

HOWDEN SCHOOL



Year 10 Curriculum Booklet 2017



**HOWDEN SCHOOL
KEY STAGE 4 INITIAL PREFERENCE FORM 2017**

Name _____ Tutor Group _____

**This form must be returned to Form Tutors no later than
Monday 27 February 2017**

The completion of this form is the beginning of a process. Please fill in all the information required so that we can deliver a curriculum which is as close as possible to your preferences.

Option A		Option B		Option C	
Geography GCSE		Geography GCSE		French GCSE	
German GCSE		History GCSE		History GCSE	
Physical Education GCSE		Art and Design GCSE		Business Studies GCSE	
Fashion and Textiles Technical Award		Creative Digital Media Production BTEC		Health and Social Care Technical Award	
Music GCSE		Design and Technology GCSE		Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE	
ICT Cambridge National Certificate		ICT Cambridge National Certificate		Drama GCSE	
Triple Science GCSE				Triple Science GCSE	

Students need to choose **three** option subjects in total by placing a tick in the chosen subject box. You will also need to choose **one** reserve to be marked with an **R**.

To meet the requirement of the English Baccalaureate it is an expectation that at least one of the option choices be of one of the subjects highlighted in bold.

Please use this form in the curriculum booklet to make a copy of your choices and return the separate sheet to school.

Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to help parents/carers and students understand how the curriculum operates in Key Stage 4 and to provide information about the range of courses available to individual students. The booklet contains a brief outline of the curriculum, detailed descriptions of all subjects offered, and two copies of the initial preference form, one to be returned to school and one to be retained for reference.

Any student who subsequently needs a replacement form can contact their Learning Manager, alternatively forms are available from the Parents Area of the school website. Following the Year 9 Options Evening, the form is used to start the process of working out each student's curriculum. A copy of this booklet is also available from the web site.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 all students study the same subjects of the National Curriculum. In Years 10 and 11 students prepare for external examinations and the structure of the curriculum is different. Students need to follow a selection of courses which will lead to a successful outcome. The school's view on this is based on each student's attainment, effort and aptitude. In very broad outline there are two main routes through the two years of Key Stage 4, but each student's needs are considered on an individual basis.

<p>Academic</p>	<p>Students currently working at National Curriculum level 6 with the expectation of achieving higher levels (7 or 8) in at least some subjects by the end of the year should follow this curriculum. Many of this group of students entered the school with above average and high scores in the Key Stage 2 National tests.</p> <p>Students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, RE, Computing and additional subjects which would usually be GCSE qualifications. These students have the potential to achieve excellent outcomes, provided they are committed to hard work and maximum effort.</p> <p>The government believes that schools should offer a broad range of academic subjects to age 16 and is promoting the English Baccalaureate. This is not a new exam but a certificate which will be awarded on the basis of good passes in GCSE English, Mathematics, Sciences, a Language and or a Humanities subject.</p>
<p>Academic plus Vocational</p> <p>or</p> <p>Vocational</p>	<p>A more mixed curriculum is suitable for a wide range of students currently working at National Curriculum level 4 or 5 with the expectation of achieving level 5 or 6 by the end of the year in some subjects. By grouping students appropriately, it is also possible to tailor this route for students who will be working between levels 4 and 5 by the end of this school year. The majority of these students entered the school with above average or average scores in the Key Stage 2 National tests.</p> <p>Students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, RE and Computing and additional subjects which could be a mix of GCSE qualifications plus some GCSE equivalent courses such as BTEC's or Cambridge Nationals or entirely BTEC and Cambridge National courses.</p> <p>Excellent outcomes can be achieved by these students, provided that they follow advice and guidance as to which courses offer the best chances of success. BTEC courses and Cambridge Nationals have a different approach to testing than traditional GCSE's, with greater emphasis on ongoing assessment.</p>

The core:

All students follow courses in core subjects which are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computing and ECDL
- Physical Education

For English, Mathematics and Science, students will follow a course of study which leads to appropriate certification for their ability.

Compulsory elements of Careers Education, Citizenship and Religious Education will be delivered over the two years of Key Stage 4. All students undergo a period of work experience at some time during the Key Stage, usually during the summer term of Year 10.

Making Good Choices

Commonly asked questions

Q. What is the duration of courses at Key Stage 4?

A. All courses that are examined will be two year courses.

Q. How many BTEC/Technical award qualifications can I take?

A. We would advise that you take no more than three BTEC/Technical award options over the 2 years. This is because DfE have advised that they are not counting more than three BTEC subjects towards the Progress/Accountability 8 models and English Baccalaureate.

