

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL

Guided Choices & Options 2021



Dream, Believe, Achieve

GUIDED CHOICES 2021—2023

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Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils

As pupils move from Year 9 into Year 10, a degree of subject choice is open to them. At Great Torrington School, we are committed to offering a personalised curriculum and great care is taken in helping pupils to select the most appropriate combination of subjects for their future learning.

The information in this booklet will help you and your child with the decision making process and subject staff will be available during the Parents' Evenings to answer any questions you may have.

Further information is available on our website including links to a number of resources offering impartial advice and guidance.

I wish all pupils the very best at KS4.

Yours sincerely,



Jacqui Royse
Deputy Headteacher

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About your choices

The time has arrived to start making some decisions about your next two years at Great Torrington School and the courses that you wish to study. You are required to take certain core subjects, but this is your opportunity to choose to study others that interest you and will be useful to your future.

The following information in this booklet will allow you to make informed choices. Remember to follow the instructions carefully and take your time over the decisions you make. Most importantly, ask questions and remember this is **your** future that you are deciding on.

We expect pupils to make broad and balanced choices in the option pathway available to them. Students will be assigned pathways initially based on their current academic attainment. There is flexibility for them to take any of the subjects offered in the option blocks BUT they will be strongly advised to take subjects in the recommended pathway.

Subject leaders have each written an outline of what their option subject has to offer, to help you have a clearer view of what is involved in the course and how it is assessed. These pages will also help to answer some of the questions you may already have.

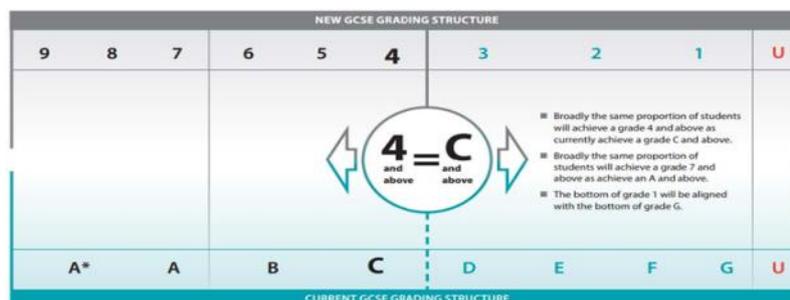
Your choices may affect your future career. So, think carefully! If you already know what you would like to do in the future when you leave education, ask about suitable subject choices. You will receive advice and support in PSHE/Citizenship/House Time lessons or you can email Mrs Leonard directly on leonard@gts.devon.sch.uk

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The New GCSEs

The main principles of the reform are as follows:

- GCSEs will follow a linear structure – all exams will be taken in the summer of Year 11. Resits **will not** be available (apart from in November for students in Y12 or above).
- Coursework will be removed from almost all GCSE subjects. Assessment will be conducted by external examiners as much as possible. Some subjects, such as Geography and the Sciences will retain a fieldwork or practical element, though this will be assessed within the terminal exam only.
- GCSEs will be graded using numbers rather than letters—grades 1 - 9 (9 being the highest and equivalent to A**)
- Tiered examinations (i.e. availability of Foundation and Higher level) will not generally be available. Tiers are being kept in Maths (where the Foundation tier will offer the opportunity for students to achieve grades 1 – 5, and the Higher tier will access grades 4 – 9).
- There will also be content changes in many subjects, for example the requirement that all students study a nineteenth-century novel in English, and other assessment changes, such as a greater focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar in the awarding of marks.
- There will still be vocational qualifications available. These will be awarded at Level 2 or Level 1. A Level 2 path will be equivalent to a GCSE grade 5-9 but will be reported as a Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*. These courses will usually have a high coursework content and a shorter examination.



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Making choices

A few things to remember when making your choices:

- * It is **your** decision! Do not make decisions based on the subjects your friends take in the hope you will stay in the same classes, we often have , more than one group for each subject.
- * Speak to others for advice and listen carefully to what they have to say.

