The Rudheath Senior Academy

"Opening Children's Eyes to the Wonderful World of Possibility"

Year 9
Guided Choices

#REMARKABLERUDHEATH

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Dear Students, parents and carers,

Welcome to our Guided choices process for 2024. This process is a key moment for all students in Year 9 as they select their choices for KS4 and beyond. It is very important that students at this point aspire and show a real ambition for the future and look beyond KS4. We will guide them to our colleges programme for further education or an apprenticeship and the world of work between the ages of 16-18 at KS5.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum with students studying for 8 GCSES or BTECS for all full time, mainstream students as a start point. This is a change to the previous 9 qualifications that were offered at Rudheath. There has been a lot of thought put into this. Clearly, our students need the best possible qualifications to move onto ambitious destinations at Colleges and Universities, however the number of these does not need to be greater than 8. Many schools that we have researched have also taken this decision. It allows for two things, one is that we will now be able to give 6 hours per fortnight, rather than 5, to all our options subjects. This will allow us to spend extra time deepening knowledge of our students. A second benefit will be that we can reduce the pressure on revision.

The general theme is that we want to "do less, better." If the offer is too broad, the group sizes are small, but the specialist expertise of teachers is stretched. We have aimed for a curriculum offer that fits a small school but that is ambitious and covers a broad range for all interests. The key for us is that it is designed to allow our students to have the best possible chance of success and moving onto ambitious destinations in life after Rudheath. We hope there is something for everyone in this guided choices programme and we hope our evening event will help students, parents and carers to understand more about this process. Our students are remarkable and have great futures ahead and we will begin to consider these next steps at this point. This advice and guidance will continue through up until September 30th in Yr 10 so there is plenty of time for our students to consider what is best for them. Please have a careful read through the materials in this booklet and any questions please ask.

Ms Williams Deputy Headteacher is the leader responsible for our curriculum so please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions at all.

Yours Sincerely,
J Kerfoot

Structure of the KS4 Curriculum

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which prepares students for further education and the work-place. We have a 'Rudheath Core Curriculum' that all students follow which is made up of the following subjects:

- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Trilogy science (2 GCSEs)
- History/Geography (you must choose one of these) (1 GCSE)
- Core PE (Non-examined)
- A full PHSE programme (Non-examined)

Your child will be then placed onto either the Aspire pathway or the Inspire pathway which means we are guiding them to follow an academic pathway that is right for them. Both pathways enable students to study the EBACC suite of subjecs.

Aspire Pathway

On this pathway we are guiding your child onto the English Baccalaureate courses which are a suite of subjects that are highly valued by Russell group universities. (The Russell group are the top 24 world-class, research-intensive universities in the UK). Whilst these subjects are not always an entrance requirement they are certainly valued by higher education and employers. On this pathway your child will study the core curriculum above and Spanish (1 GCSE) they will then make **1 choice**.

Inspire Pathway

On this pathway your child will study the core curriculum above and they will then make **2 choices.**

Please feel free to contact us at school if you have any questions about pathways.

The Guided Choices Process

The process of selecting courses in year 9 will be carried out in conjunction with parents or carers. Throughout the process, students will receive guidance and parents will be able to access information regarding the choices students will make.

On the Guided Choices Evening students and carers will be provided with a letter containing all of the options that can be selected. Subjects are grouped in blocks and students must select a first choice in each block and a reserve in block B and block C.

Block A	Block B	Block C
History ☐	Triple Science ☐	Spanish ☐
Geography ☐	Art ☐	Business Studies ☐
	Sport ☐	Sport ☐
	Food and Nutrition ☐	Drama ☐
	Music ☐	Health and Social ☐
	Design and Technology ☐	Design and Technology ☐
	Reserve: _____	Reserve: _____

When students have discussed options with parents and staff within the Academy, they will then be able to record their selections on an online form indicating their choices.
The deadline for the completion of this online form is 15th March.

We will endeavour to ensure students receive their first choices, but we cannot guarantee all first options are secured. In particular if there is not enough interest in a course, it may not run. It is therefore important that students think carefully about their reserve choices.
Letters will be sent home w/c 3rd June confirming choices.