Q. How much are GCSEs, BTEC, and Technical award qualifications worth?

A. Qualifications and grades are worth points. Both GCSE grade 5 and a BTEC pass grade are worth 5 points. A Merit at BTEC is equivalent to a 6 grade GCSE and a Distinction at BTEC is worth the same points as a 7/8 grade at GCSE. Colleges and Universities will often ask for a capped point score where the top 5 or 8 grades are counted. This is why it is so important **to hit at least the target grade in each subject.**

Q. Who will I do my options subjects with?

A. Options subjects will be taught as individual year groups; therefore all lessons will only include students studying in the same academic year.

It is important that students do the following:

- Think carefully about their preferences and the reasons for their choices
- Discuss their subject preferences with their parents, specialist subject teachers and tutor
- Consider their strengths and interests
- Think about where their choice of courses will lead post 16 and beyond
- Have high aspirations about what you want to do in the future
- Think about where you want to end up in five or even 10 years' time. What do you picture yourself doing? What industry or sector appeals to you most? Which job can you see yourself in? Once you've worked this out, research as much as you can about the types of qualifications and skills you might need to get there

It is important that students don't do the following:

- Pick a subject or option because they like the teacher
- Pick a subject or option because it is the same as what their friends are doing
- Pick subjects that are very similar, i.e. GCSE PE and BTEC Sport being a good example. Both are excellent courses but together they don't provide you with a wide range of skills, knowledge and attributes.

Keeping parents informed

Students' progress is continually monitored by their subject teachers. You will be sent interim progress reports on a regular basis, currently five times a year. At the start of Key Stage 4 you will be invited to a Key Stage 4 launch evening with information on how the school and parents can work together to support the student. There will also be Parents' Evenings when you can talk directly to subject teachers.

The National Qualifications Framework and assessment

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) sets out the levels against which a qualification is recognised in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Qualifications are described by these levels. The qualifications described in this booklet equate to Levels 1 and 2. In general a Level 1 qualification is equivalent to a GCSE at grades 4 to 1 and a Level 2 qualification is equivalent to a GCSE at grades 9 to 5.

Grades are awarded in recognition of positive achievement and all subject specifications have to meet agreed national criteria. Marks are also awarded for good spelling and presentation skills.

Most specifications involve an element of centre assessed task in combination with some form of external examination; students need to be able to organise their time and resources and use homework effectively to support the work done in school.

The role of parents and carers is crucial in ensuring a positive outcome for the student, particularly in ensuring that students attend school regularly and complete work done outside school, including coursework.

The timetable for choices:

w/c 23 January	Assemblies for students: general and subject specific information
Wednesday 25 January	Year 9 Options Information Evening for parents/carers
Wednesday 8 February	Taster session evening for Students
Monday 27 February	Initial preference forms returned
Thursday 16 March	Year 9 Parents/Carers evening
Summer term	Course confirmation letters sent to parents/carers

At any stage during the process, if students or parents/carers have any concerns, they should contact:

- Mr Carruthers Assistant Headteacher and KS3 Learning Manager
- Mrs Issatt Assistant Headteacher and KS4 Learning Manager
- Miss Knight Deputy Headteacher

Course descriptions can be found on the following pages.

English Language GCSE: (specification to be finalised)

English Literature GCSE: (specification to be finalised)

GCSE English is an essential qualification required by all employers, further and higher education establishments. Students in Year 10 and 11 complete the course to develop reading and writing skills as well as improve their verbal communication in a variety of contexts. In addition to English at GCSE, we also teach English Literature to students who have the enthusiasm and ability to succeed in this subject.

You will study:

English:

- English in the Daily World: reading and analysing 19th, 20th, 21st Century prose extracts and non-fiction and media texts.
- Writing for information and ideas
- Literary Reading and Creative Writing based on stimulus

English Literature:

- A Shakespearean play
- A range of poetry from an anthology
- Post-1914 prose / drama
- 19th Century prose

You will learn:

- How to write for different purposes and audiences
- How to interpret texts and make effective use of quotations
- How to explore and compare texts
- How to analyse media and spoken language texts
- How to communicate in a range of situations in Standard English
- Preparation, revision and examination skills

Assessment:

There will be no internally assessed pieces of work. The two year courses will be examined in summer 2018. In order to prepare students for this new style of assessment in English we have planned regular mock exams in the school hall at key points during the academic year. This will be in addition to regular assessments and feedback by teachers during lessons.

There are two externally assessed examinations for the English GCSE and in addition, there are two examination papers for English Literature.

Mathematics GCSE: Edexcel 1MA1

Why study Mathematics?