You may want to speak to:

Parents

Older brothers and sisters

Subject teachers

Form tutors

Mrs Leonard

Heads of Learning

Older pupils in your tutor groups

- * We do not select the groups on a 'first come, first served' basis. This means that you shouldn't rush to make a decision. Take some time to consider what you want to do. BUT, if you do miss the 12th March deadline we cannot guarantee you your options.
- * Think about the subjects you enjoy in school already:
 - What makes them enjoyable?
 - What are your strengths, weaknesses? (Look at your Year 9 Report)
 - What do you think you are good at?
- Think about how the subject is assessed?
 - Is it all terminal exams?
 - Are there controlled assessments—how many and what % of the final grade

What happens next?

Fri 12th March 2021

Deadline for online applications to be submitted

Completing your online application for Guided Choices

Information on how to complete your Guided Choices application has is available on the website, under the Guided Choices tab. (If you have difficulty accessing the internet or experience problems, your child should contact Mrs Leonard or Ms Royse who will help them complete their application).

Once applications have been collated, the school will start to process them and your child will be informed by their tutor what option choices they have been given. This will be towards the end of the summer term.

We request that pupils do not keep asking the teachers or Heads of Learning about their choices as this is a fairly slow process and it will take some time before we are able to confirm the options. Where possible we will try to ensure that every pupil receives his or her first choices. However, on rare occasions this may not be possible, then they may be offered a second choice subject. If there are issues regarding their choices, you will be contacted at the earliest opportunity.

Pupils are able to discuss changes to their options once they have had their option subjects confirmed, especially if they have not received a first choice. We also allow all pupils two weeks at the start of Year 10 to make changes if they are very unhappy with their choices. This is rare and they are only able to move to subjects where there are still places. We advise that they ensure that the subjects chosen are ones they are truly keen to study.

All of the core provision	1 of the English Baccalaureate Subjects (Pink Pathway) 1 vocational (Green/Orange pathways only)	2 of the other high value subjects <i>*required to complete Ebacc (1x Hum, 1xMFL)</i>
<p>GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (<i>worth 2 GCSEs</i>) Or <i>Triple Science (Top sets selected to study GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics)</i> Core PE(non-examined) PSHE (NCFE RSE) Core RE Citizenship & Careers (Princes' Trust Level 2 Award in Personal Development & Employability Skills)</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>GCSE History * GCSE Geography * GCSE French * GCSE Spanish * GCSE Computer Science</p>	<p>GCSE History * GCSE Geography * GCSE Spanish * GCSE French *</p> <p>GCSE Design & Technology GCSE Computer Science GCSE Art & Design GCSE Religious Education (FBI) GCSE PE</p>
<p>GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (<i>worth 2 GCSEs</i>) Core PE(non-examined) PSHE (NCFE RSE) Core RE Citizenship & Careers (Princes' Trust Level 1 or Level 2 Award in Personal Development & Employability Skills)</p>	<p>GCSE Art & Design GCSE PE WJEC Level 1/2 Certificate in Hospitality & Catering RSL Level 2 Cert. in Performance/Technology & Composition for Music Practitioners RSL Level 2 Cert. in Creative & Performing Arts WJEC Level 1/2 Certificate in Constructing the Built Environment CNAT Level1/2 Certificate in Creative iMedia</p>	<p>WJEC Level 1/2 Certificate in Hospitality & Catering RSL Level 2 Cert. in Performance/Technology & Composition for Music Practitioners RSL Level 2 Cert. in Creative & Performing Arts CNAT Level1/2 Certificate in Creative iMedia WJEC Level 1/2 Certificate in Constructing the Built Environment</p>
<p>GCSE English Language & GCSE English Literature OR English Functional Skills (Entry Level 1,2 & 3) GCSE Mathematics OR Maths Functional Skills (Entry Level 1,2 & 3) GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (<i>worth 2 GCSEs</i>) or <i>Science Functional Skills (Entry Level 1,2 & 3)</i> Core PE(non-examined) Core RE PSHE (NCFE RSE) Citizenship & Careers (Princes' Trust Level 1 or Entry Level 3 Award in Personal Development & Employability Skills)**</p>	<p>Princes Trust Level 1 or Entry Level 3 Certificate or Diploma in Personal Development & Employability Skills**</p> <p>**Increase in content to gain larger qualification</p>	<p>AQA Unit Award Scheme (Entry Level 1,2,3 & Level 1)</p> <p>By discussion with Mrs Whiterod</p>
<p>PINK PATHWAY: MAX 9 GCSEs/equivalents</p>	<p>GREEN PATHWAY: MAX 8 GCSEs/equivalents</p>	<p>ORANGE PATHWAY: MAX 8 GCSEs/equivalents</p>
<p>YEAR 9 2021 OPTIONS</p>		

The 'core' curriculum

A broad and balanced curriculum

Great Torrington School ensures that each pupil undertakes a broad and balanced curriculum. This means that, in addition to pupils' option choices, there are a group of compulsory subjects for everyone. Each subject adds to the development of the individual.