Dos and Don'ts

Do choose a subject because:

- You like it or are interested in it
- You need it, or it will be useful for a future career
- It will develop new skills
- You think you will do well in it
- Your parents/teachers agree that it is a suitable choice for you
- It will combine well with other subjects
- You like the method of assessment
- You would like to pursue it after year 11

Don't choose a subject because:

- Your friends are doing it
- You think you should do it – even if you don't want to
- Your parents/teachers think it's a good idea – but you don't
- Most people think it's cool
- You can't think of another subject to pick
- You think it will be easy
- You like the teacher who currently teaches the subject

Contacts

Key Staff

Name	Role	Email
Mr P Brown	Head of Year	pbrown@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mrs R Rive	Director of Outcomes year 7 – 10	rrive@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mrs C Williams	Deputy Headteacher	cwilliams@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk

Subject leaders

Name	Subject	Email address
Mrs G Lycett	English and Languages	glycett@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mr A Wright	Maths, IT and Business Studies	awright@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mrs V Hudson	Science and Technology	vhudson@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mr G Lambert	Humanities	glambert@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mrs A Walker	Creative Arts	awalker@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk
Mr R Russell	PE, Sports and Health and Social	rrussell@rudheathsenioracademy.org.uk

Core Curriculum Subjects

Core Subject

English Language

Course Content

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.
This specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language
Students will deliver a presentation on a chosen topic.
(0% weighting at GCSE)

GCSE English Language		
English Language	AQA website	Specification code: 8700

Why study English Language?

English Language is a core subject that all employers value. The skills and knowledge developed from this course are transferrable to any walk of life; whether it be communicating ideas to a team or writing and editing pieces of text.

Future Career Paths

- Journalist
- Teacher
- Lawyer
- Social Media Manager
- Human Resources
- Publishing
- Marketing Executive
- Web Content Manager

Post 16 Study

A-Level English Language
A-Level English Literature
A-Level English
A-Level Media Studies
A-Level Sociology

What Students say

"I enjoy being able to write creatively, especially writing descriptions"

"I like how English Language relates to all aspects of life"

Core Subject

English Literature

Course Content

Students will develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written, including plays, poems and novels.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
A Christmas Carol, Macbeth
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry
- 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

GCSE English Literature		
English Literature	AQA website	Specification code: 8702

Why study English Literature?

English Literature is a core subject that all employers value. It offers students the opportunity to develop a critical mind and to gain knowledge of the world around us.

Future Career Paths

- Journalist
- Teacher
- Lawyer
- Social Media Manager
- Human Resources
- Publishing
- Marketing Executive
- Web Content Manager

Post 16 Study

A-Level English Language
A-Level English Literature
A-Level English
A-Level Media Studies
A-Level Sociology

What Students say

"I love exploring different layers of meaning within texts. It's really interesting to hear other people's viewpoints"

Core Subject

GCSE Mathematics

Our curriculum enables students to further develop their mathematical fluency, and to reason mathematically by following a line of enquiry using mathematical language. The curriculum will allow students to solve problems in a variety of routine and non-routine ways with increasing sophistication.

Course Content

The course builds on from the skills and knowledge at Key Stage 3 and will cover all the elements of Mathematics: number, geometry, algebra, probability, and statistics. The course also covers mathematical content in real life situations and cross-curricular content.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

The assessments will cover the following content headings:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change
- Probability
- Statistics

Students are entered at either Higher Tier or Foundation Tier. The questions in the Higher Tier target grades 9 to 4 and Foundation Tier target grades 5 to 1.

Students will sit three equally weighted exam papers at the end of the course.
Paper 1 – Non-calculator (90 minutes)
Paper 2 – Calculator (90 minutes)
Paper 3 – Calculator (90 minutes)

GCSE Mathematics		
Specification code: 1MA1	Exam Board Website	GCSE Specification

Why study Maths?

Maths is a subject that you all have to study, but even so it is worth thinking about why this is and how it can be useful to you.
Whilst studying maths you will learn a range of techniques and methods, develop your problem-solving skills and improve your ability to think logically. All these are attributes potential employers will look for, as well as being useful to you if you choose further and higher education.

Future Career Paths

Almost all jobs and careers require you to display a good level of mathematical understanding. The following careers are closely linked to mathematics: engineering, finance, accountancy, actuarial work, science, medicine, dentistry, teaching, logistics, and many more.

Post 16 Study

A Level mathematics usually requires a grade 7 or above. A level physics, chemistry, biology, computer science usually require students to have achieve a grade 6 or above in maths.
Many sixth forms will require you to achieve a minimum of a grade 4 to enter level 3 courses (A level, T level and level 3 Btech). There is a legal requirement that you resit GCSE maths if you do not achieve at least a grade 4.

What Students say

"Maths is important because it opens lots of doors in your life."

"I enjoy GCSE maths because it really makes me think and I feel like I have done really well when I finish a problem question and see that I have got it right."

Core Subject

GCSE Trilogy Science

Course Content

Trilogy Science, also known as Double Science GCSE, covers all three science subjects including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. However, it is a combined course that results in students receiving two GCSE qualifications.
Combined Science is a good option for students who want to gain a broad understanding of science but may not want to specialise in a specific area.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Biology 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
Biology 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
Chemistry 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources

Physics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
Physics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
Foundation and Higher Tier
70 marks
16.7% of GCSE
Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

GCSE Trilogy Science		
Specification code: 8585	Exam Board Website	Specification

Why study Combined Science ?

