



Carre's Grammar School

Your Guide to Key Stage 4 Subjects and Option Choices

Year 10 Options 2021

PLEASE READ THE BOOKLET THOROUGHLY

**DUE TO COVID RESTRICTIONS YOU SHOULD COMPLETE
THE OPTIONS FORM USING MICROSOFT FORMS**

GCSE OPTIONS HANDBOOK 2021

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OPTIONS INFORMATION

Choosing the subjects for Year 10 is one of the first big decisions that you have to make in your school life. Some of you will already have a good idea of which subjects you are best at, and which ones you enjoy. Some of you may already have ideas about future careers, but for most students it will take careful thought before choosing what to study. You do not need to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life, but it helps if you have some idea. You can always change your mind later and it is never too late to learn something new. If, later on, you need to study another subject for your career, you can take additional courses. People carry on studying and learning throughout their working lives, to open up new choices and career options.

What must I take?

We expect students to take GCSEs in English Language, English Literature (two separate GCSEs), Mathematics, Science (becomes two or three GCSEs), and Ethics and Philosophy. This reflects the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4. In addition to these you will follow a non-examination course in Physical Education (you may also opt to study an examination course in this subject area). The vast majority of the top universities now require that you have studied a language to GCSE and we view the study of a language as both a vital and valuable part of education.

Nurture Curriculum Pathway

In order to support the needs of our individual students better we introduced a new pathway in 2020 and this will be replicated in 2021. This is known as the Nurture Curriculum Pathway and will mean students have the opportunity to undertake additional support in English / literacy and study skills.

If you are on the Nurture Curriculum Pathway you may undertake a language if you wish. For all other students at least one of your choices must be French, German or Spanish.

Where can I find help?

There are various sources of information that will help you to sort out your ideas and make the right choices for you. Parents, family, form tutor, subject teachers, Careers Advisors, the school's Learning Resource Centre and students who have already studied the courses are all points of reference. In addition you may like to access a range of advisory websites by clicking on the links section of the school website and highlighting the Careers icon.

What options should I choose?

This is up to you. You should choose subjects which you **ENJOY** and which you are good at to give you the best chance of success. It is also helpful to consider your own personal strengths and learning preferences. Not every subject that you choose needs to be directly relevant to a job. Some are worth taking for their own sake. Do not be fooled by what appear to be easy options – you will have to work just as hard for any course that you choose. Similarly, it is foolish to discount a subject merely because of a dislike of a teacher or choose one just because your friends are going to do it.

- **In the interests of breadth and balance we do not recommend that any student takes more than one Technology subject.**
- You should also consider the assessments a subject offers. Some subjects favour those who find examinations difficult.
- You should also consider using the CATs data that you will receive to help choose some of your subjects.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

Amongst a huge range of initiatives introduced by the government in 2010 is the English Baccalaureate. This is intended to promote aspiration; It is not a new qualification in itself:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (Double or Triple Award)
- Language
- Geography or History

Every child that achieves this qualification will be awarded the English Baccalaureate as well as their individual GCSE certificates. If you are keen to attain the English Baccalaureate you **must** choose **Geography or History as one of your options.**

Taking Geography or History is something that we would strongly recommend to all our students and remember you may wish to take both!

We will make every effort to satisfy your choices, but we are not able to guarantee them. The subjects will be grouped into pools for timetabling purposes and there are always some combinations that are not possible, but we will try to minimise disappointment as far as possible. **If a subject is NOT chosen by enough students, the subject will not run in September!**

How will I be expected to work?

There is a strong emphasis on independent learning. This means that you will have to work outside the classroom. You will be set independent learning tasks for each option subject every week. This will be approximately one hour per subject per week. For many subjects there will be a controlled assessment / coursework component. It is important, therefore, that you adopt good work habits, meet deadlines and do not leave work to the last minute.

By when must I have decided?

The programme is as follows:

Thurs 28 Jan	Y9 Careers Assembly
Mon 1 February Period 2	9B Options Introduction <i>(via Teams during normal Core PE lesson)</i>
Wed 3 February Period 3	9W Options Introduction <i>(via Teams during normal Core PE lesson)</i>
Fri 5 February Period 4	9L Options Introduction <i>(via Teams during normal Core PE lesson)</i>
Tues 9 February Period 1	9C Options Introduction <i>(via Teams during normal Core PE lesson)</i>
Wed 24 February (4pm)	Final deadline completing the options form via Microsoft Forms

Due to COVID 19 restrictions we are unable to host our annual Options Evening this year. Students will be given the opportunity to discuss potential subject choices if required with their form tutor and subject teachers in the weeks commencing Monday 1 February and Monday 8 February.

