Year 8 Options

A guide to constructing your option subject pathway

2025 – 2028

LANDAU FORTE COLLEGE DERBY

Contents

Introduction to the Year 9 to 11 Curriculum

As students' progress into Year 9 they begin studying the courses which lead to the awarding of GCSE and/or vocational qualifications at the end of Year 11. Students in Year 8 have now reached the point where they are going to begin choosing the subjects they are going to study from the beginning of next year.

Since January, students have been thinking about their skills, interests and aspirations with their Learning for Life learning tutor. Next term the Year 8 options process will be formally launched to students in a gathering. They will be introduced to the idea of a personalised curriculum, and will be encouraged to talk to their parent/carers, their tutors and friends. They will be advised to build a curriculum pathway that suits their learning style and will help them to fulfil their future ambitions.

At Landau Forte College we offer a curriculum for our students that will provide progression from their studies in Year 8 and continuity through to Sixth Form.   We will provide a range of appropriate qualifications for students according to their individual needs and abilities. For the majority of students their studies will be recognised through GCSEs and, for some, vocational qualifications. All students will follow a core curriculum but will also have a degree of choice in additional areas of study.

We have designed a curriculum which will meet the requirements expected nationally and provide industrial, business and international contexts for learning. All students will experience work related learning through the curriculum and the work placement programme.

Through the curriculum, students will develop extensive knowledge and understanding, increasing their competence in a wide range of skills, ensuring that they are equipped to progress into Sixth Form education or an apprenticeship scheme and, eventually, higher education or employment.

This booklet is designed to support the process. Please read and discuss the following pages carefully. Additional information can be found on the College website (https://landau-forte.org.uk/curriculum/key-stage-4-curriculum/). The College will support you and your child throughout the process of choosing their option subjects, and will communicate at key points. However if you have further questions, please do get in contact with your child's Personal Tutor or myself (dbloomfield@landau-forte.org.uk).
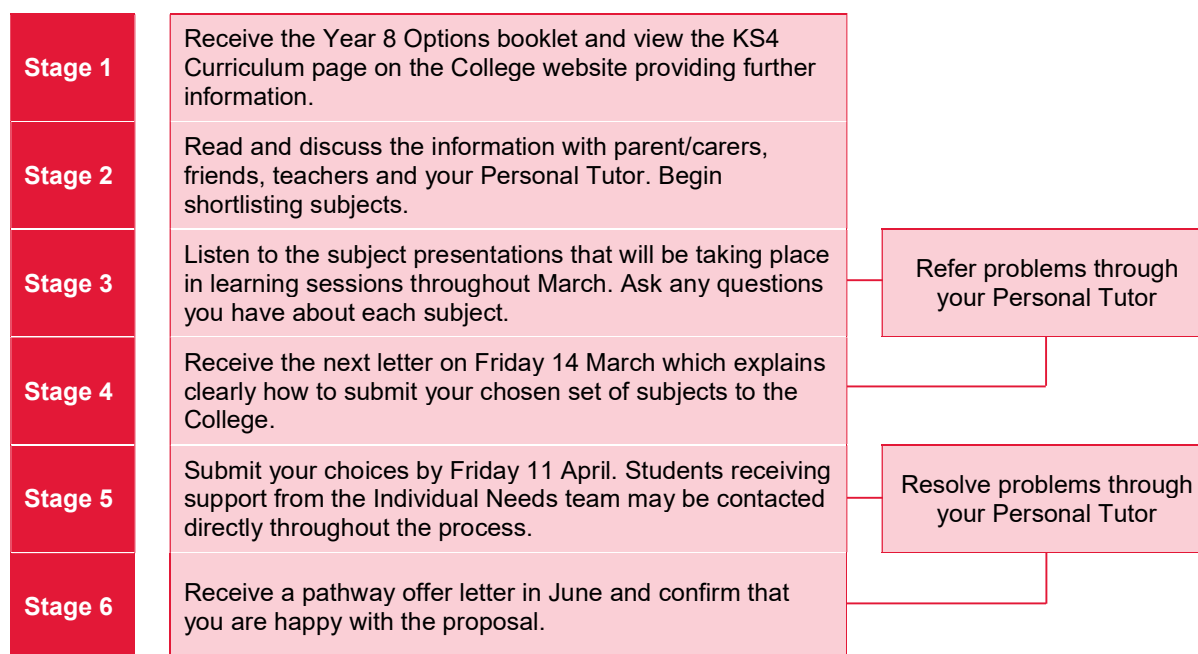