Science is a core subject. GCSE Combined Science is a broad and detailed course of study that develops student's knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds, as well as the skills required to investigate concepts through practical application.
GCSE Combined Science qualification is a great stepping stone to further study at A Level, and also ideal for anyone aspiring to a career involving science, such as research and development, nursing or pharmacy.

Future Career Paths

Engineering
Medical – doctor, midwife, nurse
Electrician, plumber
Research scientist
Manufacturing

Post 16 Study

A Level science
Apprenticeships in engineering
BTEC sport
Continuing into a science degree at university

What Students say

"I love Science – it is one of my favourite subjects."
"There are so many more practicals at GCSE!"

Optional Curriculum Subjects

Optional Subject – Triple Science

GCSE Biology is the study of living organisms, divided into many specialised fields that cover their morphology, physiology, anatomy, behaviour, origin, and distribution. It is the study of everything that is, or was once, alive – whether an animal, plant or microorganism. It begins looking into the basis of life starting with cell biology and then develops further to look at the function of both plants and animals.

Course Content

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology
8. Key ideas

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Paper 1: Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Paper 2: Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

There are 10 required practical's pupils will need to investigate.

Triple Science - GCSE Biology		
Specification code: 8461	Exam board website	Specification

Why study Biology?

Skills learnt in Biology are transferable across all specialisms. Focussing on aspects such as thinking creatively and working through given case studies and scenarios, you will build upon fantastic research, problem solving, organisational and analytical skills.

Future Career Paths

-Biology opens doors to diverse career paths, including roles in research, healthcare, environmental conservation, and education. You could also explore careers such as research scientists, environmental consultants, healthcare professionals, educators, or even science communicators.

- Doctor, nurse, midwife
- Vet
- Veterinary nurse
- Teacher
- Research scientist

Post 16 Study

A good Biology qualification is highly valued and often essential in many sectors such as medicine, veterinary and health care.
A-Level Biology
Scientific degree

What Students say

"I enjoy the amount of practical work in science"
"I love the amount of time I spend in science"
"I like how Biology relates to me"

Optional Subject – Triple Science

GCSE Chemistry is the branch of science concerned with the substances of which matter is composed, the investigation of their properties and reactions, and the use of such reactions to form new substances.

Everything you touch, wear, eat or drink is the result of a chemical process. It is the 'central science' and connects other sciences to each other.

Course Content

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Paper 1: Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Paper 2: Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

There are 8 required practical's pupils will need to investigate

Triple Science - GCSE Chemistry		
Specification code: 8462	Exam Board website	Specification

Why study Chemistry?

Skills learnt in Chemistry are transferable to many courses you study. Focussing on aspects such as thinking creatively and working through given case studies and scenarios, you will build upon fantastic research, problem solving, organisational and analytical skills.

Future Career Paths

- Chemistry opens doors to diverse career paths, including roles in research, engineering and environmental science. The skills you learn are transferable to many courses and career pathways.

- Doctor, nurse, midwife
- Vet
- Veterinary nurse
- Teacher
- Research scientist

Post 16 Study

A good grade in GCSE Chemistry will allow you to go on and study any science course at A-Level.
A-Level Chemistry
A level Maths
Scientific degree

What Students say

"I find Chemistry challenging but its great when I get it!"
"I love the fire practical's in Chemistry"

Optional Subject – Triple Science

GCSE Physics is the branch of science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy. The subject matter of physics includes mechanics, heat, light and other radiation, sound, electricity, magnetism, and the structure of atoms.
Physics helps us to organise the universe and understand how the world around us works. It deals with fundamentals and helps us to see the connections between seemingly disparate phenomena.

Course Content

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics (physics only)

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Paper 1: Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Paper 2: Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

There are 10 required practical's pupils will need to investigate and 23 equations you will need to learn for the exam.

Triple Science - GCSE Physics		
Specification code: 8463	Exam Board website	Specification

Why study Physics?

Skills learnt in Physics are transferable to many courses you study. Focussing on aspects such as thinking creatively and working through given case studies and scenarios, you will build upon fantastic research, problem solving, organisational and analytical skills.

Future Career Paths

- Chemistry opens doors to diverse career paths, including roles in research, engineering and environmental science. The skills you learn are transferable to many courses and career pathways.