What now?

Important though these individual subject choices are, the best way of ensuring that you are able to pursue a chosen career is by achieving the best GCSE results of which you are capable. University Admission tutors and employers are looking ever more closely at GCSE performances. The choices you make at GCSE will affect those you make at A Level. Once you have made your choices you must settle down to ensure that you perform well in all your subjects. We expect you to:

- Meet all work deadlines so staff can assess your progress;
- Use your personal time for researching topics more widely and preparing for examinations and assessments;
- Take advantage of support lessons where offered and organise your time and resources effectively;
- Produce work of the highest quality possible.

Section 1 – The Core Curriculum

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Students MUST undertake BOTH English Language and English Literature

Course Title: English Language

What will I study?

- Media and Non-fiction texts
- Writing to explore, imagine, entertain, argue, persuade, advise, analyse, review and comment
- Speaking and listening skills including communication through presenting, discussing and listening, and role playing (the marks for speaking and listening are recorded separately and students are given either a pass, merit or distinction along with their numerical grade.)
- Creative writing
- Spoken language

What skills/qualities are required?

Successful English Language students are able to:

- ✓ Read, understand, respond to and evaluate a range of media and non-fiction texts
- ✓ Analyse and interpret a variety of prose, poetry and drama with understanding and insight
- ✓ Relate texts to historical, social and cultural contexts and literary traditions
- ✓ Write with accuracy and clarity for a variety of audiences and purposes
- ✓ Listen carefully and perceptively
- ✓ Speak confidently, with a mature and assured use of vocabulary and grammar, and with the ability to manage listeners' attention through a sophisticated delivery of ideas

How will I learn?

A variety of teaching methods are used in English. Students participate in class and group discussions, produce presentations and annotate and analyse texts. The use of ICT is an integral part of the learning process.

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework. Students are assessed via two examinations at the end of the course. There is an 'unseen' element.

Where could it lead?

Success in English is essential for entry to virtually all careers. We are part of an increasingly competitive global economy, so the range of skills developed in an English Language GCSE is highly valued by employers, colleges and universities alike. Specific careers that employ English skills include: law, journalism, management consultancy, media, publishing, public relations and teaching – in short, any with a premium on communication.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course Title: English Literature

What will I study?

- A Shakespeare play
- A selection of pre-and post-1914 poetry
- A pre-1914 novel
- A twentieth century play

What skills/qualities are required?

Successful English Literature students are able to:

- ✓ Analyse and interpret a variety of prose, poetry and drama with understanding and insight
- ✓ Relate texts to historical, social and cultural contexts and literary traditions
- ✓ Write with accuracy and clarity when analysing texts
- ✓ Write clear, accurate and organised notes
- ✓ Listen carefully and perceptively
- ✓ Speak confidently with a mature and assured use of vocabulary and grammar

How will I learn?

A variety of teaching methods are used. Students participate in class and group discussions, produce presentations and annotate and analyse texts. The use of ICT is an integral part of the learning process.

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework. Students are assessed via two examinations at the end of the course.

Where could it lead?

Success in English is essential for entry to virtually all careers. We are part of an increasingly competitive global economy and so the range of skills developed in an English Literature GCSE are highly valued by employers, colleges and universities alike. Specific careers that employ English skills include: law, journalism, management consultancy, media, publishing, public relations and teaching – in short, any with a premium on communication.

MATHEMATICS

Course Title: AQA Mathematics 8300 (linear)

What will I study?

- Number work, both with and without calculators
- Algebraic techniques
- The properties and characteristics of Shape and Space
- Statistical methods and techniques

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ The ability to handle numbers confidently and accurately
- ✓ The ability to think logically
- ✓ The ability to learn, remember and apply ideas and techniques
- ✓ Problem solving over a range of topics

How will I learn?

You will learn by listening to teacher exposition, by independent study and by written practice.

How will I be assessed?

Entirely by examination; three exam papers, two with calculators and one without.

Where could it lead?

Success in Mathematics is vital to full participation in the adult world. A pass at 5 or higher is essential for a very great number of careers, including all professional ones. Mathematics studied successfully at a higher level is vital for virtually all scientific and technological university courses and careers, including engineering.

Additional Information

All students will need a scientific calculator which must be with them at all times. Students should also bring a ruler, protractor and compass to each lesson.