GCSE Mathematics is a qualification that is required by most employers and is usually required for entry to further or higher education. To be successful in mathematics, you need to be able to think logically and work with accuracy and precision. Studying the subject at Howden will help you develop or improve these skills, allowing you to apply them to your studies and in the wider world. There are opportunities to develop problem solving techniques and basic skills that can be applied to further study in a range of disciplines, in the workplace and also to deal with situations in everyday life.

You will study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability and Statistics

You will learn the following skills

- Numeracy
- Logical thinking
- Problem-solving techniques
- How to apply your mathematics to real life situations
- Resilience and independence
- How to work collaboratively

Assessment is by Examination

Final GCSE assessment will be by three written examinations at the end of Year 11. You will be assessed regularly during the course, through 'open book' assessments that are linked directly to work done in class. You will be expected to use online revision resources to review and improve on areas of weakness and to complete homework practice tasks. More formal progress assessments will also be done 3 or 4 times a year to gauge progress and highlight areas for revision.

The most able students will have the chance to study for a Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (AQA specification code 8360), a course which extends beyond the standard GCSE mathematics course.

The summer 2017 examinations will see the introduction of a new grading system in GCSE mathematics. Higher level GCSE examinations will have a grade range from 4 to 9 and Foundation level a grade range of 1 to 5. The new grade 4 will be broadly equivalent to the old grade C, grade 5 to grade C/B and grade 6 to a high grade B, with grade 7 equivalent to the old grade A. The new grade 9 is intended to be available to only the most able students, namely those at the top end of the old A* category.

Please note students should provide their own scientific calculator, which can be purchased through the school if required, for use throughout the course.

Art and Design GCSE: AQA 4201

A GCSE Art student will be expected to:

- Work to deadlines and have high expectations
- Carry out regular extended work and homework outside lessons
- Be fully dedicated showing an enthusiasm for the subject
- Have a strong knowledge and skill of drawing and painting
- Be open-minded to new ideas, materials and techniques
- Persevere to follow a piece of work through to completion
- Follow all advice and guidance given by staff as they are your examiner
- Communicate ideas through verbal and written responses
- Be able to look at the work of other artists and make practical and written responses to it

If you have skills in Art and Design and are committed to developing these, as well as expanding your creativity, then you will be suitable for GCSE Art and Design. You will get involved in and work with a wide range of media applications. The qualification can lead to Art and Design related employment or to courses in Further or Higher Education. You will also develop your understanding of aesthetic principles that can be used in all areas of life, personal and professional.

Assessment:

There are four Assessment Objectives and all must be evident in both components in order to gain a mark.

Portfolio Coursework:

This is worth 60% of your overall result. You will begin working on this from **the beginning of the course** and every piece of work done counts towards the final grade.

Externally Set Assignment Task:

This is worth 40% of the overall result. You will be given a limited number of weeks to produce preparatory work for the task inspired by one of the starting points set by the exam board. This test will last for ten hours and in that time you will produce a final piece based on your preparatory studies. All the work produced during this time will be marked.

Business Studies GCSE: Edexcel

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more.

What will I learn?

While studying the first two units of this course you are likely to learn a lot of new things. You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. You will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage money. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Theme 1: Investigating small business

This element of the course counts towards 50% of the qualification, with a written examination consisting of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

The content covered will include:

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

Theme 2: Building a business

This element of the course counts towards 50% of the qualification, with a written examination consisting of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

The content covered will include:

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

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

Business courses can help you prepare for further and higher education such as AS/A2 Levels and BTEC and NVQ courses. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of team. A GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

Creative Digital Media Production: BTEC Level 2 Award

The BTEC level 2 Award in Creative Digital Media Production is the equivalent to 1 GCSE grade A* - C. It is a nationally recognised vocational qualification in the media sector and can provide a good progression route to more advanced BTEC courses.

The course is suitable for students with a keen interest in all aspects of the media who might be considering that as a career pathway, as well as for students who are creative and analytical. You must be prepared to be a highly organised, independent, committed and enthusiastic learner with competent ICT skills. You will also be expected to work frequently in groups. Students with a secure level 5 or above in English are best suited to this course.

You will learn:

- Research skills
- Media terminology
- Media theories
- A variety of writing skills
- How to plan, make and edit a short film
- Pre-production, production and post-production skills
- Evaluation skills

You will study a range of the units below:

- **Digital Media Sectors and Audiences (core unit)**
- Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product (core unit)
- Digital Moving Image Production
- Digital Audio Production
- Website Production
- Digital Publishing Production

Assessment:

Students are assessed internally at Pass, Merit or Distinction level for each unit completed apart from Digital Media Sectors and Audiences unit where you will be assessed by external examination.