- Astronomer
- Theoretical physics
- Engineering
- Manufacturing
- Web developer

Post 16 Study

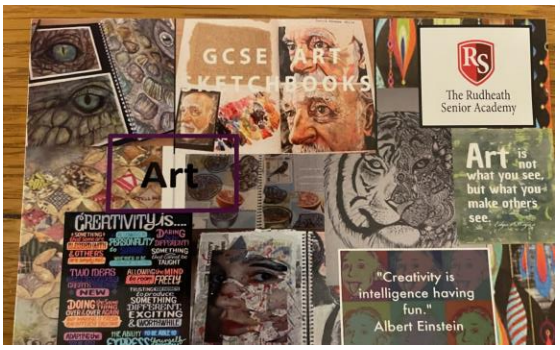
A good grade in GCSE Physics will allow you to go on and study any science and maths course at A-Level.
A-Level Chemistry
A level Maths
Scientific degree

What Students say

"I thought I hated physics but I love it!"
"Physics gives me such a deeper understanding of the invisible things that are going on around me"
"There is so much maths in physics!"

Optional Subject

GCSE Art & Design



Course Content

Art is a practical subject the Curriculum teaches skills based on A01, A02, A03, A04 strands of assessment and learning. Each project includes completing a sketchbook and 2x final pieces.

The art curriculum involves students exploring the applications of both new technologies and historical and contemporary art practice within their work. All students are encouraged to develop their knowledge and understanding of how to: develop ideas through looking at artists' work, explore art media, materials and processes to express and create original ideas record their experiences and observations. They use a variety of methods to acquire a command of specialist artistic vocabulary and an insight into the value and significance of art in society.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

The course is made up of two units of work.

Component 1: Portfolio (60%) (3x projects/sketchbooks and final pieces)

Students must produce sustained projects evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further experimental work. Includes projects from Year 10 and Mock exam work.

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%) (1x sketchbook and final pieces)

Question papers containing a selection of starting points are set by the examination board and issued to candidates in January.

Students are given a preliminary period of time to research and plan for the production of either a single response to their chosen starting point, or a series of responses, during a 10 hour supervised examination.

Art is assessed out of a total of 96 marks, 24 marks in each A0.

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

GCSE –Art & Design

Specification code 8201-C/x	Exam board website	Specification

Why study GCSE Art?

Learning through and about the arts enriches the experience of studying while at school as well as preparing students for life after school. Art encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity.

Art is a creative pathway which will help you develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills. You will also gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

Art is not an easy option, it is a subject that requires commitment. Although it is a subject that many find relaxing and enjoyable, it is a subject that requires 100% effort from the beginning and involves pupils to be continually working on their sketchbooks at home and developing ideas. Experimentation is key and exploring and refining media/techniques. For example; pencil, pen, shading, ink, water colour, acrylic painting and print work. Although time consuming, art is a highly rewarding subject for those with a creative mindset who like to express themselves.

Future Career Paths

Careers where Art and Design is important include Interior design, tattoo artist, 3D, Product and Graphic Design, Animation, Architecture, Children's Book Illustration, Textiles & Fashion Design, Gallery Education, Art Therapy, Set or Costume Design. There are endless possibilities and jobs where art and creativity is at the forefront.

Post 16 Study

Popular Post 16 options after taking GCSE Art & Design include: A-Levels or college courses in the following Fine Art. Graphic Design. Photography. Textiles. Media studies. Film studies. Product Design. Industrial Design to name a few. Many then go on to do degrees in art related courses or apprenticeships

What Students say

Art is not a difficult subject if you like it and are creative. It is time consuming though and a lot of work. You are expected to work in your own time, which often means staying behind after school to finish things off etc. If it's something you enjoy though then you shouldn't mind staying after school or working out of lessons. It's not a difficult subject, it just takes up more time than some others. Put in the effort and develop your skills and you can get high grades.

Optional Subject

GCSE Business

Studying Business Studies will provide students with the opportunity to develop a range of skills and knowledge to be able to work in a business, to become leaders of a business, or to start and develop a business of their own.

Course Content

The course builds on skills and knowledge from KS3 financial awareness and is designed to provide a broad understanding of all areas of a business; from Human Resources to Finance, and Marketing to Production. This course is designed to allow you to gain a strong understanding of business theory, but also to develop a range of skills including innovation, enterprise, financial capability and teamwork.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

The assessment will cover the following:

Theme 1: Investigating small business

Spotting a business opportunity, entrepreneurship, putting an idea into practice, external influences

Theme 2: Building a business

Growing a business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions, making human resources decisions

Assessment Exam Board: Edexcel GCSE Business Studies:

There are two exams each of 1 hour 45 minutes each:

- Paper 1: Investigating Small Business
- Paper 2: Building Business

GCSE Business Studies		
Specification code: 1503	Exam board website	GCSE Specification

Why study Business studies?

Have you ever wondered **why** business such as TikTok, Amazon and Daves Gym are so successful, whilst others fail? Have you ever wondered **why** businesses spend huge amounts to advertise and promote their products? Have you ever wondered **why** small businesses open and close all the time? If so, this could be the course for you.

Future Career Paths

Business studies offers students a wide variety of career paths. From digital advertising, accountants, recruitment, factory management, logistics, law, sales, retail management, human resource management, investment and banking, project management, economics advisor, teaching and of course setting up your own business!

