



ASHLAWN  
SCHOOL

**Key Stage 4**  
**Options Prospectus**  
**2026**



## Overview

### Key Stage 4 Options

This is an exciting and important time for Year 9 students, as you get to choose a number of subjects to study to a higher level - and also to potentially experience some subjects you have not yet experienced.

### Choosing your options

The majority of you will follow the **main** pathway shown on the next page. There will also be virtual subject information presentations for those subjects, with an opportunity to ask questions afterwards.

#### DO:

- ✓ Read all of the information in this booklet
- ✓ Attend the subject presentations for subjects you're interested in
- ✓ Speak to parents about your choices
- ✓ Speak to your teachers about the KS4 courses

#### DON'T:

- ✗ Choose subjects because you like or don't like a particular teacher
- ✗ Choose subjects just because your friends are doing them
- ✗ Choose a subject because you think it will be "easy"

### Submitting your options choices

Choices are submitted online, using the following form:

<https://forms.gle/CXDK6zJMTtLe8C9L8>

Students will need to log in using their school account (not personal email or parent account) and follow the instructions to submit their choices. Once submitted, a summary can be emailed to students - options can be changed right up until the deadline, which is 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm.

## Which pathway?

Most of you are expected to follow the **main** pathway, choosing a Humanities subject, a Language, and two other subjects.

If you have good reason that you would need to follow the **alternate** pathway, you will need to **request** to opt-out from the main pathway when you complete your options form. You will need to explain your reason for opting out and choose a third 'other' subject that will be considered if your request is successful.

## MAIN PATHWAY

Maths

English Language  
AND  
English Literature

Science

Geography OR  
History

French OR German OR  
Spanish

Religious Studies  
(Short Course GCSE)

### Two further choices from:

Art & Design (Fine Art OR 3D Design OR Photography), Business Studies OR Enterprise and Marketing, Child Development, Computer Science, Creative iMedia, Dance, Drama, Engineering, Food, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Languages, Media Studies, Music, PE OR Sport, Psychology, Separate Sciences

## ALTERNATE PATHWAY

Maths

English Language  
AND  
English Literature

Science

Geography OR  
History OR French OR  
German OR Spanish

Religious Studies  
(Short Course GCSE)

### Three further choices from:

Art & Design (Fine Art OR 3D Design OR Photography), Business Studies OR Enterprise and Marketing, Child Development, Computer Science, Creative iMedia, Dance, Drama, Engineering, Food, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Languages, Media Studies, Music, PE OR Sport, Psychology, Separate Sciences

## Key Dates

M	T	W	T	F
23 Feb	24	25 Options launch to Year 9	26 Presentation and Q&A session on the options process	27
2 Mar Subject Q and A online during this week	3	4	5	6
9 Mar	10	11	12	13 Options deadline

A schedule and links for the subject information presentations will be emailed directly to students and parents prior to the presentations. All presentations will be recorded and posted on the school website for future reference and for parents and students unable to join live.

There will also be a virtual presentation / Q&A session for the options process as a whole, which will take place on Thursday 26 February. If you have questions about the process, please attend this session and we will be able to answer these then.

# FAQ

## **Why do I have to choose reserve subjects?**

We work very hard to try and get all students the subjects they have chosen. However, in some cases - for example, if not enough students opt for a course, or if staffing changes - certain subjects may not end up running in Year 10, so students who choose that subject will be assigned their reserve. Also, in very rare cases, a particular combination of subjects is impossible to fit onto the timetable, in which case we would also need to assign a reserve.

## **Why do some subjects have “OR” between them?**

There are certain combinations of subjects that cannot be taken together - for example, Fine Art and 3D Design. This is usually because they are different versions of the same qualification, and therefore you cannot do both versions simultaneously.

## **What happens if I don't complete the form?**

Your form tutors will remind you of the deadline leading up to it. We build the timetable around the options choices that have been made, so that as many students as possible can access their first choices. If you do not choose your subjects by the deadline, we will not factor your choices into the timetable and you may find that you have a more restricted choice for Year 10.