M D Bloomfield
Assistant Principal, with responsibility for pathway process

Summary of courses offered

Students can choose from the following list of courses, details of which follow in this booklet:

GCSE Art & Design

GCSE Business

GCSE Computer Science

GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE French

GCSE Geography

GCSE German

GCSE History

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Spanish

BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Practice

OCR Creative iMedia Level 1/2 Award

WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering

How does the Year 8 pathway process work?

Stage 1	Receive the Year 8 Options booklet and view the KS4 Curriculum page on the College website providing further information.
Stage 2	Read and discuss the information with parent/carers, friends, teachers and your Personal Tutor. Begin shortlisting subjects.
Stage 3	Listen to the subject presentations that will be taking place in learning sessions throughout March. Ask any questions you have about each subject.
Stage 4	Receive the next letter on Friday 14 March which explains clearly how to submit your chosen set of subjects to the College.
Stage 5	Submit your choices by Friday 11 April. Students receiving support from the Individual Needs team may be contacted directly throughout the process.
Stage 6	Receive a pathway offer letter in June and confirm that you are happy with the proposal.

Refer problems through your Personal Tutor

Resolve problems through your Personal Tutor

An overview of your options

CORE CURRICULUM

ALL study

GCSE Mathematics	GCSE English	GCSE Combined Science
	AND	*OR FOR SOME*
	GCSE English Literature	GCSE Separate Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)

ENHANCED CORE CURRICULUM

ALL participate in

- Creativity & World Studies (Year 9 only)
- Learning for Life
- Core PE

ALL study **one*** from

- GCSE Geography

OR

- GCSE History

ALL choose **one*** from

- GCSE French

OR

- GCSE German

OR

- GCSE Spanish

*A second Humanities subject or Modern Foreign Language can be selected from the Additional Curriculum below.

ADDITIONAL CURRICULUM

Choose four from the list below (in order of preference) and you will be allocated **two**

GCSE Art & Design
GCSE Business
GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Design and Technology
GCSE French
GCSE Geography
GCSE German

GCSE History
GCSE Physical Education
GCSE Religious Studies
GCSE Spanish
BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Practice
OCR Creative iMedia Level 1/2 Award
WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering

What is the Core Curriculum?

English & Mathematics

All students will continue to study English and Mathematics in Years 9, 10 and 11. Students will study both English Language and English Literature leading to the award of two separate GCSEs.

Science

All students will continue to study Science in Year 9, 10 and 11.

Most students will study Combined Science, which leads to two GCSE grades, and includes topics from Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Some students will study Separate Science, which leads to the separate awards of GCSE Physics, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Biology. A decision as to whether your child will study Separate Science or Combined Science will not be made until the end of Year 9, and then reviewed throughout Year 10 and 11.

What is the Enhanced Core Curriculum?

Humanities

All students will study a Humanities subject as part of their enhanced core curriculum choosing **one** from either Geography or History (*although only one Humanities subject is being chosen at this point, it is possible to study both as explained in the Additional Curriculum section below*).

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

All students will select a MFL choosing **one** from the following: French, German or Spanish (*although only one MFL subject is being chosen at this point, it is possible to study more than one, as explained in the Additional Curriculum section below*).

It is our intention that the majority of students will study a Modern Foreign Language. This forms a government-mandated suite of GCSE subjects that includes English, Maths, Sciences, Modern Foreign Languages, History and Geography (known as the English Baccalaureate or EBacc). The Department for Education has stated its aim is for 90% of pupils in England to study the EBacc suite of subjects.