Design and Technology GCSE: (New Specification)

Design and technology is part of everyday life and is constantly evolving. Our qualification focuses on developing practical skills within a particular material area, allowing students to manufacture high quality outcomes. They'll learn about commercial processes and careers in related industries, as well as developing core transferable skills, such as collaboration and communication.

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment.

Our new GCSE is a single qualification

The new GCSE places greater emphasis on understanding and apply iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

You will study

- Designing and making principles
- How to develop a specification for a product
- How to analyse existing products
- How to generate a range of design proposals
- How to research ideas
- Product development and planning
- Scales of production
- Industrial methods of design and manufacture
- How to select materials and components
- Materials management
- Working with tools and equipment
- How to evaluate products and suggest improvements

You will

- Improve your ICT skills and learn about CAD and CAM
- Use a wide range of CAM equipment including routers / millers / 3D printer and a laser cutter
- Develop your awareness of consumer requirements of a product
- Analyse products and the processes used to manufacture them
- Develop and make a prototype considering the consumer
- Work practically developing a wider range of skills, techniques and processes
- Learn how to work on your own and as part of a team
- Prepare for a career in a range of industrial practices

Fashion and Textiles Technical Award

The new Level 1/2 Technical Award in Textiles & Fashion is an exciting new course that enables creative students to learn relevant and interesting skills for future careers in interior and fashion design as well as costume and the arts.

The course is comprised of three units as follows:

Unit 1: Skills demonstration.

This unit is internally assessed and is worth 30% of students' overall grade. Students will demonstrate their understanding of 12 fundamental skills via several small products. The 12 skills are: Colouring fabrics, surface embellishment, fabric manipulation and shaping for functional and decorative purposes, joining fabrics, applying fastenings and components, decorative and functional edge finishes, sleeve setting, collars, combining materials, using a pattern/template, patch pockets and teamwork.

Unit 2: Extended making project:

This unit is also internally assessed and is worth 30% of students' overall grade. Learners will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. Learners will produce a made outcome in addition to a small portfolio to evidence the planning and development and testing and evaluation stages.

Controlled assessment example; "You've secured an internship at a small, home furnishing company. You will be working in the sewing room. Your task is to develop and make a cushion or wall hanging for a forthcoming trade fair to promote the company. The company is renowned for the individuality and quality of their work."

Unit 3: Fundamentals of fashion & textiles:

This unit is an externally assessed exam. It is worth 40% of students' overall grade and is comprised of two sections; the first is 20 multiple choice questions, the second is short or extended written answers. This unit covers the theory students will have learnt throughout the previous two units of work and is 1hour 30minutes long.

Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE has taken over from the previous Food Technology course. The new course is designed to help students develop their understanding of food products, with making of food products a vital feature of their experience of taking this specification.

This three unit specification requires students to develop their application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them. This course has 50% Non-Examination Assessment and 50% in one single examination paper of 1hour 45 minutes duration.

The Non-Examination Assessment takes the form of two tasks. The first is the Food Investigation task. Worth 15% of the total GCSE, this is a 1500-2000 word report based on the functionality of ingredients in making food. The second is the Food Preparation project worth 35% of their total marks. In this project students will research, design and make three dishes from a selection of three set tasks. This project culminates in a three hour practical where students will make and present their chosen dishes. The folder will consist of no more than 15 pages of A4 paper.

All Non Examination Tasks are to be completed in the same year of the examination. Therefore students will be able to develop their practical skills and understanding of food preparation and nutrition fully in Year 10, before undertaking the assessed tasks in year 11.

Drama GCSE: *Specification to be confirmed*

Why study Drama?

GCSE Drama is about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing Drama, you will also be able to acquire skills in working with others, problem solving and communication.

There are many things you can do with a GCSE in Drama. You could go on to take an AS or A level in Drama and Theatre Studies, or a Vocational A level in Performing Arts or a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts or Performance Design and Technology. A qualification in Drama is ideal for any career that requires good communication, group work and organizational skills.

You may wish to take a GCSE in Drama for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or as part of a range of other subjects, or you might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Drama. These might include careers in such fields as retail, law, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face. A qualification in Drama is ideal for any career that requires good communication, group work and organizational skills. The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career or job.

A key part of the Drama course involves working in teams and individually to create and deliver performances. This should be taken into consideration when considering this subject.

You will study:

- Character and Context
- Structure, Shaping and Plot
- Audience
- Defining Performance Space
- Improvisation
- Genre, Style and Convention
- The Semiotics (signs and symbols) of Drama and Theatre

You will learn:

- How to communicate
- How to plan by selecting and interpreting appropriate genres, styles and conventions
- How to develop your critical skills, through evaluation, analysis and reflection
- How to produce a written analysis of your practical work.