Compulsory subjects (Core) include:

- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) or GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Biology & GCSE Physics
- PE (non-examined; unless chosen as an option)
- PSHE (non-examined; this entails the compulsory Personal, Social, Health, Careers, Citizenship Education that all pupils are entitled to)

Details of the examined courses are available in the subjects section of this booklet.

N.B: Curriculum Map

- A solid line indicates the available courses within that pathway
- Where a dotted line is shown, a choice may be made from the section **above** but not below the line

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Core curriculum - GCSE English Language and English Literature

All pupils will study English Language and English Literature. We will be following the AQA syllabus for both these courses. The course the pupils achieve most highly in - either Language OR Literature - will be double weighted, meaning that it will count twice in the pupils' progress measures. Both courses are 100% examination.

GCSE English Language

Overview

- Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing
- Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and perspectives
- Spoken Language

In preparation for Paper 1, pupils engage with, and analyse, a range of literature texts to consider how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques. They also write their own creative texts inspired by their study of literature. For Paper 2, pupils study non-fiction texts and develop insights into the ways writers express viewpoints and perspectives on themes and issues that are important to the way we live our lives. They also write their own texts in which they give their own perspectives on relevant themes and issues.

In addition, the pupils are also regularly assessed in their use of spoken language in a range of contexts. Every pupil will have to give a formal presentation and question and answer session as part of the course. This is a separate endorsement and does not count towards their final GCSE Language grade.

English Literature

Overview

- Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel
- Modern texts and poetry

Pupils will study one Shakespeare play and one 19th Century novel. In the exam they will be required to write about an extract from the play/novel and then to write about the play/novel as a whole. Pupils will also study one modern drama text and a range of poetry from an anthology produced by the exam board. In the exam, the pupils will also have to answer a question on an unseen poem.

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Core curriculum - GCSE English Language and Literature (cont.)

Literature set texts

- Shakespeare - Macbeth
- 19th Century Novel - A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens
- Modern texts - An Inspector Calls - J B Priestley

Preparation

Exposure to a wide range of literature, non-fiction and poetry texts is the very best preparation for the English GCSE courses. Regular reading, both in school and at home, will be enormously beneficial to every pupil. During Year 9, pupils will be introduced to some of the texts they will be studying for GCSE; they will also be learning and developing the key skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening, which they will need to succeed in these courses throughout their KS4 years.

Core curriculum - GCSE Mathematics

The programme of study will cover topics in number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. The work is a continuation and extension of the topics covered in KS3. Pupils will develop a positive attitude, confidence and competence in Mathematics.

This will be done by developing:

1. Fluent knowledge and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
2. Skills to acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
3. Ability to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.
4. Ability to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Pupils will demonstrate the ability to apply Mathematics to everyday situations.

Assessment: Pupils' work will be assessed continually during the course by means of internal tests. The GCSE exam consists of three papers and is sat at the end of the course.

Equipment: You are required to equip and familiarise yourself with the use of appropriate equipment, i.e. protractor, pair of compasses, pen, pencil, ruler and scientific calculator. You will have the option of purchasing equipment from the Maths Office.

Progression: A good grade at GCSE Mathematics will help pupils access Level 3 courses / A Levels at college as well as Mathematics A Level or other Maths based subjects.

Core curriculum—GCSE Science

All pupils will study a minimum of Combined Science GCSE, some pupils will be selected to study GCSEs in the separate Sciences. Pupils will be following the AQA Syllabus for all courses. All courses consist of 100% examination. Science will be taught as Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons for both Triple and Combined Science.