The College, when constructing your child's pathway, will make the decision as to whether your child will study a MFL.

Creativity – Year 9 only

All students will participate in a Creativity programme based around the subjects of Careers, Performing Arts and Technology. The purpose of this is to enable students to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum, where students can continue to develop important key skills and creative flair.

World Studies – Year 9 only

All students will participate in a programme based around our local community and national/global issues. Students will take part in collaborative projects (History and Geography) while also developing their understanding within Religious Education (Values).

Learning for Life

All students will take part in this programme, which includes: personal, social and health education, careers information education and guidance, religious and moral education and the Work Placement programme. The course includes a range of projects, guest speakers, charity work, educational visits and a one week Work Placement in Year 10. Students will be required to demonstrate initiative, planning and preparatory skills, teamwork and independence of thought. Each of the projects undertaken will be developed through student-led initiatives and ideas. It has a flexible approach to delivery allowing students to lead their own learning.

Core PE

All students will continue to take part in Physical Education, including the opportunity to gain accreditation as a sports leader. This is in addition to the option that students have to choose a GCSE in Physical Education.

Personal Tutorial Programme

The student's Personal Tutor continues to be the important first point of contact for parents. Organisation and time management are crucial in Year 9, 10 and 11, so it is vital that students plan their learning effectively, and these key skills are developed at Tutor Time.

What is the Additional Curriculum?

All students choose **four** subjects from the additional curriculum (see next page), in order of preference.

Students will be allocated <u>two out of the four</u> subjects they have chosen.

Wherever possible students will be allocated their first two preferences. However where this is not possible, for example if a particular course becomes over-subscribed, subjects will be allocated according to their third or fourth choices.

It is therefore vital that not only are students willing to study any of the four subjects they choose but also that they place the four subjects in order of preference.

How do I select the courses I want to study?

The first stage involves discussing your options with family, friends and teachers. Once you have chosen the subjects you would like to study it is time to let us know what you have decided.

For most students an online options form will be completed at home and submitted. Some students, particularly those who work closely with the Individual Needs team, will complete this at College with the support of a member of staff. We will let you know nearer the time how we would like you to complete the form.

The process of completing the online form (in order)

1. You will enter the Humanities subject from the enhanced core curriculum (Geography or History) that you would most want to study.

2. You will enter the Modern Foreign Language that you would prefer to study (French, German or Spanish). Most students should expect to study a language.

3. You will enter a further four subjects from the additional curriculum that you would be happy to study. Remember this can include the other Humanities or Modern Foreign Language subject that you didn't select above. From the four you choose, you will be allocated two. You must choose these in order of preference.

4. You will then be asked to provide some information about any career and education intentions that you may have once you have completed Year 11.

Where to find the online form

From Friday 14 March you will receive a letter explaining clearly how to complete the online options form. The form needs completing by Friday 11 April 2024. The letter provides a link to the form, and an explanation of how to complete it. It is important to note that once you submit the form, and are subsequently issued with your chosen pathway, changes can only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Remember who can offer advice

Good luck with making some key decisions about the next phase of your learning and don't forget who is around to offer advice:

- Personal Tutor and Learning Tutors

- Miss D Ricketts (Head of Year) and Mrs R Bowley-Haynes (Deputy Head of Year)

- Mr W Goring (SENCO)

- Mr D Bloomfield (Assistant Principal, with responsibility for the Year 8 pathways process)

- Parents/Carers and other family members

What happens after I have submitted the form?

Once the options form has been submitted we will begin creating the individual pathways for students, endeavouring wherever possible to allocate subjects as closely as possible to those chosen.

We will write to you in June with a provisional offer, and you will be able to confirm that you are happy with the pathway being proposed. Any issues with the provisional offer will be dealt with before a final letter in late July which will confirm the finalised pathway for each student.

At this point the pathway process has concluded.

GCSE Art & Design

Students studying art develop knowledge, skills, and understanding along with creativity and imagination. You then show this through your responses to a range of visual and written stimuli. You will gain insight into a range of contextual sources, the practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries.