The structure looks like it will be as follows; 30% coursework based on improvisation from material provided by the exam board, 30% based on a script chosen by the center, including two performances. A written exam based on a script chosen by the exam board and a review of a live performance.

French GCSE: AQA 8658

Why study French?

Studying a foreign language helps you to communicate in the rapidly shrinking world and enables you to learn more about your own language. Once you have learned one foreign language, acquiring a second or a third is much easier. Knowledge of a foreign language means you get more out of travel experiences as well as learning about other cultures. For some careers and courses in Higher Education a foreign language is essential.

You will study French in relation to three themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Assessment:

You will take final examinations in each skill at the end of the course, which are each worth 25% of the final grade. Entry is available at either Foundation or Higher level.

Listening Paper: You will listen to a variety of stimuli, which are recorded onto a CD. There are pauses to give you time to write your answers. This is a 35 minute (Foundation) or 45 minute (Higher) examination.

Speaking Paper: You will participate in a role-play, undertake a photo task and have a general conversation. At Foundation it will take about 8 minutes and at Higher about 10 minutes.

Reading Paper: You will read material from signs, emails, web pages, letters, postcards, brochures, articles, narratives and literature extracts. There will also be a short translation from French into English. The examination lasts 45 minutes at Foundation and 60 minutes at Higher.

Writing Paper: At Foundation level (60 minute examination) you will need to write a message, a short passage and complete a structured writing task of about 90 words. You will also translate a few sentences totaling about 35 words from English into French. At Higher level (75 minute examination) there will be a structured writing task of approximately 90 words and also an open ended writing task of about 150 words. In addition you will translate a short passage of about 50 words from English into French.

Additional Opportunities:

It may be possible to gain a BA Language Flag Award in French. The BA Language Flag Award is the British Airways language award, which is used with Air Stewards and support staff to highlight their language skills.

There will be annual trip at Easter time to Disneyland Paris for students studying GCSE French.

There are language clubs and activities at various points throughout the course.

Geography GCSE: Edexcel Specification A

Why study Geography?

Are you interested in the world around you? Do you want to be able to make informed decisions about where to work, where to live and where to go on holiday? Are you concerned about the environment? Do you want to develop skills you will find useful long after you have left school? There has never been a better time to study Geography. It leads to a qualification which links to many other subjects and is highly valued by employers.

You will study:

- Various topics from both Human Geography and Physical Geography.

You will learn:

- Engaging and topical content
- A stimulating blend of traditional and contemporary Geography to suit students of all abilities
- the study of physical and human Geography in discrete, self-contained topic areas
- Map skills
- How to use ICT (Information and Communication Technology)
- How to collect and interpret data gained through fieldwork
- How to make decisions and solve problems

Field trips

You will have the opportunity to go on two field trips. These change each year but last year the trips were a coastal visit to Hornsea and an urban study of the city of York.

Where Geography can take you?

Geography fosters skills that are highly sought after by employers. There are a wide range of career areas for people with a Geography background including city planning, hazard management, market research, housing, retail, diplomacy, meteorology, civil engineering, conservation, travel and much more.

German GCSE: AQA 8668

Why study German?

Did you enjoy the German taster sessions offered in class? Would you like to learn a language but French isn't for you? Then why not try German.

Studying a foreign language helps you to communicate in the rapidly shrinking world and enables you to learn more about your own language. Once you have learned one foreign language, acquiring a second or a third is much easier. Knowledge of a foreign language means you get more out of travel experiences as well as learning about other cultures. For some careers and courses in Higher Education a foreign language is essential.

You will study German in relation to three themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Assessment:

You will take final examinations in each skill at the end of the course, which are each worth 25% of the final grade. Entry is available at either Foundation or Higher level.

Listening Paper: You will listen to a variety of stimuli, which are recorded onto a CD. There are pauses to give you time to write your answers. This is a 35 minute (Foundation) or 45 minute (Higher) examination.

Speaking Paper: You will participate in a role-play, undertake a photo task and have a general conversation. At Foundation it will take about 8 minutes and at Higher about 10 minutes.

Reading Paper: You will read material from signs, emails, web pages, letters, postcards, brochures, articles, narratives and literature extracts. There will also be a short translation from German into English. The examination lasts 45 minutes at Foundation and 60 minutes at Higher.

Writing Paper: At Foundation level (60 minute examination) you will need to write a message, a short passage and complete a structured writing task of about 90 words. You will also translate a few sentences totaling about 35 words from English into German. At Higher level (75 minute examination) there will be a structured writing task of approximately 90 words and also an open ended writing task of about 150 words. In addition you will translate a short passage of about 50 words from English into German.