Most students will be entered for the Higher Tier syllabus (grades 9 to 5), although in set 4 or 5, a student could be entered for the Foundation Level (grades 5 - 1) based on mock exam analysis and teacher consideration.

SCIENCE

Course Title: AQA GCSE Combined Science (Double Award)
AQA GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Triple Award)

What will I study?

- These are the new GCSE Specifications that were introduced in September 2016
- In both qualifications students will study key aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with specific emphasis for Triple Award students studying more content than those following the Double Award course
- A detailed breakdown of the subject content can be found on the AQA website (www.aqa.org.uk/sciencelab)

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ In addition to the usual skills of planning, data handling and analysis, students will be expected to research topics and evaluate information from a variety of sources
- ✓ There is no coursework but there are a number of required practicals that are fundamental in developing the students' understanding of the scientific theory

How will I learn?

Through reading, writing, questioning, group work/discussions and practical work. All students will be provided with access to an on-line text book and bank of resources. There will be more emphasis on scientific literacy, with opportunities to develop research skills in the Science Faculty ICT Suite.

How will I be assessed?

All of the assessment will be by means of externally set examinations. **All examinations are taken at the end of the course in May/June of Year 11.** In Double Award, there will be six examinations each contributing 16.7% of the final mark. In Triple Award, students will sit two examinations in each Science, each one worth 50% of the final mark. In both qualifications questions on the required practicals will feature in the final examinations. The new qualifications will have the A* to G grades replaced by 9 to 1.

Where could it lead?

All students will gain a broad knowledge of relevant scientific issues. There will be opportunities for the more able and well-motivated students to progress on to A level Science courses.

Additional Information

The Science GCSE is taught as three separate subjects. The teaching of the GCSE curriculum will start in Year 9 due to the increased content in the new specifications.

Students will be entered for either the Double Award or Triple Award GCSE qualifications. Performance at KS3 will be used to assign students into the appropriate groups and transfers between Double Award and Triple Award will be possible at various stages throughout the GCSE course. Final decisions will be made after the Year 11 mock examinations in November / December.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Course Titles: GCSE French German Spanish.

What will I study?

- The three main topic areas are: identity and culture, local, national, international and global areas of interest and current and future study and employment
- Grammatical concepts to develop awareness of sentence structure and, in particular, verbs in past, present and future tenses
- The history, geography and culture of the French/German/Spanish speaking world

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ The four skills of listening (25%), speaking (25%), reading (25%) and writing in the target language (25%).
- ✓ The emphasis at GCSE is on communication as much as accuracy, so those who are prepared to 'have a go' generally do well and enjoy the subject.

How will I learn?

We cater for various learning styles, using the following:

- authentic listening and reading materials to develop comprehension skills.
- conversation in pairs, groups and with native speakers (Foreign Language Assistants).
- role-play tasks to carry out transactions or to give and seek information.
- extended writing tasks (usually drafted and improved for later use in speaking tasks).
- rote learning of vocabulary and verb forms.
- use of GCSE mark-schemes to develop awareness of assessment criteria.

How will I be assessed?

Listening, reading and writing are assessed by means of terminal examinations. Speaking is also assessed by examination but this will take place within a five week window in April and May during the second year of the course.

Where could it lead?

A qualification in languages is an asset for most careers, given that the jobs market is increasingly global. Even where the language is not directly relevant, employers for professional/management careers ask about languages. An increasing number of top universities are now insisting on a language GCSE as a basic entry requirement. Having the ability to get by, when in the target language country, is also very rewarding.

Additional information

The standard required at GCSE is the same for all three languages. Boys in year nine who have chosen to study one language will be expected to continue with this language. Those boys who have continued with two languages in year nine will continue with one of these, but they are more than welcome to continue with both and become a dual linguist.

ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

Course Title: GCSE Religious Studies (Full Course) AQA (Spec A)

What will I study?

Four themes from the following religious, philosophical and ethical studies:

- Religion and relationships
- Religion and life
- The existence of God and revelation
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, human rights and social justice

Students are also required to have knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices of two world religions – Christianity and Islam.

What skills/qualities are required?

The ability to:

- ✓ Recall, select, organise and deploy knowledge of the specification content
- ✓ Describe, analyse and explain the relevance of a religion or religions
- ✓ Evaluate different responses to religious and moral issues, using relevant evidence and argument
- ✓ Present relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear

How will I learn?

You will learn through reading, gathering and selecting relevant information, discussions, analysing and evaluating religious and non-religious approaches to moral and religious questions and issues.

How will I be assessed?

Through **two** written examinations (100% of the marks).