## **Are options first-come, first-served?**

No. The timetable is constructed based on all choices that have been submitted by the deadline - it does not matter whether you were first or last, so long as you meet the deadline. You can also change your options choices as many times as you like up until that point.

## **I don't know what I want to do in the future. What subjects should I choose?**

Most students do not know at 14 years old what they want to do as a career, that is normal. We recommend that you pick subjects that you are good at, that you enjoy, or that you have an interest in - because you're more likely to succeed in these subjects. If you are really stuck, speak to your form tutor, parents or a teacher that knows you well, who may be able to suggest some good choices for you.

## **Can I change my mind after the deadline, before Year 10?**

We will give an opportunity to change options choices towards the end of Year 9. However, the timetable will have been built by then so you may be more restricted in subjects available to you, or classes may be full.

## **Can I change my subjects in Year 10?**

There will be a very small window at the start of Year 10 in which students can request a change of subject. After this point, we will not allow changes of subject because you will have missed too much learning to catch up in a new subject.

## **What if I have a question not answered here?**

Speak to your form tutor, to Miss Robinson, to any of the contacts listed on the subject pages, to Mrs Lavery, Miss Lodge, or to Mr Quinney.

# English Language

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

At the core of English Language GCSE lies the essential development of your reading, writing and communication skills. You will be encouraged to read and analyse high quality, challenging literature and non-fiction from a range of genres across the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. A focus on language analysis will embed the qualities of 'academic writing' and stimulate your own creative writing pieces.

## How will I learn?

You will learn through a combination of the core English skills: reading, writing, discussing, debating and reasoning. You will also be supported to develop memory and recall through frequent revision activities.

### Post-16 Progression

GCSE English is an entry requirement for many courses and colleges.

It is a compulsory subject at GCSE.

### Example Career Paths

English teaching

Writing, poet

Journalist

## Assessment

Two exam papers at the end of Year 11.

NEA Spoken Language Endorsement (Speaking and Listening) in the summer term of Year 10

## Did you know...?

A new word is added to the dictionary every 2 hours!

**Contact: Mr D Burkill**  
**Miss L Rogers**

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# English Literature

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

English Literature GCSE encourages you to read a wide range of challenging classic literature. You will study texts from different historical periods which will enable you to experience life in 1960s Liverpool, the dark streets of Victorian London and to explore the complexity of human relationships across time in poetry. Such texts include: *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare and *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. You will be assessed on your skills in analysing, interpreting and critically evaluating a range of literary texts including a 19th century novel, a Shakespeare play, a selection of poetry since 1789 and British fiction or drama from 1914 onwards.

## How will I learn?

You will approach texts from different perspectives, seeking to develop multiple interpretations of language, form and structure as well as character and theme. You will also take a step inside the contexts of the books we study, learning about what life was like under different social pressures, traditions and personal experiences.

### Post-16 Progression

A Level English Literature

A-Level/college courses in subjects that require analytical skills

### Example Career Paths

English teaching

Creative writer

Literary critic

## Assessment

Two exam papers at the end of Year 11.

## Did you know...?

Shakespeare has been credited by the Oxford English Dictionary with introducing almost 3,000 words to the English language

**Contact: Mr D Burkill**  
**Miss L Rogers**

[✉ burkilld@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:burkilld@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)

[✉ rogersl@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:rogersl@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)

# Mathematics

AQA | GCSE Single Award

*Mathematics is offered at foundation or higher tier level. The final tier of entry for each student will not be decided until after mock examinations in Year 11.*

## What will I learn?

You will learn maths through a range of learning experiences including problem solving in a wide variety of contexts, investigations, data analysis and mathematical reasoning. You will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of number, ratio and proportion, geometry, algebra, statistics and probability.