Additional Opportunities:

It may be possible to gain a BA Language Flag Award in German towards the end of your course. The BA Language Flag Award is the British Airways language award, which is used with Air Stewards and support staff to highlight their language skills.

There will hopefully be an annual trip to the German Christmas markets, which is primarily for students studying GCSE German.

There are language clubs and activities at various points throughout the year.

Health and Social Care Technical Award

This course is suitable for students with a keen interest in personal development, social care and the different needs of individuals throughout all life stages.

The qualification is modular and is split into three units. One is an externally assessed exam and the other two are internally assessed through coursework.

Unit 1: Improving the well-being of an individual

This unit is internally assessed through completing different assessment tasks. In this unit the learner will:

- Complete a case study of a chosen individual
- Learn how to use a range of testing techniques to measure health
- Complete a plan to make lifestyle changes that could improve the health and well-being of the chosen individual.

Unit 2: Promoting health living

This unit is internally assessed through completing different assessment tasks. In this unit the learner will:

- Research into the aims, types and benefits of health promotion campaigns.
- Produce a review of a health promotion campaign.

Unit 3: Promoting health living

This unit is externally assessed through completing a 1 hour 30min written exam paper. In this unit the learner will learn:

- The stages and patterns of human growth and development.
- Expected development at each life stage.
- Life events.
- Sources of support/services for life events.
- Roles of professionals from the sectors who are involved in supporting life events.
- Definitions of health and well-being.
- Factors influencing health and well-being.
- Health measures.

Progression:

Completing this course will allow you to follow child care, health and child learning and development pathways at BTEC level 3 and equivalent.

History GCSE: Edexcel

Why Study History?

History gives students an understanding of why other people think and act in different ways. It also helps them to ask questions properly and to express their opinions.

What can I do with a History qualification?

History is a well respected discipline. History encourages students to infer information from sources and to recall facts. It demands strong written expression and the ability to look at different points of view. These transferable skills are highly valued in all careers such as Law, Media, Publishing, Accountancy and Education.

Is History for me?

Are you ...

- Curious about the past and interested in how people lived?
- Keen to develop your writing, research and analytical skills?
- Willing to share and debate your ideas?
- Most of all, do you enjoy History?

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment - written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes	
Content overview Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.	Medicine 1250 to present; students examine the ideas about the cause of disease and illness. The approaches to prevention and treatment and the role of important individuals. Study of the historic environment; context of the First World War, the medical injuries and illness experienced by soldiers at the front line. The treatments and care they received.
Assessment overview Section A: Historic environment. Students answer a question that assesses knowledge plus a two part question based on two provided sources. Section B: Thematic study. Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding.	

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study - written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes	
Content overview Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 Superpower relations and Cold War, 1941-91	Elizabeth's accession, the nature and extent of religious conflict. The challenges Elizabeth faced at home and abroad. The age of exploration. The origins of the Cold war, ideological differences. The crises that threatened peace, Berlin and Cuba and their resolutions. The end of the Cold war and the collapse of Soviet control.
Assessment overview Section A: Period study. Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. Section B: British depth study. Students answer a single three part question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.	

Paper 3: Modern depth study - written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes	
Content overview The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad.	Elizabeth's accession, the nature and extent of religious conflict. The challenges Elizabeth faced at home and abroad. The age of exploration. The origins of the Cold war, ideological differences. The crises that threatened peace, Berlin and Cuba and their resolutions. The end of the Cold war and the collapse of Soviet control.
Assessment overview Section A - Students answer a question based on a provided source and a question that assesses their knowledge and understanding. Section B - Students answer a single four part question, based on two provided sources and two provided interpretations.	

ICT- Cambridge National Certificate

From personal computers to smartphones, from apps to websites, all of our lives, every day, are enhanced through the use of ICT. The new **Cambridge Nationals in ICT** reflect this and provide students with a solid foundation for understanding and applying this subject in their future working lives.

ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. Cambridge Nationals deliver these skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

Unit and qualification results are awarded on a 7 grade scale with Pass, Merit and Distinction at both levels 1 and 2, and with a new grading of Distinction* at Level 2 to inspire students to achieve more. Student's performance on the units will determine their grade and level.

Cambridge National Certificate in ICT consists of two mandatory Units and two optional units; each unit is equally worth 25% of the student's final grade. See below for an outline of the wide variety of challenge available to our students in ICT.