'Triple Science' (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics)

This pathway is designed to meet the needs of pupils who are considering an academic pathway in the future, and likely to include A level study in science disciplines. This involves more science learning than the Combined Science option. The demand of this course is that of three singular GCSE subjects and so requires dedication and organisation. Triple Science includes the same material which is covered in the Combined Science modules, but with extra content to extend the pupils' studies. This is examined at the end of year 11, consisting of 6 x 1hour 45 minute exams: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. There is no longer any coursework in any Science GCSEs; all practical work will be examined via the final exam papers, of which there are twenty eight compulsory practical's (across the disciplines) that will be taught to pupils, any of which will appear in the final exam papers.

Combined Science GCSE —Trilogy

This pathway leads to pupils gaining a qualification worth two GCSEs. The course consists of each of the three Science disciplines; Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each of which are examined at the end of year 11, consisting of 6 x 1hour 15 minute exams; two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. There is no longer any coursework in Science GCSEs; all practical work will be examined via the final exam papers, of which there are twenty one compulsory practical's that will be taught to pupils, any of which will appear in the final exam papers.

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The ‘English Baccalaureate’

To ensure that no pupil has a door closed to opportunities in their future we encourage our pupils to follow the EBac route if they are in the pink pathway. The EBac will still be the preferred combination of GCSEs required to be accepted to study at some universities; notably the Russell Group.

To achieve the EBac, pupils need to have attained a GCSE of at least a Grade 5 that fits into each of the following subject groups:

Basics <i>(All of the these)</i>	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature GCSE Mathematics
Science <i>(Either Combined Science or any two of the single Sciences)</i>	GCSE Combined Science GCSE Chemistry GCSE Biology GCSE Physics GCSE Computing
Humanity <i>(One of these)</i>	GCSE History GCSE Geography
Modern Foreign Language <i>(One of these)</i> <i>NB: under exceptional circumstances we will enter a pupil for other languages, eg: GCSE Portuguese, GCSE Latin, GCSE Russian, if they already have existing knowledge of that language. These would also count in the EBac</i>	GCSE French GCSE Spanish

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GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)

WHAT is the subject about?

This course is designed to stimulate and develop thinking processes and decision making and to develop manipulative skills using a wide variety of materials. The department strives to create interesting project work that is enjoyable and creative with elements of critical and contextual research. The aim is to empower pupils to become independent thinkers and creative individuals.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Because you are enthusiastic, self-motivated and interested in the subject. You will be working in an inspiring environment where you are keen to explore your creativity. Homework is an integral part to the success in this subject.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

We follow the AQA specification:

Unit 1: Portfolio work (Controlled Assessment) 60%

Unit 2: Externally set task 40% unlimited preparation time and 10 hours of sustained focused study.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Self-expression, creativity, vision, dreams, wonder and a sense of the world. Time commitment is essential.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Advertising, Interior Design, Photography, Architecture, Textile Design, Teaching.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mrs Kevern, Mrs Witney

Pupil quotes:

"I enjoy seeing my work develop into a finished piece"

"I am surprised at how my work develops"

"I can express myself"

"I am able to get on with my work; asking for help when necessary"

GCSE Computing Science

Computing Science Vs Information Communication Technology

Think of ICT as a professional driver and Computing Science as a mechanic. While a professional driver may know what is under the bonnet they focus on how to drive. While a mechanic on the other hand can drive (maybe not as well as the professional driver) but knows how everything works and what to do when something goes wrong.

WHAT is the subject about?

From traffic lights to space shuttles, self-driving cars to mobile phones, friends requests to the speed that an electron can travel down a length of copper wire. Computing Science is the study and development of all computer based technology, with a focus on networking, cyber security, computer systems and programming (Python, C#).

WHY should I choose this subject?

Computing Science is the fastest growing industry in the world, from software developers designing the latest apps and games to technicians designing multi-million pound systems and cyber security experts protecting people online. A GCSE in Computing Science is attractive to any employer that uses computing systems.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two exam assessments covering theory as well as a single controlled assessment. This will demonstrate your ability to develop a piece of software to solve a range of practical problems.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Mathematics and Science.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

There are a wide range of further education courses from A levels in Computing Science, Gaming Design, Web Development etc. as well specialising within this field at degree level and higher level apprenticeships.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Bryant

Constructing the Built Environment WJEC Award Level 1/2

WHAT is the subject about?

The WJEC Award in Constructing the Built Environment is a vocational qualification. It is designed to support pupils to learn about the construction industry from the build perspective.

WHY should I choose this subject?