Content

You will be introduced to a wide variety of working processes and media.

These include:

- Methods of recording
- Drawing and painting
- Printing
- Exploring 2D, 3D and mixed media

Learning

In Year 9 & 10 you will develop the use of materials, techniques and processes together with knowledge and understanding of Fine Art including the development of a concept. This will be delivered through extended projects. Before you move into Year 11, you will begin a sustained project which will form your Portfolio. You will also complete one further project responding to an externally set theme as your Externally Set Task.

There are four main areas of study:

- Exploring others' work
- Experimentation, development & refinement
- Visual Recording
- Making final outcomes and presentation

Assessment

There are two areas of assessment: You will submit selected evidence of as sustained project for all of the areas shown above for both Portfolio which is 60% of the total GCSE and the Externally Set Task which is 40% of the total GCSE. Both components are 10% non-exam assessment internally marked and externally moderated.

Future Pathways

Students will be equipped to progress onto A Level Art & Design.

GCSE Business

GCSE Business provides learners with a holistic understanding of the skills, challenges and requirements for an effective business. The subject contextualises learning to include real life business situations to improve your commercial thinking, economic knowledge and future employability. Learners will become informed of the business world with regard to entrepreneurism, the economic landscape and social environment. These will allow learners to approach business opportunities with an understanding of ethical considerations and corporate responsibility. Within the course learners will acquire a range of relevant business skills including decision making, problem solving and critical analysis.

Content

During the course, you will study two main themes:

- **Theme 1 - Investigating Small Business**

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. Students will be introduced to local and national business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these business contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.

The theme consists of five topics: 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**

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of global business, marketing, operations management, finance and human resources.

The theme consists of five topics: Growing the business; Making marketing decisions; Making operational decisions; Making financial decisions; Making human resources decisions.

Learning
You will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about a range of small and start-up, national and multinational corporations through the use of case studies and research.

- Consider the benefits and problems of starting up a business and the impact of external factors like economic variables such as interest and exchange rates, taxation and inflation.

- Make informed decisions based on business concepts and a wide variety of real-world case studies.

Assessment

- 100% examination – 2 written examinations each of 1 hour and 45 minutes.

- The papers consist of calculations, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Future Pathways

Students will be well equipped to progress onto A-Level Business at post-16.

GCSE Computer Science

Computer Science gives learners a real, in-depth understanding of how technology works. It provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in Computing and develops critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills.

Content

A GCSE in Computer Science will encourage students to be inspired and challenged and will enable candidates to:

- Develop their understanding of computer systems and computational thinking including system architecture; security; software as well as, the understanding of networks and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

- Acquire and apply knowledge, technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of IT.

- Make informed decisions about the use, and be aware of the implications, of different technologies, acquiring and applying creative and technical skills, knowledge and an understanding of computer science in a range of contexts.

- Create computer programs to satisfy a range of end user criteria while developing the skills to work collaboratively. Students will in addition, evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to, the use of computer technology in society.

The material studied will cover the fundamentals of a computer system: Systems Architecture, Memory, Storage, Wired and wireless networks, Network topologies, protocols and layers; System security, System software and Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns. In addition, the course will cover the use of computational thinking in developing the understanding of: Algorithms, Programming techniques, Producing robust programs, Computational logic, Translators and facilities of languages and Data representation.

Learning

This course will cover a wide variety of theoretical and practical learning activities and will develop programming and thinking skills alike. It will have a strong Mathematics focus and will link academic principles to real world systems in an exciting and challenging manner.

Assessment

The Computer Science course is assessed by two written papers (1 ½ hours), which have a mixture of short and long answer questions, some of which require students to write their own code.

Future Pathways

Students will be equipped to progress onto A Level Computer Science as well as the opportunity to achieve a grade in a subject that will make candidates highly appealing to any future employer.
This course will open the door to a number of possible careers like Accountancy, Engineering, Game Development, Data Science, Sports Analytics and Entrepreneurship.