Unit R001: Understanding computer systems (Mandatory)

A written exam paper, 60 marks (60 UMS), 25% of final grade. On completion of this unit, students will have gained additional knowledge and understanding, enabling them to use computers more effectively in a variety of different contexts. Their regard for their own personal data security and for the security of the data of others will be increased and they will be more informed users of computers, making them more effective participators in business and social life.

Unit R002: Using ICT to create business solutions (Mandatory)

Centre assessed task, 60 marks, 25% of final grade. Students will use a wide range of applications that are commonly used in the workplace and in further and higher education. They will develop an understanding of how to select the most appropriate software and to use tools to meet specific business requirements while developing skills to enhance documents of a variety of file types.

They will also learn techniques to search for, select and store information in a variety of contexts and how to select the tools and techniques to communicate information and solve problems.

Unit R005: Creating an interactive product using multimedia components

Centre assessed task, 60 marks, 25% of final grade. Interactive products are used widely in everyday life: visiting a website, ordering an online product, using mobile phone applications, viewing a presentation or playing computer games. Students will be able to develop and demonstrate their creative flair by combining multimedia components to create a vibrant, energetic or stimulating webpage or interactive product.

Unit R007: Creating dynamic products using sound and vision

Centre assessed task, 60 marks, 25% of final grade. 21st century technology such as gaming technologies, mobile phone apps, media marketing technologies and web-based technology make great use of dynamic specialist technologies that differentiate their products for the end user.

Students can focus on developing their expertise in music, video or animation. They may create products such as a music recording and/or mix, video news clip or animation for a webpage. This unit will give students the knowledge and skills to apply in workplaces such as the advertising industry, music industry and online marketing.

Music GCSE: (*Specification to be confirmed*)

Why study Music?

GCSE Music is suited to musicians who intend to /are considering taking this subject to further education. Musicians on the GCSE course will already have established skills on an instrument and will be taking instrumental tuition or will have displayed a large amount of flair during Key Stage 3. This option will give a broad overview of elements of Music – developing skills in all areas: Performance, Composition and Listening & Appraising.

Component 1: Performing (30%)

You will create performances totaling 4 minutes in duration played on your main instrument or a combination of you have more than 1 (i.e: Voice & Guitar). You must have at least **1 Solo** and **1 Ensemble** performance within these 4 minutes.

Component 2: Composing (30%)

You will be required to compose *TWO* pieces of music of at least 3 minutes (combined duration). Both compositions will be notated in music notation and recorded for submission.

- **Composition One:** Theme is set by the exam board each year.
- **Composition Two:** Free composition in any style of your choice.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

You will sit a 1 hour 45 minute exam paper which is music-theory based.

1 hour will be a listening test with questions based on the following Areas of Study:

Section A:

- Comprises of 6 questions related to Set Works (musical pieces) you will study in depth during the course.
- 1 short melody / rhythm completion exercise.
- One question on an unfamiliar piece of music.

Section B:

- In this part of the exam you will be required to complete an extended response between a set work you have studied during the course and one unfamiliar piece of work.

A CD will play the set work being questioned a set number of times during the examination.

Physical Education: core course for all students

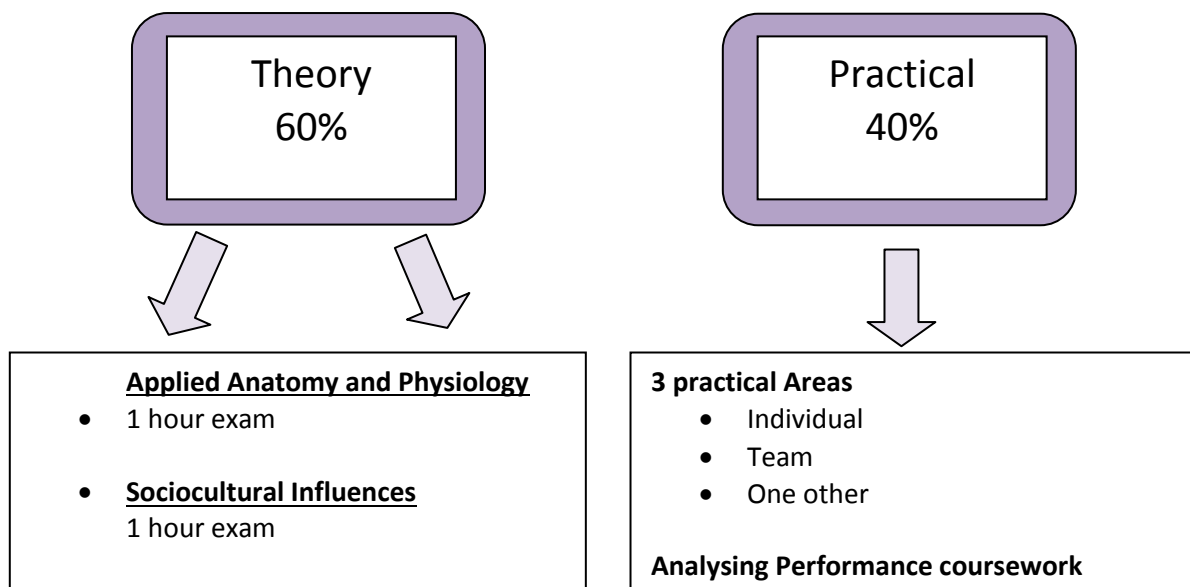
The course reflects a range of sporting activities that can encourage young people to actively pursue an interest in physical activity and lead a healthy lifestyle beyond school. It includes traditional team sports such as football, netball, rugby and rounders and activities such as trampolining, boxercise, volleyball, zumba, HITT and the fitness suite.