If you enjoy learning through hands-on practical experiences alongside classroom based study then this course is ideal for you. You will need to be self-motivated, organised, enthusiastic to learn about the construction industry and enjoy working with tools. *If you choose this course you will be asked to make a £12 contribution toward the cost of materials and equipment.*

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Assessed through three main components:

- Safety & security (external examination - 25%)
- Practical construction skills (internally assessed 50%)
- Planning construction project (internally assessed - 25%)

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

If you enjoy problem solving and drawing on your knowledge from all curriculum subject areas then you will enjoy this course.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This qualification could lead to higher education in all aspects of the building trade as well as apprenticeships.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Walsh

Pupil quotes:

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RSL Level 2 Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts

Pupil quotes:

“Drama allows you to experiment and play around with different ideas”

“Drama improves your co-operation skills and boosts confidence”

WHAT is the subject about?

Drama is mainly a practical subject, which explores devised performances and scripted plays. The syllabus is called RSL Level 2 Certificate in Creative and Performing Arts. This focuses on performance, production and the Performing Arts Industry.

WHY should I choose this subject?

This subject develops life-long work skills such as team work, effective communication, confidence, leadership, creativity and planning.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The Level 2 Certificate requires one core unit and one optional unit. Skills studied can be any performance art form including Music and Dance.

The course is assessed through coursework and there is a final performance.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Drama, English, Modern Foreign Language, Physical Education, History, Faiths, Beliefs and Ideas.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Any career where you need skills to communicate and work effectively with others.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Pluckrose

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GCSE Design & Technology

WHAT is the subject about?

Design & Technology is the inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which prepares all young people to live and work in the designed and made world.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Design & Technology GCSE opens the door to a wide range of careers. Whatever you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. *If you choose this course you will be asked to make a £12 contribution toward the cost of materials and equipment. This will also cover the cost of your revision guide.*

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

A non-examined assessment will represent 50% of your final mark. The other 50% is from an examination in Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

If you enjoy problem solving, creating products and evaluating, then you will enjoy this course. You will also need to demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding in relation to design & technology.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The subject provides a route into a number of Level 3 courses and supports a wide range of career paths including; Engineering, Architecture, Product Design, Graphic Design.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Walsh, Mrs Fisher, Mr Grundy

Pupil quotes:

“Technology allows you to explore how things work”

“I love making things out of different materials”

“I have grown in confidence and really enjoy seeing my practical work develop”

“I want to be a designer of products that improves the quality of peoples’ lives”

GCSE French

Pupil quotes:

“Being bilingual helps to make you more employable in the future. Additionally, if you travel abroad you will be able to speak to other people. It also looks good on your CV as it is part of the English Baccalaureate which is required for entrance into some universities”

Jasper - Yr11

“Learning a new language, such as French, is vital. It not only means that you’re more desirable in a job interview, it also allows you to confuse your friends when you start speaking a strange language! It helps when travelling and allows you to broaden your cultural knowledge and career opportunities”

Nina - Yr11

WHAT is the subject about?

GCSE French builds on the skills and knowledge learnt in KS3 and develops your linguistic knowledge to be able to deal with everyday situations, express opinions and ideas in different tenses and understand complex texts and dialogues.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Modern languages form an integral part of the English Baccalaureate qualification. In a fast changing world, businesses, colleges and universities consider knowledge of a foreign language to be an essential skill. Trips abroad are also far more rewarding if you can communicate in the native language. In addition, it has been proven that learning a foreign language greatly improves your skills and knowledge of English.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Reading, listening, writing and speaking are assessed separately by examination.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to discover more about other countries and the ability to work independently as you will be expected to engage in a daily minimum of ten minutes of independent study.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The opportunities are endless for linguists! Businesses and colleges place great value on language skills. Speaking a foreign language will undoubtedly give you an advantage in every career path.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Miller, Mrs Mounce or Mr Anderson

Functional Skills: Maths, English & Science

WHAT is the subject about?

Functional Skills qualifications are designed to enable pupils to develop confidence and fluency in maths, science and English.

They equip pupils with the practical skills to get the most out of education, work and everyday life and to help them function more confidently, effectively and independently.

WHY have I been offered this subject?