Post 16 Study

A level Business usually requires a grade 5 or above. Many sixth forms will require you to achieve this as a minimum grade. However, they often also offer a vocational route in the form of BTEC Level 3. Students with a grade 4 or above can usually take this qualification.

What Students say

"For anyone who is unsure about their career path, Business studies offers an opportunity to find something that you're interested in and excel at!"
"It's new, different and challenges the way I think about the world and businesses"

Optional Subject

GCSE Design and Technology

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Course Content

The GCSE Design and Technology specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification will be delivered through the practical application of this knowledge and understanding.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

NEA

The Non-exam assessment will contribute towards 50% of the students overall mark. The NEA project in its entirety should take between 30-35 hours to complete and consist of a working prototype and a concise portfolio of approximately 20 pages of A3 paper, equivalent A4 paper or the digital equivalent.

Assessment

What's assessed

Core technical principles
Specialist technical principles
Designing and making principles

How it's assessed

Written exam: 2 hours
100 marks
50% of GCSE

GCSE Design and Technology

Specification code: 8552	AQA	Specification

Why study food?

Design Technology (DT) is a fascinating subject that offers a multitude of benefits.
Creativity and Problem-Solving: DT is a blend of creativity and technical skills. It encourages students to think outside the box, come up with innovative solutions, and bring their ideas to life. Whether it's designing a product, fashioning a prototype, or solving real-world problems, DT nurtures creativity.
Transferable Skills: In DT, students acquire valuable skills such as **problem-solving**, **collaboration**, and **evaluation**. These skills extend beyond the classroom and are applicable in various fields.
Material Knowledge: DT introduces students to different materials, their properties, and how they can be manipulated. Whether it's wood, metal, plastic, or textiles, understanding material science is essential for any designer or engineer.

Future Career Paths

DT opens doors to diverse career paths. As a STEM subject, students can explore fields like **design**, **engineering**, **computer-aided design (CAD)**, and more. Imagine becoming a **fashion designer**, a **rocket scientist**, a **branding designer**, an **architect**, or even a **structural engineer.**

Post 16 Study

The logical pathway beyond GCSE Design and Technology is AS/A2 Design and technology which can be studied at some post 16 educational providers. This course is also a good vehicle to prepare students for vocational courses due to its practical and problem-solving elements.

What Students say

"I really enjoy my DT lessons, especially the practical lessons where I am developing my prototype"
"I didn't think I would enjoy the theory lessons but they help me to build up knowledge towards the exam and parts of my NEA"
"I liked DT at Key stage 3 but this is so much better, smaller groups and being able to develop my own ideas into prototypes is really exciting"

Optional Subject

GCSE Drama

Course Content

What will I learn about?

GCSE Drama will give you the chance to explore drama and theatre in a range of exciting and relevant practical and theoretical ways. Students enjoy exploring published scripts, attending theatre visits to review the work of professionals, experimenting through practical workshops, and through devising,

You will learn:

How Drama is created, including all the acting, directing, lighting, sound and costume design skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on to the stage.

How to develop a character and play this character in a performance.

Many transferable skills that are highly valued in any walk of life including communication, teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Component 1: Devising Theatre (40%)

Non – exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.

Learners will:

- Participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre.
- Learn about any use the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by the exam board.
- Be assessed on either performance or design.
- Document your devising and performance process through a portfolio of evidence.
- Complete an evaluative report written under exam conditions.

Component 2: Performing from a Text (20%)

Practical performance externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Learners will:

- Study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre.
- Participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts.
- Be assessed on either acting or design.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (40%)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

Section A: Set Text

Learners will answer a series of questions about textual analysis, characters, plot, acting, directing, lighting, set, sound and costume design in relation to a set play text studied during the course.

Section B: Live Theatre Review -One question requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

GCSE Drama

Specification code: C690QS	Exam board website	Specification

Why study Drama?

In a society which effective communication in vital, studying drama helps to develop verbal and non-verbal individual and group communication skills for living. Drama enhances students creative and artistic abilities giving them a better understanding of themselves and their world.

Future Career Paths

What can this qualification lead to?

A course in Drama provides students with a unique opportunity to develop and extend their skills within the creative industry. Opportunities to develop your communication skills, confidence, independence and creativity.

Potential careers include:

- Performer
- Arts administrator
- Digital marketing
- Drama therapist
- Events manager
- Screen writer
- Set designer
- Producer
- Events manager
- Screen writer
- Set designer
- Costume designer
- Lighting & sound technician
- Producer
- Costume designer
- Lighting & sound technician

Many of the skills that you will hone and develop through your Drama course will be incredibly valuable in later life, regardless of the career or educational pathway you choose to follow. Creativity, adaptability, and communication prowess in fields such as film and television production, advertising, public relations, and event management.