## How will I learn?

You will participate in a variety of learning approaches including problem solving, research and responding to individual assessment feedback and target setting. You will also learn through whole-class discussion, paired and group investigations and individual practice.

### Post-16 Progression

Entry requirement for most subjects, including a strong grade for many science subjects

A-level Maths and Further Maths

Core Mathematics Level 3

### Example Career Paths

Criminal intelligence analyst

Insurance account manager

Maths teacher

Software engineer

## Assessment

Three exam papers at the end of Year 11 - one non-calculator and two calculator-allowed.

## Did you know...?

From number 0 to 1000, the letter 'A' only appears in 1000 – 'one thousand'.

# Combined Science

Edexcel | GCSE Double Award

*Science can either be taken as a Combined Science qualification, or as three separate sciences (which also takes up one option 'slot'). Students opting for separate sciences may be assessed for their suitability for the course.*

## What will I learn?

Biology, Chemistry and Physics over a 2-year course. This will include learning exciting and interesting content such as: cellular control, health and disease, ecosystems in Biology; atomic structure, fuels and practical skills to carry out titrations and other practicals in Chemistry; motion, waves, energy and radioactivity in Physics.

## How will I learn?

Together with whole class learning you will use independent research and study skills to extend your knowledge of the living world. The course includes many hands-on science experiments through which you will learn key practical skills. There will also be opportunities for field-work and outside, studying the distribution of organisms in our environment.

### Post-16 Progression

Achievement of double award allows progression to A-level in either Chemistry, Biology or Physics, or onto a vocational course in all areas.

### Example Career Paths

There are a wide range of science-based careers such as Airline Pilot, Beautician, Chiropodist, Dentist, Electrical Engineer, Forester, Geoscientist.

## Assessment

**Combined Science** - six papers at the end of Year 11 (70 minutes each)

## Did you know...?

20% of the earth's oxygen is produced by the Amazon rainforest.

**Contact: Mrs E Johnson-Slaney**  
**Mr L Hillman**

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✉ [hillmanl@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:hillmanl@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)

# Separate Sciences

## (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Edexcel | GCSE Double Award

*Science can either be taken as a Combined Science qualification, or as three separate sciences (which also takes up one option 'slot'). Students opting for separate sciences may be assessed for their suitability for the course.*

### What will I learn?

Biology, Chemistry and Physics over a 2-year course. This course covers one third more content than the combined course, including higher-demand concepts such as osmoregulation, medical physics and nanochemistry.

### How will I learn?

Triple science demands students that have a keen interest in science. It still offers the same opportunities as combined but as three GCSEs. Together with whole class learning you will use independent research and study skills to extend your knowledge of the living world. The course includes many hands-on science experiments through which you will learn key practical skills. There will also be opportunities for field-work and outside, studying the distribution of organisms in our environment.

### Post-16 Progression

Achievement of either double award or separate awards allows progression to A levels in either Chemistry, Biology or Physics, or onto a vocational course in all areas.

### Example Career Paths

There are a wide range of science-based careers such as Airline Pilot, Beautician, Chiropodist, Dentist, Doctor, Electrical Engineer, Forester, Geoscientist.

### Assessment

**Separate Sciences** - two papers for each subject (105 minutes each) at the end of Y11

### Did you know...?

20% of the earth's oxygen is produced by the Amazon rainforest.

**Contact: Mrs E Johnson-Slaney**  
**Mr L Hillman**

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# Art & Design (Fine Art)

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

You will develop your skills of creativity, imagination, research, investigation and experimentation through different media such as drawing, painting and mixed media. The development of ideas from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source material will also be studied. You will also learn how artists and crafts produce their work.

## How will I learn?

You will learn from practical experiments and analysis.

### Post-16 Progression

There are BTEC, AS and A2 Level courses in Art and Design available at local colleges for students who wish to continue with their studies in this field, as well as progression into Higher Education courses.

### Example Career Paths

Careers in the Art and Design field include, for example, photography, cartoonist, website design, graphic designer, interior designer, animation, product designer, fine artist and teaching.