GCSE Design and Technology

This Design and Technology course will focus on the use of resistant materials such as wood, metals and plastics as well as the use of electronic and model making materials. Student will use a mix of modern technologies such as CAD CAM and traditional technologies to create innovative products.

Design and Technology covers concept generation and development, manufacture, evaluation and testing. The role of a product designer covers many characteristics of the marketing manager, product manager, industrial designer and design engineer.

Content

The role of the product designer combines art, science and technology to create physical three-dimensional products. This ever-changing role has been facilitated by the use of ICT that now allows designers to rapidly communicate, visualize and manufacture ideas in a way that would have taken greater manpower in the past. You will study the role of modern product designers and the decisions that they must make along with the materials and processes available to them.

The course is practical and creative in nature and will enable you to develop these skills through working with a range of materials. No matter which material you decide to work with, you will be involved in the process of designing and making quality products for a client and situation.

Learning

The process of 'design and make' will require you to research, investigate, design, problem solve, plan, make and evaluate. All of these skills are highly valued by employers.

You will have the opportunity to use some of the most advanced equipment and software available to colleges/ schools, with extensive use of Solidworks, SketchUp, the CNC laser cutters and 3D printer.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in two units, one of which is externally examined and the other a controlled assessment for which there will be some choice from a list of approved tasks provided by the examination board.

- **Unit 1**
  Written Paper – *2 Hours*
  50% of total marks, 100 marks

- **Unit 2**
  Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) Single design and make task – *35 Hours (approx.)*
  50% of total mark, 100 marks

Future Pathways

Students who complete this course will have the skills and knowledge to progress onto the A Level course in 3D Design.

GCSE French

After two years of studying French, you already have a great deal of knowledge of this subject. All of the topics and grammar you have covered so far are relevant for GCSE.

Content

Having a language on your CV might give you the competitive edge you need to secure a job or a promotion. Employers recognise that once you have learnt one language then it is easier to learn a second, or a third one. Where will your language learning take you?

The GCSE focuses on three themes, building on the topics that you have already covered in Key Stage 3;

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood

- Media and Technology
- Studying and my future

Learning

The most important attribute is enthusiasm. If you are keen to develop your knowledge of French and French speaking countries, then this is for you! Learning a language helps develop your confidence as a communicator and GCSE French will help you get ahead in careers such as engineering, computing, business, tourism, marketing, journalism and many more. During the course, you will develop further your speaking, writing, listening and reading skills, as well as your cultural knowledge. You will cover the following topics:

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

Assessment

You will be assessed in all four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

All four skills are assessed in a formal examination at the end of the course. Each examination is worth 25% of the final grade.

Future Pathways

With so few students nationally learning a language at GCSE, you will be setting yourself apart in the job market and with your university application. The course will encourage you to develop your communication skills in both speech and writing and will broaden your outlook and horizons. All of these qualities will enhance your future prospects, as languages are an increasingly rare and therefore extremely sought-after skill.

Students will be equipped to progress on to A Level French.

GCSE Geography

The GCSE Geography course follows a distinctive problem solving approach to the study of interactions between people and the environment. Learners will develop skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation when they collect primary data and are presented with reported evidence and information. Learners will become informed and reflective citizens when they consider a range of viewpoints, values and attitudes which are held by stakeholders on a number of key geographical issues. By analysing the evidence and viewpoints learners will develop the ability to solve problems and justify their decisions. In this way, GCSE Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

Content and Assessment

You will be assessed on your exam performance only, not your coursework. You will take three exams: *Investigating Geographical Issues*, *Problem Solving Geography* and *Applied Fieldwork* Enquiry. All of the exams will take place at the end of the course.

Component 1: Investigating Geographical Issues

Three structured data response questions. The final part of each question will require an extended response.

- **Question 1** will assess aspects of Theme 1, Changing Places - Changing Economies.
- **Question 2** will assess aspects of Theme 2, Changing Environments.
- **Question 3** will assess aspects of Theme 3, Environmental Challenges.

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Problem Solving Geography

This component will assess content from across the themes using a variety of structured data response questions.