Post 16 Study

After students have completed GCSE Drama they can go on to higher levels of study.
These include:

- GCE Drama and Theatre Studies at AS and A2 Level
- BTEC National Performing Arts (Acting)
- Apprenticeships in theatre technician jobs such as lighting or sound technicians.

What Students say

Drama develops so many skills beyond acting. It allows you to explore ideas creatively and express yourself. Working as a team, planning , problem solving and meeting project deadlines supports across other subjects. It is great for developing confidence and creativity.

Optional Subject

Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE food is a course that develops skills learnt at key Stage 3. We look in more detail at functional and chemical properties of food. 50% is none exam assessment that requires you to be an independent learner. We develop practical skills and more in-depth knowledge of nutritional requirements.

Course Content

Food preparation skills – these are intended to be integrated into the five sections:
Food, nutrition and health
Food science
Food safety
Food choice
Food provenance

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Written Paper

How it's assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
100 marks
50% of GCSE

None Exam Assessment

How it's assessed

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. Functional and chemical properties.
Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included. Skills and nutrition.
3 hour practical exam
100 marks
50% of GCSE

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition		
Specification code: 8585	AQA	Specification

Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a subject that you will enjoy if you have enjoyed food over the last three years. You will develop your skills in the practical area and have more understanding of the chemical and functional reactions that take place. Food GCSE develops your independence and encourages you to make decisions. This is an opportunity to look in more detail at nutrition and relate this to your practical outcomes.

Future Career Paths

Different career paths that students have followed are:
Chef
Food Technologist / Scientist
Food Inspector / Food Safety Officer
Dietitian
Restaurant Manager

Post 16 Study

A Level in hospitality and catering
A level in Nutrition
Apprenticeship are available for student to learn as they are working. An Apprenticeships can be done through college or an independent employer.

What Students say

"I have really enjoyed food GCSE and developed so many skills"
"I didn't realise that science played such a big part in understanding how ingredients reacted together"

Optional Subject

GCSE Geography

Course Content

Paper 1: The challenge of natural hazards - tectonic hazards, weather hazards and climate change.
The living world - hot deserts, tropical rainforests and ecosystems. Physical landscapes in the UK - rivers and coasts.
Paper 2 Urban issues and challenges - urbanisation, urban change and sustainable urban areas. The changing economic world - global variations of economic development, the development gap, growth of tourism, economic development. The challenge of resource management - resources in the UK (food, water and energy).
Paper 3:Issue evaluation: (the study of a pre-release booklet about a geographical issue) Fieldwork: In Year 11 students will undertake a fieldwork project investigating a human and physical geography question.
PLEASE NOTE As a part of this course there is a compulsory fieldwork trip.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

3 written exams at the end of Year 11.
Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment (35%) 1 hour 30 mins
Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment (35%) 1 hour 30 mins
Paper 3 – Geographical Applications (30%) 1 hour 30 mins

GCSE Geography

Specification code: 8035	Exam board website	Specification

Why study Geography?

Through the Geography GCSE course, you will travel the world from your classroom. We explore case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Examples include; studying the opportunities and challenges of urban change in Lagos,
Nigeria, deforestation in the Malaysian rainforest, the impacts and responses to earthquakes in Nepal and Chile, managing food resources plus many more. Topics of study include current global issues such as climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of
sustainable resource use. Throughout the 2 years you will build upon your understanding of your role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes to different global issues.

Future Career Paths

From a study of Geography, you will gain lots of transferable skills that can be used in lots of career options such as;

Journalism
Weather forecasting
Landscape architecture
Town planning
Surveying
Environmental law
Catastrophe modelling / emergency planning
Conservation
Cartography
Environment and ecology plus many more.

Post 16 Study

After students have completed GCSE Geography they can go on to higher levels of study. These include:

A-Level Geography
A Level Environmental Science
Degree in Physical or Human Geography – Bachelor of Arts or Science
The Armed Forces

What Students say

"Geography is an education for life and for living."
''Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future."

Optional Subject

BTEC Tech Award- Health and Social Care

This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK: Health & Social Care.
The course covers some of the fundamental aspects of health and social care, including growth and development, health and social care services and values, and health and wellbeing.

Course Content

The course covers some of the fundamental aspects of health and social care, including growth and development, health and social care services and values, and health and wellbeing, giving learners a broad introduction to a sector that transects a wide range of careers from social care and social work to many different branches of healthcare. The breadth of this course allows learners to identify their strengths and interests to help inform next steps in education and training.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development- assessed via coursework.

Learners will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values- assessed via coursework.

Learners will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing- assessed via an exam.

Learners will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

BTEC Tech Award – Health & Social Care	
Specification	BTEC Health and Social Care- Specification.pdf

Why study BTEC Health & Social Care?