Where could it lead?

This is an examination which is open both to those who have a religious faith and those who have none. Careers related to this subject are very varied. These include: civil service, local government, personnel work, teaching, journalism, health service, medicine, law, psychology, probation service, social work, police force (forensic), armed forces, advertising, and public relations.

Section 2 – The Option subjects

ART AND DESIGN

Course Title: OCR Art and Design

What will I study?

Under the umbrella of Art and Design students will follow a Fine Art route, participating in various aspects and having access to drawing, painting, mixed media, new media, photography and sculpture/3D work. Students will be required to develop, experiment, record and present:

- Develop ideas through investigations. Use contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding. Investigate and research Art, Craft and Design. Respond to work investigated and show relationship between that and development of own ideas/work.
- Review and refine ideas through experimenting, selecting appropriate resources, materials, techniques and processes, assessing suitability for purpose, demonstrating clear development and modification of work.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response, realising intentions.

What skills/qualities are required?

Any student opting for GCSE Art and Design should be, first and foremost, creative and imaginative! It is also very important that individuals are just that – individual!

- ✓ A very independent approach will be required to get the best out of the course and its possibilities.
- ✓ Students will need to be self-motivated as the course requires a great deal of independent work to be carried out if higher grades are to be achieved.
- ✓ Potential candidates must be aware that coursework is ongoing from the start of Year 10 to the second term of Year 11. The exam takes place in March/April of Year 11; for that reason time management is crucial.
- ✓ A consistent approach, and therefore a very genuine interest in Art, is fundamental.

Please note that whilst good basic observational drawing skills are of course helpful and a great starting point – they are second to, and nothing without, the above qualities.

How will I learn?

- Students will learn via demonstration/tuition followed by regular practice and constant participation in practical activities.
- Learning from others, outside of the classroom, is also important which is why the study of contemporary/practicing artists is beneficial.
- Students should seek out opportunities to observe/work with artists other than their teacher to broaden their experiences as much as possible.
- The department will do all it can to facilitate this by inviting resident artists into school and taking students out of school to experience Art.

How will I be assessed?

Controlled Coursework makes up 60% of GCSE grade.

A second portfolio based on set titles and concluded in a 10 hour Practical Exam in Year 11 makes up 40% of final GCSE grade.

All marking is carried out internally. An external moderation takes place at the end of the course to assess a 'sample'.

Where could it lead?

GCSE Art and Design can be followed by A Level Art studies, or by full-time Art studies should a candidate be confident that Art and Design is the direction they wish to pursue. Beyond this, successful students will be able to pursue anything from the creative design industries (i.e. Graphic Design, 3D Design, Architecture, Fashion/Textile Design, Illustration, Animation, Web Design, Theatre/Set Design) to Gallery Worker, Art Therapist, Teacher, etc to the more ambitious direction of 'Freelance Artist'. Job opportunities would be available for any students bold enough to pursue freelance work as 'Artist in Residence' within various settings from galleries and schools/youth groups to hospitals/care centres, in addition to simply producing and selling own work.

Additional Information

GCSE Art and Design ends in April of Year 11! This, along with the fact it is a 100% practical subject, means that it requires a substantial time commitment to ensure success.

The current OCR specification allows us to enter students for a double award GCSE – this requires a student completing double the work load but is a wonderful opportunity for those who are talented but also passionate and committed.

BUSINESS

Course Title Edexcel Business

What will I study?

- All aspects of the workings of a business, plus those factors or events outside a business that have an impact upon it, such as the economy and the role of organisations such as the government
- Investigate types of businesses, business structures, marketing, finance, organising people, operations management and economics eg interest rates, exchange rates and unemployment
- Finding out how to think like an economist and learn how the economy functions, the government's role in the economy and its impact on business. You will also examine what causes businesses to fail and how businesses grow. You will study many issues within the world of business such as globalisation and ethics

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ A keen sense of enquiry and enthusiasm is essential to your success in this subject. You are already part of the business world as young consumers, so you can bring your own experience to this course
- ✓ You will be shown how to analyse and evaluate business decisions
- ✓ In addition you will be asked to keep up to date on current business and economic affairs, both analysing and evaluating

How will I learn?

You will compile a portfolio of written work on the different business aspects of the course. This will include investigations, exemplar exercises and case studies based on real businesses. Particular attention will be paid to any current national or local business events. There will be regular assessments based on utilising GCSE questions and current economic data.

How will I be assessed?

There will be two formal examinations (making up 100% of the final grade) which assess learning of the four modules.