- **Part A** will introduce an issue and set the geographical context.
- **Part B** will outline a number of possible solutions to the issue.
- **Part C** will provide an opportunity for the candidates to choose a solution and justify their choice in an extended response.

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 30% of GCSE

Component 3: Applied Fieldwork Enquiry

A written examination in three parts using a variety of structured data response questions some of which will require extended responses.

- **Part A** will assess approaches to fieldwork methodology, representation and analysis.
- **Part B** will assess how fieldwork enquiry may be used to investigate geography's conceptual frameworks.
- **Part C** will assess the application of broad geographical concepts to a wider UK context and assess the ability to make and justify a decision.

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 30% of GCSE

Future Pathways

Students will be equipped to progress onto studying A Level Geography. However, GCSE Geography uses a range of skills such as decision making, collaboration, presentations, research and GIS. All of these are useful and relevant for **any** future career or course of study.

GCSE German

After two years of studying German, you already have a great deal of knowledge of this subject. All of the topics and grammar you have covered so far are relevant for GCSE.

Content

Having a language on your CV might give you the competitive edge you need to secure a job or a promotion. Employers recognise that once you have learnt one language then it is easier to learn a second, or a third one. Where will your language learning take you?

The GCSE focuses on three themes, building on the topics that you have already covered in Key Stage 3:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood

- Media and Technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Learning

The most important attribute is enthusiasm. If you are keen to develop your knowledge of German and German speaking countries, then this is for you! Learning a language helps develop your confidence as a communicator and GCSE German will help you get ahead in careers such as engineering, computing, business, tourism, marketing, journalism and many more. During the course, you will develop further your speaking, writing, listening and reading skills, as well as your cultural knowledge. You will cover the following topics:

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

Assessment

You will be assessed in all four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

All four skills are assessed in a formal examination at the end of the course. Each examination is worth 25% of the final grade.

Future Pathways

With so few students nationally learning a language at GCSE, you will be setting yourself apart in the job market and with your university application. The course will encourage you to develop your communication skills in both speech and writing and will broaden your outlook and horizons. All of these qualities will enhance your future prospects, as languages are an increasingly rare and therefore extremely sought-after skill.

Students will be equipped to progress on to A Level German.

GCSE History

Content

'Historians are dangerous people. They are capable of upsetting everything' - Nikita Khrushchev
Do you like to question? Do you like to know 'why'? Then History is the subject for you!

Your GCSE course will give you the chance to study and understand what has driven historical change in the history of Britain and the wider world. For the first time you will have the chance to study a GCSE programme that covers a wider and more varied range of topics gaining valuable, transferable skills along the way. The course includes the following topics:

- **Germany, 1890-1945:Democracy and Dictatorship**
  - o We look at the fall of the Kaiser, the Weimar Republic and its fall. We track the rise of the Nazi's and look at Hitler's influence. This is supported by our Conflict and Tension Unit.

- **Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939**
  - o We look at the consequences of the First World War and why there was a World War Two taking in another dictator – Hitler – on the way.

- **Britain: Migration, empires and the people:c1000 to the present day**
  - o You will get the chance to explore how the identity of the people of Britain been created by interactions with the wider world. You will study invasions and conquests and study Britain's relationship with Europe and the wider world, including the causes and consequences of British Empire.

- **Medieval England – the reign of Edward I, 1272-1307**
  - o We look at the major events of Edward's reign taking in his military campaigns in Wales and Scotland. Within this section you will also study the historical environment, examining a specific site from the period in depth.

Learning

- History at GCSE is your opportunity to:
  - o Build on what you have learned at Key Stage 3 and consider new topics and develop a questioning mind that looks to discover and understand more about the world.

- History offers exciting opportunities for:
  - o Investigation and using evidence, discussion and debate, looking into cause and change, and identifying trends, understanding why people in the past have felt and acted as they have and finding out why our world is the way it is today.