Using realistic vocational contexts, learners will acquire sector-specific knowledge and technical skills, exploring a range of healthcare conditions and social care needs and considering how the different healthcare and social services available can help meet individuals' needs as well as the common barriers to access and obstacles to care. They will learn about physical, lifestyle, social, cultural, economic, and environmental factors affecting health and wellbeing and how to make recommendations for improvement using person-centred approach.

The Tech Award combines theory with plenty of practical application, giving learners the opportunity to develop key skills relevant to the health and social care sector such as research techniques and measuring physical health, as well as developing their written communication skills as they create health and wellbeing plans.

Future Career Paths

This qualification has been developed in close consultation with focus groups, current practitioners, and employers to ensure that all the key skills and areas of knowledge required for learners to work effectively in the sports industry. In additional to career paths such as sports coaching, leisure centre management and sports development, BTEC Sport develops pupils' leadership and teamwork skills. These skills are highly sought across many career paths.

Post 16 Study

A- Level - Health & Social Care
Vocational Qualifications (EG- BTEC Level 3/ HNC) Counselling, Childcare and health care therapy

What Students say

"I want to work in the care industry as either a nurse or social worker. This course has given me the opportunity learn about peoples physical, emotional and mental needs and how society can support these people"

Optional Subject

GCSE History

Course Content

Medicine through time, 1250-present day: How ideas of illnesses, medicine and other treatments have changed over time, The Black Death, The first vaccines, Cholera, 20th Century medicine.
Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588: Elizabethan government and society, Mary, Queen of Scots, religious challenges, the Babington Plot, the Spanish Armada, Elizabethan education and leisure, the attempted colonisation of Virginia.
The Cold War, 1941-91: The rise and fall of tension between the USA and the Soviet Union (Russia), The spread of communism in Eastern Europe, The Cuban Missile crisis, The Space Race, The Berlin Wall and the division of Germany.
Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1930: The origins of the Nazi Party, How Hitler became the leader of Germany, How Hitler created a Police State, Attitudes towards women, The treatment of minorities.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Written Examinations.
Paper 1 - Thematic study and historic environment 30%
Medicine through time, 1250- present day –1hr 20mins

Paper 2 - Period study and British depth study 40%
Early Elizabethan England and Cold War - 1hr 50mins

Paper 3 - Modern depth study 30%
Weimar and Nazi Germany – 1hr 30mins

All written examinations take place at the end of Year 11.

GCSE History		
Specification code: 1HI0FR	Exam Board Website	Specification

Why study History?

History will help you understand how the world you live in was shaped, and make you consider today's society in a different way. It will help you to be able to argue and get across your view in an intelligent way. History is all about looking at the reasons why things happen and putting across your view. It will help you spot fake news – We interrogate sources and work out if they are true or not. Employers and universities regard History qualifications very highly – GCSE History may just be your ticket to a better future.

Future Career Paths

It will help in any job or qualification that requires excellent communication skills. Potential career pathways include;
Antique dealer, archaeologist, art gallery curator, journalist, conservator, heritage officer, auctioneer, teacher, lawyer, tourist guide, writer.

Post 16 Study

A-Level History
A-Level Law
A-Level Politics

What Students say

'History can shape not only who we are, but also what we can do with our future''

Optional Subject

GCSE Music

The Eduqas GCSE in Music offers a broad and coherent course of study which encourages learners to: Engage actively in the process of music study. Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used.

Course Content

Your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills.
Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too.
You will gain a deep understanding of a number of transferable skills and practice applying these to new situations, developing analytical and problem-solving skills. Through studying music, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Component 1 Performing (30%)
- ♬ Teacher assessed
- ♬ A minimum of two pieces, lasting a total of 4-6 minutes
- ♬ One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute
- ♬ Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly
- ♬ You can use any instrument or voice, or choose a technology option.

Component 2 Composing (30%)
- ♬ Teacher assessed
- ♬ Two pieces: One in response to a brief set by EDUQAS – there are 4 to choose from each year.
- ♬ One free composition – ANY style you want to write in.

Component 3 Appraising (40%)
- ♬ Externally assessed examination
- ♬ Listening examination: 8 questions, 2 on each area of study:
- ♬ AoS 1 Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work*)
- ♬ AoS 2 Music for Ensemble
- ♬ AoS 3 Film Music
- ♬ AoS 4 Popular Music (including a set work*)

GCSE Music		
Specification code: C660QS	Exam Board Website	Specification

Why study Music?

If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills and get a GCSE out of it!
If you are a creative person who wants to learn to make music, this course will give you that chance. If you love listening to music, and can spot all the details, sing every riff and "air-drum" every beat you have already developed some of the abilities you need. OK, so you can't mime playing it in the exam, but if you can already think that rhythm or sing that tune in your head, you have some skills!