To help support your progress in your GCSEs. These subjects help to build up your basic numeracy and literacy. These are skills essential for success in all GCSEs/ vocational qualifications.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Throughout the course. For Entry Levels 1 - 3

- ◆ Students should complete and submit **two** topics
- ◆ Externally-set non-exam assessment up to 1 hour 30 minutes
- ◆ 60 marks per topic, 120 marks per component
- ◆ 50% of Set Up to English

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

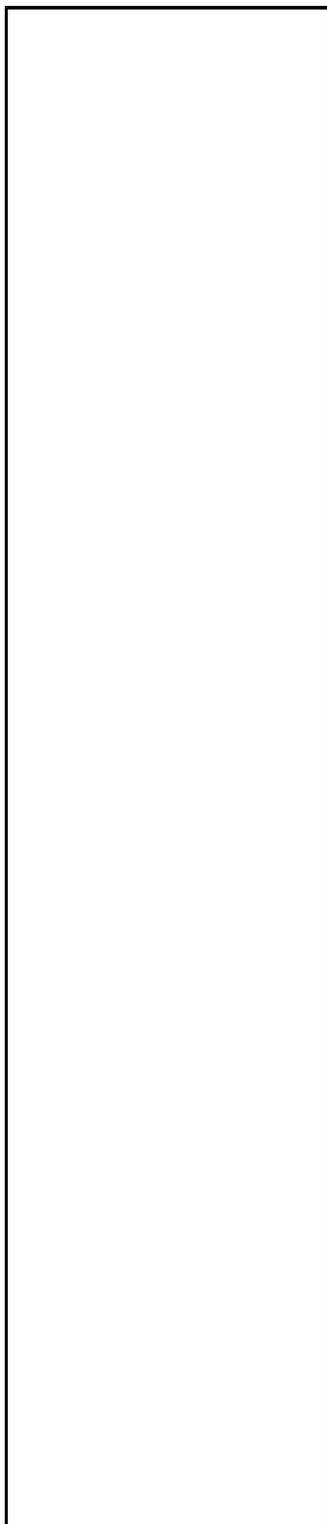
You will be given all the support you need to succeed.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This will help your transition to college. These courses can be built on to become Level 1 and Level 2 functional skills as well as GCSEs.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Whiterod will discuss this option with you and your parent/carer.



GCSE Geography

Pupil quotes:

"I enjoy finding out about different parts of the world"

Mark - Yr10

"It never gets boring"

Jack - Yr10

"The decision-making exam gives you useful skills for future jobs"

Caitlyn - Yr11

"I'd rather learn about the World's future and the changes ahead"

Vicky - Yr10

"I like different cultures and places and geography is linked to everything"

Charlie - Yr10

"I love Geography—you get to see the World from a whole new perspective"

Seth - Yr10

WHAT is the subject about?

Geography is both current and relevant. It is a subject that helps us make sense of the world around us. Many of the world's current major issues, such as climate change and migration have a significant geographical element to them. We learn about different places around the world, the environment, communities and the challenges they face.

WHY should I choose this subject?

The quality of teaching and resources, the support and advice throughout to suit all abilities. There are two fieldtrips;

1. Plymouth - looking at urban redevelopment
2. Westward Ho! and Northam Burrows - looking at coastal processes and flood defence management.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Three x 1 hour 30 mins final exams taken in Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You must have a real interest in things happening around the world and have good literacy skills. You will need to revise effectively and remember specific knowledge for three exams.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Geography links directly to Level 3 courses at college. Geography is also an extremely popular degree subject. The knowledge, understanding and skills learned at GCSE are useful in a huge range of careers and help you make sense of the adult world.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss Stephens, Mrs Moore or Ms Anstee

GCSE History

WHAT is the subject about?

The GCSE course is divided into three sections:

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-1090
- The American West, 1835—1895
- USA: Conflict at home and Abroad 1954-75 Warfare Through Time, c.1200 - Present (with London in the Second World War)

WHY should I choose this subject?

The course is varied and you will develop useful skills, understanding and knowledge. You will look at diverse topics from William the Conqueror and the Battle of Hastings to the Martin Luther King and the struggle for civil rights and much more!

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will be assessed in three exams:

Paper 1: Warfare and British Society (1hr 15 min)

Paper 2: The American West AND Anglo-Saxon and Norman England (1hr 45 min)

Paper 3L USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad (1hr 20 mins)

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Reading and writing is at the heart of history, so you must have good literacy. An ability to learn and remember facts is also crucial but most of all you must enjoy History!