- History is best suited to students that:
  - o Enjoy writing and reading, are willing to think for themselves and puzzle problems out and are inquisitive and want to explain what they find out

Assessment

The course is **100% examination** with both exams being at the end of Year 11

Future Pathways

Students will be equipped to progress onto A Level History as well as the opportunity to achieve a grade in a subject that is well thought of by future employers and opens the door to a number of exciting and well paid careers, for example, law, media and management

GCSE Physical Education

GCSE PE provides an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of sport and exercise through a variety of theoretical and practical experiences.

Content and Course Aims

Through studying GCSE Physical Education learners will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. Learners will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.

Learners will perform in different physical activities. They will develop skills and techniques, select and use tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. Learners will develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

The GCSE in Physical Education requires learners to:

- develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

Assessment

Physical Education Theory 2 Written Examinations 60% of the qualification	Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems 36% Component 2: Health and Performance 24%
Practical Performance 3 Sports 30% of Qualification	3 Sports: 1 Team Sport; 1 individual; Free choice of sport (Students will benefit from participating in college extension or sport outside of college)
Personal Exercise Program (coursework) 10% of Qualification	Students will create their own exercise program and will complete an evaluation of the program.

Future Pathways

Students who complete this course may wish to progress onto qualifications such as A Level Physical Education. Alternatively it would also be possible to follow the BTEC/Cambridge Technical Level 3 courses in Sports and Exercise (equivalent to A Levels). Students will also be equipped to make an immediate contribution to employment.

GCSE Religious Studies

This is an opportunity for students to debate, discuss and explore a range of ethical, moral and religious issues. These include abortion, euthanasia, war and violence, poverty, environmental issues, terrorism and crime.

In this course students will explore the teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of the basis of these faiths, diversity within these traditions, and the way beliefs, teachings and practices are understood and expressed.

Students will develop skills in explanation, analysis and evaluation in order to offer reasoned and supported arguments about the key issues within Christianity and Islam.

- Relationships and families; marriage, family, relationships, role of men and woman, equality, gender.
- The existence of God; concept of God, nature of reality, experiencing God.
- Religion, peace and conflict; violence and conflict, peace and peace-making, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes; challenges for religions, dialogue within and between religious groups.

An understanding of the diversity of perspectives within Christianity is essential in order to be able to offer reasoned and supported arguments in discussions.

Learning

Students will have the chance to debate and discuss, and present their knowledge and understanding in a formal and informal way. Various educational visits and guest speakers will enhance the learning experience of the students.

Assessment

- **Beliefs and teachings & Practices (Unit J625/01)**
  Christianity
  25% GCSE – 1 h written paper

- **Beliefs and teachings & Practices (Unit J625/03)**
  Islam
  25% GCSE – 1 h written paper

- **Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a Christian perspective (Unit J625/07)**

  Relationship and families, existence of God, religion, peace and conflict, dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes.
  50% GCSE – 2 h written paper

Future Pathways

Students will be equipped to progress onto A Levels, including Religious Studies. This course would suit students wanting to go into law, medicine, public sector, social work, and education.

GCSE Spanish

After two years of studying Spanish, you already have a great deal of knowledge of this subject. All of the topics and grammar you have covered so far are relevant for GCSE.

Content

Having a language on your CV can give you the competitive edge you need to secure a job or a promotion. Employers recognise that once you have learnt one language then it is easier to learn a second, or a third one. Where will your language learning take you?

The GCSE focuses on three themes, building on the topics that you have already covered in Key Stage 3:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood

- Media and Technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Learning

The most important attribute is enthusiasm. If you are keen to develop your knowledge of Spanish and Spanish speaking countries, then this is for you! Learning a language helps develop your confidence as a communicator and GCSE Spanish will help you get ahead in careers such as engineering, computing, business, tourism, marketing, journalism and many more. During the course, you will develop further your speaking, writing, listening and reading skills, as well as your cultural knowledge. You will cover the following topics:

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

Assessment

You will be assessed in all four skill areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

All four skills are assessed in a formal examination at the end of the course. Each examination is worth 25% of the final grade.