Future Career Paths

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum.)
When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow.
This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions.

Post 16 Study

- A Level Music
- BTEC Music
- Music Production and Performance courses

What Students say

"We learn about music by playing a variety of different instruments, including our own (so it helps to be able to play something or sing already). We can enjoy different musical cultures, by listening to things and recording our own performances. We get to use technology to do individual composition. You get to do a lot of your own thing, so you can be very creative."

Optional Subject

GCSE Spanish

Course Content

Students study a range of topics within the broader themes of:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday and travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study, and work
5. International and global dimension

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

You will be assessed in all four language proficiencies: listening, speaking, reading and writing. All skills are given equal weighting towards the final GCSE grade and assessment is linear meaning there is a final exam in each skill area.

Listening (25%)
Speaking (25%)
Reading (25%)
Writing (25%)

You will be expected, as you progress linguistically, to manipulate language and grammar, understand issues and give opinions. Speak and write spontaneously, translate different texts, and understand the culture of native speaking countries.

GCSE Spanish

Specification code 8698	Exam board website	Specification

Why study GCSE Spanish?

Language learning requires consistent and constant effort and commitment. You will be building on prior study from key stage 3. You can do anything with a language. Learning Spanish shows excellent communication skills and demonstrates you are more culturally aware, which would be useful for several industries. The top UK universities would like students to apply who have studied a language as it is seen as a facilitating subject and forms part of the EBACC suite of courses. Spanish is the second most popular language in the world and it is spoken in over 20 countries. Speaking another language can help you stand out in a crowd and employers believe a second language boosts your employability as it helps you enhance analytical and creative skills improving your cognitive development.

Future Career Paths

There are several career paths for which GCSE Spanish is useful these include:
Journalism, teaching, sales, IT, translation, diplomatic services, public relations, marketing, law, logistics, and interpreting to name but a few.

Post 16 Study

A-Level Spanish is a natural progression, and you can study Spanish at University to degree level.

What Students say

"I have really grown in confidence since starting GCSE Spanish and it has opened my eyes to new food which I would not have tried before. When I am older I want to travel to Mexico, Colombia and Peru. I did not know much about Hispanic culture before I started this course and it has opened my eyes to different cultures and I cannot wait to travel and learn more."

Optional Subject

BTEC Tech Award- Sport

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the sports sector, giving them a broad introduction that keeps all their options open and allows them to make an informed decision about their future learning.

Course Content

Pupils will explore the different types and providers of sport and physical activity, as well as the equipment and technology available. Building on this, they will look at individuals' differing needs, to gain an understanding of how to increase participation in sport while further developing their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology in a contextualised way. They will then apply their knowledge and skills to planning and delivering sports activity sessions for participants in practical sessions.

Subject Units and Assessment Outline

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity- Assessed via coursework.

IMPORTANT – During the assessment process of component 1, in addition to written coursework you will be **recorded** delivering and leading a sports session to a group of RSA pupils. EG- **Videoed** leading a warm-up/ skill for a football session

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance- Assessed via coursework.

IMPORTANT – During the assessment process of component 2, in addition to written coursework you will be **recorded** performing in a chosen sport- EG- **Videoed** playing badminton.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity- Assessed via a 90 minute exam.

BTEC Tech Award - Sport	
Specification	BTEC Sport-tech-award-sport-specification.pdf

Why study BTEC Sport?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. They will explore the different types and providers of sport and physical activity, as well as the equipment and technology available. Building on this, they will look at individuals' differing needs, to gain an understanding of how to increase participation in sport while further developing their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology in a contextualised way. They will then apply their knowledge and skills to planning and delivering sports activity sessions for participants in practical sessions.

In addition, this qualification enables learners to develop sector-specific skills such as sport analysis and sports leadership, and personal skills such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork, through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment. This qualification has been developed in close consultation with focus groups, current practitioners, and employers to ensure that all the key skills and areas of knowledge required for learners to work effectively in the sports industry are incorporated into both the content and the assessment process. The internally assessed components are task-based and largely practical, allowing learners to demonstrate their skills and ability – and their understanding of the theoretical content – in a way that suits them.

Future Career Paths

This qualification has been developed in close consultation with focus groups, current practitioners, and employers to ensure that all the key skills and areas of knowledge required for learners to work effectively in the sports industry. In additional to career paths such as sports coaching, leisure centre management and sports development, BTEC Sport develops pupils' leadership and teamwork skills. These skills are highly sought across many career paths.

Post 16 Study

A- Level Physical Education
Vocational Qualifications (EG- BTEC Level 3/ HNC) Sports coaching, Sports fitness and Personal Training, Sport massage Therapy

What Students say

"I want to be a PE teacher. This course has given me the opportunity to have a go at coaching. Although I was nervous, I now feel better prepared"