
 - Two reserve choices (4+5)

You can choose any 3 subjects below but include one or more must be from the first column to keep your options broad and balanced.

Choosing from different areas will provide a broader curriculum.

Choose <u>one or more</u> of these	General	Technology	Creative / Performing	VOCATIONAL COURSE
French	Computer Science	Constructing the built environment	Art	BTEC Music Technology
Geography	Ethics & Philosophy	Design Technology	Dance	Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care
History	ICT	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Drama	NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness
Single Science	Sociology		Music	
	Spanish		Photography	
			PE GCSE	

Instructions:

Choose one or more subjects from the **first** column and put the number 1 in the box immediately to the right of this subject.

Place the number 2 for the subject you most wish to do from any of the subjects.

Place the number 3 for the subject you wish to do next.

Place the number 4 for the subject as your first reserve choice

Place the number 5 for the subject as your second reserve choice.

What to do now:

- Complete the online options form on the previous page
- Use the email sent to your school email account to set up your options login (the email will be from no-reply@sims.co.uk).
- Use your gmail as your preferred method to login (student/parent - your choice)
- Follow the on-screen instructions (pictures below to help)

- Lunchtime help sessions for students

Tuesday	}	19 th , 20 th , 21 st
Wednesday		26 th , 27 th 28 th March
Thursday		In A222

with Mrs Ramsay