All students currently take part in one hour of Physical Education per week; they are expected to wear clothing suitable for the activity as described in the school prospects and student planner.

Physical Education GCSE: OCR

Why study GCSE Physical Education?

It is important to note that the GCSE PE specification has changed with a higher percentage now focused on the theory element of the course.



Students opting for this course should match at least some of the following criteria:

- Be a naturally talented sports performer who plays sport at a good standard outside of school. The exam board states a list of credited sports that can be studied in the final assessment
- A student who would enjoy the opportunity of studying both the practical and theoretical aspects of games
- Students who may be considering employment in an area where a knowledge of Physical Education would be an advantage
- Students who are equipped to deal with assessment by examination, rather than continuous assessment

Practical

The practical element is assessed in terms of a student's ability to perform effectively under applied conditions in three selected activities. Students are also assessed in terms of:

- Range of skills
- Quality of Skills
- Physical attributes
- Decision Making

Theory

The theory section is two papers lasting 1 hour. The aims of the papers are for students to show their understanding, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations and to recall facts. The papers are split into multiple choice questions and open ended questions. The theory stands for 60% of the GCSE grade.

Sciences Combined GCSE: AQA - Trilogy

This course will be taken by students who do not choose option Science. It covers some of the same principles of biology, chemistry and physics covered in the Option Science course but focuses in particular on how scientific developments impact upon society.

Students will also spend a significant amount of time developing their practical and analytical skills. Researching ideas, designing investigations, collecting and interpreting data and presenting findings are all important aspects of science. ICT is used to assist in these activities.

GCSE Combined Science topics include:

Biology

Cell Biology
Organisation
Infection and response
Bioenergetics
Homeostasis and response
Inheritance, variation and evolution

Chemistry

Atomic structure and the periodic table
Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
Quantitative chemistry
Chemical analysis
Chemistry of the atmosphere
Using resources

Physics

Energy
Electricity
Particle model of matter
Atomic structure
Forces
Waves
Magnetism and electromagnetism

Assessment

The course is assessed with 100% externally set exams. There are 6 exams in total for this course and each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes. The coursework element has been replaced in Science by exam questions which will test students understanding of how to work scientifically. To prepare students for these exam questions we will complete 15 required practical's in lesson time which many of the exam questions will be based on.

This course will lead to a double award GCSE and each student will be awarded 2 grades. This specification provides students with a solid foundation for progression to A-level sciences.

Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) GCSE: AQA

Course requirements:

Science Key Stage 3 at PP3+ or above.

This is an ideal option for any students who are considering studying Sciences at 'A' level. Anyone with ambitions to follow a Science based career such as healthcare professions, doctor, vet, engineering, RAF, chemistry etc. would be well advised to choose this option.

Course Description:

Students who choose to follow the triple science course will complete some of the same topics covered in Combined Science but there additional units for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Cell biology Organisation Infection and response Bioenergetics Homeostasis and response Inheritance, variation and evolution Ecology	Atomic structure and the periodic table Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter Quantitative chemistry Chemical changes Energy changes The rate and extent of chemical change Organic chemistry Chemical analysis Chemistry of the atmosphere Using resources	Forces Energy Waves Electricity Magnetism and electromagnetism Particle model of matter Atomic structure Space Physics

Assessment and progression:

The course is assessed with 100% externally set exams. There are 9 exams in total for this course and each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes. There will be 3 exams for each subject. As with Combined Science the coursework has been replaced by exam questions which will test students understanding of how to work scientifically. To prepare students for these exam questions we will complete 24 practical's in lesson time which the exam questions will be based on.

This will lead to a Triple award GCSE. This specification is designed to help students progress to A-level sciences.