Where could it lead?

In an increasingly complex and inter-dependent world, a knowledge of the practices and processes of business activity is an important part of the 'survival kit' of any citizen.

A course in business will provide a student with an extensive knowledge of the workings of businesses and the business world. Knowledge and understanding in both these areas are essential to a successful career in whatever field you wish to pursue. In a world that is now ever-changing and complex it is an essential course that will equip students with skills for life.

As well as its relevance to the preparation for a career and citizenship, this GCSE course provides a valuable groundwork for the Economics or Business A Level courses found in the Sixth Form.

GEOGRAPHY

Course Title: AQA Geography

What will I study?

- Physical Geography: Volcanoes and Earthquakes, Tropical Storms, UK Extreme Weather, Climate Change, Physical Landscapes: Rivers and Glaciation, Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments
- Human Geography: Population Growth, Urban Areas, Urban Growth, Urban Change in the UK, Economic Development and Resource Management: Food/Water/Energy
- Geographical Skills: Cartographic (map) Skills, Graphical Skills, Numerical Skills and Statistical Skills
- There will be at least two opportunities for fieldwork, investigating subjects from Physical and Human Geography

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ Effective communication through group discussion and written work
- ✓ Numeracy skills through collection, analysis and interpretation of geographical data, graphs and diagrams
- ✓ Ability to interpret spatial patterns such as those shown on maps
- ✓ An enquiring mind – to question the world around you and seek valid answers

How will I learn?

You will learn through discussion, geographical enquiry, research from textbooks and the internet, fieldwork, data collection and analysis, the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software, geographical TV programmes and fieldwork out of school.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through three examinations. One examination is a 'Geographical Applications' paper where students answer questions on given resources and geographical fieldwork. This paper is worth 30% of the final grade. The other two examinations (worth 35% of the final grade each) are content-based, Physical and Human Geography papers based on the themes outlined above. There is no requirement for Controlled Assessment (coursework) in this qualification.

Where could it lead?

Geographical skills are transferable and highly sought after in the workplace. Geography graduates are among the most successful at gaining employment straight after a degree in the subject. The ability to collect, analyse and interpret data, to identify questions for research and write reports are essential for a huge number of careers. The use and interrogation of information technology such as GIS is becoming increasingly common in a number of career areas, and the relevance of environmental issues such as climate change are fields in which geographers can demonstrate their expertise. Specific career areas relate to education, media, town planning, business and industry, engineering, tourism and environmental work.

HISTORY

Course Title: GCSE History B (SHP) – Course Number: J411

What will I study?

This is an exciting and innovative course that was first introduced in September 2016. Students will cover:

- History from different eras: Medieval, Early Modern and Modern
- A blend of short depth studies of individual countries (eg. National Socialism in Germany, The USA, 1789-1900, British History 1065-1087), as well as a longer thematic study about the development of Crime and Punishment in Britain from c.1250 to the modern day
- A mixture of British and World History: a key theme of the course is centred around invasion and conquest
- A field work study about the development of Roman Lincoln which will examine historical change over time.

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ Curiosity about the past and how it relates to the present.
- ✓ Understanding how people tick: what motivates them and what they think and feel.
- ✓ The ability to gather and select information from historical research.
- ✓ Analysing and evaluating evidence through reading and interpretation of sources.
- ✓ Effective communication skills through written and oral work.
- ✓ The ability to see and explain more than one point of view.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of different teaching methods including role play, group work, reading and analysing source material, written work, constructing timelines, evaluating visual evidence (including film and DVD) and trips. You will have the opportunity to utilise your ICT skills and there will be lots of opportunities for discussions and debate.

How will I be assessed?

All courses will be assessed by examination at the end of Year 11. There will no longer be any coursework or controlled assessment requirements.

Exam questions will test various different skills and will be a mixture of interpretation questions, source questions, short-answer questions and the more traditional essay question.

Where could it lead?

History is a subject that is highly valued by employers because of the broad range of skills it develops. Careers that employ Historical skills include the police, law, journalism, media, accountancy, local government, management, tourism, conservation work, town planning, museums, galleries, archives and teaching.

MUSIC

Course Title: Edexcel GCSE Music 1MU0

What will I study?

The course is based on four areas of study:

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

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ **Performing skills:** both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble. The GCSE course encourages you to perform music of your own choosing in any style. To take this course you must be committed to developing your skills on an instrument or voice
- ✓ **Composing skills:** you will have to compose two pieces of music. One will be to a brief set by Edexcel, the other will be a free composition of your own choice
- ✓ **Appraising skills:** you will develop your listening and appraising skills as you study some set pieces taken from the areas of study

How will I learn?