Future Pathways

With so few students nationally learning a language at GCSE, you will be setting yourself apart in the job market and with your university application. The course will encourage you to develop your communication skills in both speech and writing and will broaden your outlook and horizons. All of these qualities will enhance your future prospects, as languages are an increasingly rare and therefore extremely sought-after skill.

Students will be equipped to progress on to A Level Spanish.

BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Practice

BTEC Music gives learners a real in-depth understanding of various music genres and styles, through developing valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and production. Students will also explore potential careers available to them in the music industry.

Content

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.

Component 2: Music Skills Development

Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief.

Learning and Assessment

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

- Written blogs
- Practical Performance, Rehearsal or Music Production (Music Technology)
- 60 marks
- 30% of BTEC

Component 2: Music Skills Development

- Written blogs
- Practical Performance, Rehearsal or Music Production (Music Technology)
- 60 marks
- 30% of BTEC

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

- Written blogs.
- Practical Performance, Rehearsal or Music Production (Music Technology)
- 60 marks in total
- 40% of BTEC

Future Pathways

This course will allow students to progress to a Level 3 BTEC National in Music Performance or Music at A-Level.

OCR Creative iMedia Level 1/2 Award

ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. This course will interest and challenge you whilst equipping you with essential skills for you future career. It is equivalent to **one** GCSE.

iMedia is designed to engage and enthuse young people with an interest in creative computing, for example digital graphics, web development and computer games design. iMedia promotes the development of Digital Literacy Skills for the 21st Century.

Content

Students will study two mandatory and one optional units. These units are:

Unit 1: Creative iMedia in the media industry: (Mandatory)
This unit consists of a practical exam. The weighting for this unit is 40%.
In this unit students will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. Topics include: The media industry, Factors influencing product design, Pre-production planning and Distribution considerations

Unit 2: Visual identity and digital graphics: **(Mandatory)**
This unit consists of a set assignment (NEA). The weighting for this unit is 25%.
In this unit students will learn to how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include: Develop visual identity, plan digital graphics for products and create visual identity and digital graphics.

Unit 3: Interactive digital media: **(Optional)**
This unit consists of a set assignment (NEA). The weighting for this unit is 35%.
In this unit students will learn how to plan, create and review interactive digital media products. Topics include: Plan interactive digital media, Create interactive digital media and Review interactive digital media.

Learning

The combination of units will allow students to develop a wide variety of learning habits particularly perseverance, independence and resilience through a number of challenging tasks.

Students will also learn transferable skills that will serve them well in any workplace, such as teamwork, communication and problem solving.

Assessment

40% of the assessment is through an externally assessed examination. The remainder of the course is assessed through the production of a portfolio of work that is externally moderated.

Unit 1 - Exam paper - 40%
Units 2 & 3 - NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) - 60%

Future Pathways

This course provides a suitable progression onto the full range of ICT and Media courses at Post-16 and will also allow students to make an immediate contribution to employment.

WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering

Hospitality and catering is all about providing people with food, drink and accommodation. The sector offers a variety of interesting jobs in all sorts of settings … restaurants, bars, hospitals, hotels, pubs, airlines, tourist attractions, sports venues…the list is endless.

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age groups (according to a report by People 1st)

Content

Learners will complete two units:

Unit number	Unit title	Assessment		% of Qualification
1	The hospitality and catering industry	Written exam	External	40
2	Hospitality and catering in action	Controlled Assessment	Internal	60

Learning

The WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering supports learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

Assessment

Grading is as follows: Level 1 Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction* Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit and Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*

Future Pathway

Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering such as:

- Level 2 Diploma in Professional Cookery
- Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles (professional cookery)
- Level 2 Diploma in Hospitality and Catering Principles (professional cookery).

Where the WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is achieved together with other relevant Level 2 qualifications, such as GCSEs in English and Maths and Science, learners may be able to access Level 3 qualifications relevant to the hospitality and catering sector, such as:

- WJEC Applied Certificate / Diploma in Food, Science and Nutrition
- Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality, Supervision and Leadership principles
- Level 3 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles (professional cookery)
- Level 3 Award in Practical Food Safety Supervision for Catering.