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

You could use History skills in careers related to politics, journalism, law, film and media and many more.

WHO do I need to speak to?

Mr Cloke, Miss Withecombe or Ms Rollick

Pupil quotes:

“History gives you a better knowledge of how the world works” - Yr11

“History improves a whole range of skills: English, Geography, source work - it’s not pure History” - Jake I, Yr11

“History is the best subject if you want to extend your knowledge base and be able to explain current affairs” - Ollie L, Yr11

“The History department and its staff are incredibly supportive” - Yr 11

“History helps widen your range of knowledge about what has happened in our country and others, making the world what it is today” - Yr 11

EDUQAS LEVEL 1/2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering

Pupil quotes:

"I chose Food because I like cooking and enjoyed the subject in years 7 and 8. In KS4 you become more independent when cooking your dishes"

Sophie—Yr11

"I chose it because I liked it in lower school and I really like cooking"

Ellis—Yr11

"I chose this because you have the opportunity to cook what you want and it means more flexibility to find the recipe. The subject is interesting to learn and very enjoyable"

Aimee—Yr11

WHAT is the subject about?

The course offers a unique opportunity to gain knowledge of the hospitality, catering and food industries and develop practical skills. You will plan and make dishes considering healthy eating guidelines and catering for a range of diets. You will learn about; the function of ingredients and the importance of hygiene, safety and sustainability within the catering industries; the hospitality industry roles and influences on the industry and how external influences effect business outcomes.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Anyone with an interest in food who is keen to learn the skills and knowledge required for a career in the health, applied science or food and hospitality sectors.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Assessed through controlled practical task (60%); you will research, plan, make a range of dishes from a selection of set topics. The task will be started in year 10 and completed in year 11, with a final written exam (40%). **There is a termly fee associated with this course, currently £15.00.**

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

It is essential that you have shown a key interest in cooking and science at KS3, can work hygienically, safely and complete written tasks well.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Level 3 Catering/Hospitality courses and Apprenticeships; Degrees in Food Science, Nutrition, Food Teacher etc.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Fisher

CNAT Level 1/2 in Creative iMedia

WHAT is the subject about?

If you're interested in the digital media industry, developing a wide range of skills across a variety of units using industry standard software, including the Adobe suite, then you should definitely consider Creative iMedia as one of your possible options.

WHY should I choose this subject?

We cover a wide range of digital media skills and knowledge. Future employers look for staff to have formal digital media qualifications with up to date skills.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Split across four aspects each worth 25% of the final grade: three large controlled assessments and an end of course exam. Controlled assessments cover all aspects of digital media including research, planning, digital graphic creation and reviewing final pieces.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

ICT, Art and English.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

You could pick from an even wider range of creative digital media related subjects at college or university.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Bryant or Mrs Bryant

Pupil quotes:

"The iMedia course is great because it contains a wide range of computer media based challenges. You go from something as simple as visualisations to making your own graphics! A great course with something for everyone."

Daniel - Yr10

"It's good as it introduces you to working in digital media industry."

Billy - Yr10

"The course is easy to understand and contains a variety of computer based design skills."

Megan - Yr10

"I have really enjoyed learning Photoshop and creating professional looking graphics.."

Matt—Year 10

RSL Level 2 Cert Music Practitioner

Pupil quotes:

“I like studying Music because you can practice your own instrument or learn a new one; it is a practical subject that you can develop your understanding of music from around the world”

“I would recommend Music because you can take part in groups or solo performances and study new things”

“You should take Music if you enjoy taking part in a practical subject and have a keen interest in Music and wish to enhance and develop your skills”

WHAT is the subject about?

This year we are running a syllabus called Rock School Level 2 Music Practitioner. This is broken down into two pathways; Performance or Technology and Composition. You can choose which pathway options you focus on within the course. **Please indicate which route you wish to study: Performance or Technology and Composition.**

WHY should I choose this subject?