## Assessment

**Unit 1** - portfolio of work, worth 60%

**Unit 2** - externally set assignment, worth 40%

## Did you know...?

Art offers students opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental.

# Art & Design (3D Design)

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

You will continue to develop your skills in design, investigation, manufacturing and evaluating through a series of small projects where you will increase your independence over time. You will work with a variety of materials such as textiles, woods, metals and plastics. You will develop ideas from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, designer/artist inspiration will also be studied. You will also learn how designers and crafts people produce their work.

## How will I learn?

You will learn from practical experiment and analysis

### Post-16 Progression

BTEC and A-Level courses in Art and Design

### Example Career Paths

Cartoonist, website design, graphic/interior/product designer, industrial designer, jewelry designer, technologist, dye maker, architect, town planner, civil engineer, landscaper and many more

## Assessment

**Unit 1** - portfolio of work, worth 60%

**Unit 2** - externally set assignment, worth 40%

## Did you know...?

That the design industry contributed £94.4billion to the UK economy last year and that job growth is increasing by as much as 138% in some design sectors

**Contact: Ms T Summers**

 [summerst@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:summerst@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)

# Business Studies

Edexcel | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

This subject offers you a detailed look into how a business works. Students will begin developing their knowledge by looking at how small businesses operate. There are five key areas students will learn about: Enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, Making the business effective, Understanding external influences on business. Students then study how large organisations operate. Again, there are five key areas that students will learn about; Growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions, Making human resource decisions.

## How will I learn?

You will study case studies based on particular businesses. You will complete a wide range of examination questions which will focus on knowledge, application, analysis and evaluation. Students knowledge will be assessed in lessons through completing End of Unit Tests that replicate the format of the two real exams.

### Post-16 Progression

A Levels including Level 3 Economics, Business, Accountancy, Law and Politics.

### Example Career Paths

Careers after Economics are vast and can include: Economist, Chartered Accountant, Investment analyst, Financial risk analyst, Management consultant, Government officer, Politician, Banker.

## Assessment

Two exam papers at the end of Year 11

## Did you know...?

McDonald's first menu items were hot dogs, not hamburgers

# Child Development

OCR | Cambridge National Level

## What will I learn?

This qualification will help you to develop knowledge, understanding and skills that will allow you to help and support those in your care, starting from preconception through to children aged birth to five years. It is important that childcare settings provide a safe and nurturing environment to care for babies and young children, as well as providing activities and support to help them develop. This qualification will allow you to gain knowledge and skills to help provide such an environment for children in your care.

### Post-16 Progression

Level 3 extended diploma in  
Childhood Studies

Level 2 Childhood and Health  
Studies

A-Level Health and Social Care

### Example Career Paths

Social worker

Care assistant

Occupational health nurse

## Assessment

One exam paper at the end of Year 11

Two pieces of NEA (non-examined assessments/coursework) throughout Y10 and Y11

## Did you know...?

UK parents spend an average of £10,000 on baby prep/first year of life costs, adding up to more than £3bn spent on first babies alone EACH YEAR!

Contact: R Kenney

 [kenneyr@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:kenneyr@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)

# Computer Science

OCR | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

In GCSE Computer Science you will learn how computers work and communicate with different devices and the hardware needed to make all of this happen. You will also learn how to design and create programs in text-based programming languages and develop them for a specific purpose. We will look into how a computer 'thinks' in order to solve different problems.

## How will I learn?

You will design, write and correct programs that will overcome a range of problems. You will also learn about different pieces of hardware and how they fit into a computer.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Computer Science

Vocational qualifications, IT Level 3 or Digital Media Level 3

Apprenticeships in Computer Science or IT

### Example Career Paths

Web developer

Software architect

Game designer

Computer security

Network manager

## Assessment

Two exam papers at the end of Year 11

## Did you know...?

A computer as powerful as the human brain would be able to perform about 38 thousand trillion operations per second and hold about 3,584 terabytes of memory.