You will learn through listening to and studying certain pieces of music, performing and experimenting with compositional techniques.

How will I be assessed?

30% performing: you will need to record one solo and one ensemble performance.

30% composing: you will need to compose two pieces (in controlled conditions).

40% listening and appraising: in a 105 minute exam paper you will be asked questions about the pieces of music that you have studied and unfamiliar but related pieces of music.

Where could it lead?

A qualification in Music represents diverse talents that are highly sought after by employers: creativity, problem-solving, listening skills, logic, presentation skills, commitment and perseverance. GCSE Music is an important qualification to those wanting to work in the music industry and media, in careers such as radio producers, music retailers, publishers, music therapists, performers, recording engineers, composers and event organisers. Even if you do not wish to follow a career in Music it is a highly-regarded qualification that recognises your diverse talents; it can lead to participation in the community through the development of a life-long interest in Music and it will support instrumental lessons at higher levels.

Additional Information

There are no tiers for Music GCSE.

SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students applying for the Sport and Physical Education option will be allocated to one of the two courses detailed below. This allocation will be based on a discussion about preference and suitability with Mr Wilson (Head of PE). Both courses will run in the same option block so this allocation will not affect other choices.

To be suitable for a high grade in GCSE PE a student must play at least two of the listed activities to a high standard. They must also be proficient in a third activity because 40% of overall grade is based on practical performance in 3 activities. Students opting for this course will sit 2 theory papers, both of which contribute 30% towards overall grade. It is not possible to resit these papers.

We also offer a Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science (OCR) as an alternative, equivalent qualification. This means that students without the necessary practical background can still pursue a sport course without compromising their chances of a high grade. Practical ability has no impact on overall grade for this course.

Some students also opt for this course because 75% of overall grade comes from internally assessed coursework tasks, so there is less exam pressure. Students enrolling on this course will only sit 1 theory paper, which will contribute towards 25% of their overall grade. This paper can be resat for a small fee if a student is not satisfied with their initial grade.

Course Title: GCSE Physical Education (AQA)

What will I study?

Written Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

How will I be assessed?

30% of total marks

1 hour 15 minutes

78 marks

Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions

Written Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

How will I be assessed?

30% of total marks

1 hour 15 minutes

78 marks

Combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions

Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- One assessment must be in a team sport or activity, one assessment must be in an individual sport or activity and a third can be from either an individual or team sport or activity
- Activities can only be chosen from the list below:

Team activities			Individual activities		
Association football	Badminton	Basketball	Amateur boxing	Athletics	Badminton
Camogie	Cricket	Dance	Canoeing	Cycling	Dance
Gaelic football	Handball	Hockey	Diving	Golf	Gymnastics
Hurling	Lacrosse	Netball	Equestrian	Kayaking	Rock climbing
Rowing	Rugby League	Rugby Union	Rowing	Sculling	Skiing
Squash	Table tennis	Tennis	Snowboarding	Squash	Swimming
Volleyball			Table tennis	Tennis	Trampolining
Specialist team activities			Specialist individual activities		
Blind cricket	Goal ball	Powerchair football	Boccia	Polybat	
Table cricket	Wheelchair basketball	Wheelchair rugby			

How will I be assessed?

40% of total marks

100 marks

Internally assessed

Externally moderated

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ Effective communication through group discussion and written work
- ✓ Numeracy skills through collection, analysis and interpretation of health and fitness data
- ✓ Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- ✓ Practical sports ability via individual performance.

It is strongly advised that only people with a strong sporting background pursue GCSE PE. Weak practical performers will not be able to access the higher grades now that the list of practical activities has been reduced and students can no longer be assessed as a coach or official.

How will I learn?

One lesson per week in the classroom learning about the theory topics

Three lessons (per two-week rotation) of practical based activity working towards your practical assessments

How will I be assessed?

60% Exams (two written papers)
40% Practical assessments

Where could it lead?

The skills and qualities that you will develop during the course are transferable, and highly sought in Higher Education and the workplace.

Additional Information

GCSE PE is the ideal preparation for A Level PE and for any sport-related BTEC. It is the perfect starting point for any student interested in a career in the Sport and Leisure Industry.

Course Title: Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science (OCR)

This qualification is the equivalent to a GCSE and uses both internal and external assessment. Practical ability will not contribute towards your overall grade, which is why it offers an excellent opportunity for those students with an interest in sport that do not possess the breadth or depth of practical ability required to access the top grades on the GCSE PE course.