You can select areas of study which you are strong in and you can transfer the skills you learn to all other subjects. Not only this, the skills you develop will transfer into all future careers.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Level 2 Certificate requires two core units and one or more optional units. You would be expected to gain experience of performance, composition and technology by taking part in school concerts and musicals.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Maths, English, Drama, and ICT. You **must** be able to play at least one instrument or sing to a reasonable level. Moreover, you need to have a desire to improve.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

A Level Music, A Level Music Technology, Music BTEC Diploma, Music Production, Music Performance BTEC Diploma, Freelance Musician or Sound Engineer and many other jobs within the Creative Industries

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Robilliard

GCSE PE

WHAT is the subject about?

This GCSE is designed to embed and follow on from the skills and physical development learnt in KS3. It is most suited to pupils with an eye towards a career in PE or Sport as it leads well into Level 3 courses and A levels in PE / Sport.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Choosing GCSE PE gives people with a keen interest in PE the chance to study the subject in greater depth and detail. However, we cannot stress strongly enough that you need to be regularly taking part in competitive sport to perform well and score highly in this course.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will be assessed in three areas; a team sport, an individual sport and another of your choosing. This will make up 30% of your final grade. The theory element is split into two sections, each with their own exam at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 includes topics such as anatomy, physiology, movement analysis, physical training and the use of data analysis. Paper 2 includes health, fitness and well-being, sports psychology, socio-cultural factors and the interpretation of data within these topics. You will also be expected to develop a personal exercise plan based on performance analysis to improve your fitness.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

PE, English/Literacy and Science.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Level 3 courses or apprenticeships within the PE, Sport or Coaching/Teaching sector and then to university study.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Cooke or any of the PE Team

Pupil quotes:

'I really like the course, it's not just about PE and can help with life skills'

'I've enjoyed pushing myself and learning more about how my body reacts to training'

'I find the technology fascinating-looking at new technologies and how they have developed in sport is very interesting'

GCSE R.E.

Pupil quotes:

“It has given me an insight into other cultures and religions”

Caitlyn - Yr11

“You get to think about your own ideas. It has broadened my views on the world”

Joe - Yr11

“Many things in the world really concern me and FBI brings a lot of these to our attention that we otherwise would not think about”

Anna - Yr11

“It has improved my confidence—I feel comfortable in this class”

Megan - Yr11

WHAT is the subject about?

Component 1 - Religious Belief and Practice - An in-depth study of two religions.

Component 2 - Thematic Studies

- Religion and Life
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice
- Religion, Relationships & Families

WHY should I choose this subject?

Opportunity to examine a range of interesting and controversial issues. If you have strong opinions this is the subject for you!

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Two exams, both at the end of Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You need to be literate and be willing to justify your own views. An interest in moral issues and a mature empathy with different situations is essential.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

A/AS Level Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics, Degree Level courses. The knowledge, understanding and skills learned at GCSE are useful in a huge range of careers and help you make sense of the adult world.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Ms Sparrow.

GCSE Spanish

WHAT is the subject about?

GCSE Spanish builds on the skills and knowledge learnt in KS3 and develops your linguistic knowledge to be able to deal with everyday situations, express opinions and ideas in different tenses and understand complex texts and dialogues.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Modern languages form an integral part of the English Baccalaureate. In a fast changing world, businesses, colleges and universities consider knowledge of a foreign language to be an essential skill. Trips abroad are also far more rewarding if you can communicate in the native language. In addition, it has been proven that learning a foreign language greatly improves your skills and knowledge of English.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Reading, listening, writing and speaking by examination.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to discover more about other countries and the ability to work independently as you will be expected to engage in a daily minimum of ten minutes of independent study.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The opportunities are endless for linguists! Businesses and colleges place great value on language skills. Speaking a foreign language will undoubtedly give you an advantage in every career path.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Miller, Mrs Mounce or Mr Anderson

Pupil quotes:

"I chose Spanish because it opens opportunities around the world. It also means that I can do things I couldn't do before like understand Spanish when I go abroad, talk to people all over the world and do ski seasons in the future"

Tom - Yr9

"I chose Spanish because it's a very interesting subject and it can help me in my future. If you learn Spanish you're able to go to different countries and talk to and understand so many people."

Saffron - Yr9

GUIDED CHOICES 2021—2023

Guided Choices Form—Year 9 (a copy for your records)

Name _____

Tutor Group _____

Pathway: _____

English Baccaulaureate option _____

3 other subjects

EBac Reserve choice

1st Reserve choice

2nd Reserve

Parent / Carer Signature

Dream, Believe, Achieve