# Creative iMedia

OCR | Cambridge National

## What will I learn?

You will learn how to understand and apply the basic principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, media conventions, planning techniques, legal issues and distribution considerations. You will develop skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations. We aim to develop your independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely.

## How will I learn?

We aim to get you to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. You will get to design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements. We will spend time doing practical design but also developing understanding of how design is carried out.

### Post-16 Progression

A Level Media Studies

OCR Technicals in IT or Digital Media

T Level Digital Production or Media, Broadcast and Production

### Example Career Paths

Animator, content creator, copywriter, graphic designer, photographer, script writer, web designer, camera, games programmer/developer, sound editor, audio technician, video editor, web developer

## Assessment

One written exam paper (40%)

Two centre-assessed tasks (30% each)

## Did You Know

The UK ICT Market is expected to grow at 7.8% a year for the next 5 years

Contact: Mr I Thomson

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# Dance

Edexcel | BTEC Tech Award

## What will I learn?

You will develop different styles of dance, enhance and develop techniques and expressive qualities as a performer.

## How will I learn?

Practical lessons and workshops will focus on techniques and choreography supported with theory. Topics include developing techniques, choreography and dance appreciation. You will also study the works of professional choreographers and dance companies to increase your own knowledge base and enhance your technical, expressive and choreographic skills as a performer.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Dance

BTEC diploma in Dance

### Example Career Paths

Dance performer or teacher

Choreographer

Arts journalist

## Assessment

Three components:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts (30%)  | Internally assessed |
| 2 - Developing Skills & Techniques (30%) | Internally assessed |
| 3 - Responding to a Brief (40%)          | Written exam        |

**Contact: Mrs W Pickering**

[✉ pickeringw@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk](mailto:pickeringw@ashlawn.tlet.org.uk)

# Drama

Edexcel | BTEC Tech Award

## What will I learn?

You will learn how to devise exciting, original drama by exploring a variety of stimuli, styles, genres and practitioners. The core knowledge and skills you will gain will help you to create work that is thoughtful, engaging and of a very high standard. You will learn how to analyse your key performance decisions for a written portfolio and then evaluate your successes in an evaluation. You will demonstrate your knowledge of a play text by performing extracts to a visiting examiner. You will show your knowledge and understanding of a play text set by the exam board and also write an evaluation of a live performance you have seen.

## How will I learn?

We will strive to enable you to complete as much of your learning in Drama GCSE in a practical way despite the fact that 70% of the GCSE will be assessed on written communication. We believe the best way to learn about drama and theatre is through involvement in practical exploration and by complementing this with high quality learning for the written element.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Theatre Studies  
Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts

### Example Career Paths

Theatre  
Media  
The Arts  
Transferable skills for almost all careers: teamwork, time management, communication, leadership, self-presentation

## Assessment

Three components:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts (30%)  | Internally assessed |
| 2 - Developing Skills & Techniques (30%) | Internally assessed |
| 3 - Responding to a Brief (40%)          | Written exam        |

## Did you know...?

The longest running play in the world is Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*, running in the West End almost non-stop since 1952.

**Contact: Mrs G Ballinger**

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# Engineering

OCR | Cambridge National

## What will I learn?

You will develop your knowledge and understanding in relation to the fundamental principles and processes of engineering design. Through practical activities you will develop skills in computer-modelling and model-making and then how to communicate design ideas effectively.

## How will I learn?

You will learn a range of theories and through practical exploration. You will explore the development of new products and about consumer requirements and market opportunities. You will also have an opportunity to develop your knowledge and skill in communicating 2D and 3D design ideas, including effective annotation and labelling. You will use detailed hand rendering as well as computer-based presentation techniques and computer-aided design (CAD) software.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Engineering

Level 3 electric vehicle technology

Engineering apprenticeship

### Example Career Paths

There are a large number of engineers across a breadth of areas such a helicopter engineer, motor design and renewable energy.