What will I study?

The Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science offer students the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and psychology in sport and sports performance.

Units	Assessment Method	GLH	Award 60 GLH	Certificate 120 GLH
Mandatory				
R041: Reducing the risk of sports injuries	Written paper 1 hour – 60 marks.	30	M	M
R042: Applying principles of training	Centre assessed task, OCR moderated.	30	M	M
Optional				
R043: The body's response to physical activity	Centre assessed task, OCR moderated.	30	N/A	O
R044: Sport psychology	Centre assessed task, OCR moderated.	30	N/A	O
R045: Sports nutrition	Centre assessed task, OCR moderated.	30	N/A	O
R046: Technology in sport	Centre assessed task, OCR moderated.	30	N/A	O
Key: M = mandatory unit O = optional unit				

How will I be assessed?

2 compulsory units and 2 optional units (to be decided by the centre)

Compulsory units:

Unit R041: Reducing the risk of sports injuries - Written Paper (1 hour) – 60 marks

Unit RO42: Applying principles of training – Centre assessed task, OCR moderated

All units (with the exception of RO41) will be assessed through centre assessed tasks, which will be moderated by the exam board, OCR.

For example, in Unit RO42: Applying principles of training, students will develop a fitness programme and use fitness tests to evaluate its effectiveness.

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ Effective communication through group discussion and written work
- ✓ Numeracy skills through collection, analysis and interpretation of health and fitness data
- ✓ Ability to work independently and as part of a team

How will I learn?

This sport qualification offers learners the chance to develop different types of skills through practical means wherever possible; communication, problem solving, team working, evaluation and analysis, performing under pressure, and formulating written findings from practical investigation are all transferable skills which can be learned and assessed through this qualification and utilised in many other educational and employment settings.

The qualification has been designed with practical and engaging ways of teaching in mind and enables learners to:

- ✓ Develop a range of skills through involvement in sport and physical activity in different contexts and roles
- ✓ Develop their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations
- ✓ Gain a better understanding of the complexity of different areas of sport and the sports industry
- ✓ Increase their awareness of different ways to stay involved in sport and physical activity and of different careers and roles within sport.

Where could it lead?

The skills and qualities that you will develop during the course are transferable, and highly sought in Higher Education and the workplace.

Additional Information

The Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science (OCR) is the ideal preparation for any sport-related Level 3 qualification. It is the perfect starting point for any student interested in a career in the Sport and Leisure Industry.

Design and Technology – (*Electronics and Systems*)

Course Title: Design and Technology (Edexcel)

What will I study?

- You will learn a core body of knowledge of the subject and understand its wide-ranging impact.
- You will learn the production processes and terms associated with electronics and systems.
- You will understand the basic principles of electronic components and realise they are part of a system.
- You will use computers to simulate circuits and use CAD-CAM to develop and refine ideas.

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ You will have an aptitude in using graphics based packages on the computer.
- ✓ You will need to be creative and flexible in your approach to work.
- ✓ You will need to develop an independent style of learning and be self-motivated.

How will I learn?

You will learn by completing focused practical tasks using real world electronic circuits and computer simulations. Design and make assignments will be fundamental to the delivery of the course and will prepare you for the coursework element which will start at the end of Year 10.

How will I be assessed?

50% - Examination

50% - Non Examined Assessment (coursework)

Where could it lead?

Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills at A Level. Natural career progression into Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, IT, Product Design and Design Engineering.

Students cannot choose more than one Design and Technology pathway, but may elect to take Engineering alongside Design and Technology.

Design and Technology – (*Graphic Products*)

Course Title: Design and Technology (Edexcel)

What will I study?

- You will learn a core body of knowledge of the subject and understand its wide-ranging impact.
- You will investigate the use of modelling materials associated with Graphic Products and their impact on society, products and industry.
- You will understand the basic principles of graphic design and the packaging industries.
- You will use computers to develop and refine ideas and present information in a clear and concise manner.

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ You will have an aptitude in using graphics based packages on the computer.
- ✓ You will need to be creative and flexible in your approach to work.
- ✓ You will need to develop an independent style of learning and be self-motivated.

How will I learn?

You will learn through completing focused practical tasks using traditional modelling methods and CAD-CAM. Design and make assignments will be fundamental to the delivery of the course and will prepare you for the coursework element which will start at the end of Year 10.

How will I be assessed?

50% - Examination

50% - Non Examined Assessment (coursework)

Where could it lead?

Students may choose to move into the creative industries. Career possibilities could be Graphic Design, Packaging Design, Advertising, Architecture, Web Design.

Students cannot choose more than one Design and Technology pathway, but may elect to take Engineering alongside Design and Technology.

Design and Technology – (*Resistant Materials*)

Course Title: Design and Technology (Edexcel)

What will I study?

- You will learn a core body of knowledge of the subject and understand its wide-ranging impact.
- You will learn about timbers, metals and polymers and how they can be used in products.
- You will investigate the use and development of a variety of products and their impact on society.
- You will understand the basic principles of industrial processes.
- You will use CAD-CAM to develop and refine ideas.

What skills/qualities are required?

- ✓ You will have an aptitude in using graphics based packages on the computer.
- ✓ You will need to be creative and flexible in your approach to work.
- ✓ You will need to develop an independent style of learning and be self-motivated.

How will I learn?

You will learn through completing focused practical tasks using timbers, metals and polymers as well as CAD-CAM. Design and make assignments will be fundamental to the delivery of the course and will prepare you for the coursework element which will start at the end of Year 10.

How will I be assessed?

50% - Examination

50% - Non Examined Assessment (coursework)

Where could it lead?

Students may move into fields with practical outcomes such as Product Design, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, Structural Engineering, Building Industry (Management, Quantity Surveyor and Estimator), Joinery and Civil Engineering.

Students cannot choose more than one Design and Technology pathway, but may elect to take Engineering alongside Design and Technology.

Cambridge National in ENGINEERING

Course Title: Level 2 Cambridge National in Engineering (OCR)

The Engineering National Qualification is a new and different way of learning about the world of Engineering. It will give you the right skills to start a career in Engineering, or go on to university, college or other training.

Engineers work in health, entertainment, transport, construction, robotics, conservation, design, communications, disaster relief, in fact pretty much everywhere. Engineering offers a great choice in careers in all employment sectors.

What will I study?

- Product investigation techniques (R106)
- Communication techniques using CAD and traditional methods (R107)
- Manufacturing methods from a given brief and specification (R108)
- Product analysis for real world products (R105, examined content)

What skills are required?

- ✓ You will need to be numerate and have a creative mind
- ✓ You will be interested in developing your existing CAD-CAM skills
- ✓ You will like solving practical problems through the use of tools and equipment

How will I learn?

You will learn by engaging in each of the discrete modules. It is very much a “learn by doing” course. Kinaesthetic investigation is as relevant as academic enquiry in completing this course.

How will I be assessed?

Through the completion of 3 internally assessed units: R106, R107 and R108. R105 is an examined unit which will be completed at the end of the course. Each unit accounts for 25% of the entire course, therefore this course is 75:25 split in favour of the internally assessed units.

Where could it lead?

The whole idea behind the course is to give you an insight into the varied world of an Engineering career. With this course you could start an Engineering apprenticeship at 16 or move onto additional study at either college or Sixth Form. It will not restrict your choices, it will only enhance them.

A career in Engineering could lead you into many and varied job opportunities, with the whole world needing Engineering and Engineered products to survive. From buildings and infrastructure, travel, to explosives and munitions to medicines, from prosthetic limbs to sports equipment, the world needs Engineers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course Title: Computer Science (OCR J276)

What will I study?

- You will develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, understanding of how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- You will acquire and apply a knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming
- You will use knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of computer technology developing the ability to make informed decisions about its use, and be aware of the implications of different technologies
- You will acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of Computer Science in a range of contexts
- You will develop computer programs to solve problems
- You will develop the skills to work collaboratively
- You will evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of and issues related to the use of computer technology in society

The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Learners will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing.

Where could it lead?

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Learners who have taken a GCSE in Computer Science and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.

Additional Information

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. For many learners, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course will make an excellent preparation for learners who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

Computer Science is complementary to, but quite different from, Information and Communication Technology (ICT). ICT is about the use of computers and their applications. Computer Science is about their design and implementation.

To use the analogy of a car:

ICT is the equivalent of teaching how to drive a car and how to navigate it. Once basic skills have been learned (how to use the clutch), the emphasis is on appropriate choice of destination, how to drive safely, how to develop a good route to the destination, how to choose which car is the right vehicle. Everyone should be able to drive, and similarly every student should possess basic ICT skills, and some knowledge of how to use them. Computer Science is the equivalent of teaching automotive engineering: how the clutch works, how to design new cars, and how to maintain existing ones. It is, in effect, a language.

<http://www.computingschool.org.uk/index.php?id=computing-and-ict>