## Assessment

External exam paper and a written assessment

## Did you know...?

The top 10% of engineers can earn up to £110,000 per year.

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

You will study connections between theory and practice enabling you to apply your understanding of food and nutrition to practical cooking. Topics covered include Food, Nutrition & Health, Food Science, Food Safety, Food Choice and Food Provenance.

## How will I learn?

You will demonstrate your knowledge by planning and cooking a range of dishes combining appropriate techniques. You will also analyse and evaluate different aspects of nutrition, food, cooking and preparation, including food that you have made and food made by others as well as conducting scientific experiments that explore the effect of different ingredients.

### Post-16 Progression

Catering college

Degree in Food Science

Hospitality

### Example Career Paths

Chef

Food technologist or food scientist

Teacher of Food

## Assessment

Written exam paper (50%)

Controlled assessment: Food Science (15%) and Food Preparation (35%)

## Did you know...?

Gordon Ramsey owns 35 restaurants across the world. He is the second richest chef in the world and in 2019 his earnings were listed at \$70 million!

Contact: Mrs L Taylor

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# Geography

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

Geography helps you consider the different influences which affect our world and encourages you to understand the social, economic and environmental factors which shape and change it. This will be done through physical geography in the study of natural hazards, ecosystems, and river and coasts, and through human geography in the study of urban environments, world development and resource management.

## How will I learn?

Learning is based around a series of skills including independent enquiry, resource interpretation, problem solving, map skills, teamwork, fieldwork and data analysis. There is also an emphasis on numeracy and statistical skills when you collect, present, and interpret different sets of data.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Geography and other social sciences as it helps you to shape arguments backed up by evidence

Level 3 BTEC Travel and Tourism

### Example Career Paths

Strong links to careers in: leisure, tourism, conservation, planning, agriculture, forestry, meteorology, surveying, research, sustainability, green energy, charity sector, logistics, disaster management and resource management

## Assessment

Three exam papers at the end of Year 11 - Paper 1 and 2 (35%) and Paper 3 (30%)

## Did you know...?

The largest recorded earthquake was in Chile in 1960, reaching 9.5 on the Richter Scale.

# Health and Social Care

OCR | Cambridge National

## What will I learn?

This is a vocational qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.

A qualification in Health and Social Care will equip you with specialist knowledge and skills. The hands-on approach would be beneficial to you if you are considering a career that involves working with people.

## How will I learn?

You will construct presentations, undertake research and conduct practical investigations. You will apply your learning to the assignments that make up the course.

### Post-16 Progression

This qualification is designed to equip learners with the practical health and social care skills they need to progress to further general or vocational study.

### Example Career Paths

Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching, Child Care, Social Care, Physiotherapy, Mental Health Support, Social Worker, Police Officer, Civil Servant, Nursery Nurse, Speech Therapy, Dietician, Play Worker, Counsellor.

## Assessment

One external exam paper

Two non-examined assessments (NEA/coursework)

## Did you know...?

The Health and Social Care sector contains pretty much any role you can think of and loads of fun ones that you've probably never thought of, like being a Children's Play Care Assistant! The sector also values flexibility. When you're in, you can move around between different sectors, so you're not locked into a particular job type. That makes it ideal for anyone who isn't quite sure what they want to do. Of course, if you're aiming for a particular job or career path, you can also achieve that.

Contact: R Kenney

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# History

Edexcel | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

History is a course which enables students to form judgements, select evidence and lead debates in order to analyse the past. Through the study of history, students will explore key concepts such as; significance, change and continuity, causation and consequence. This opens a range of options in education and future employment, not just History related! In fact, the historical skills of planning, thinking analytically, and the ability to learn and retain facts makes History a desirable qualification for many employers. Topics covered include Medicine during World War 1, Early Elizabethan England, International Relations and the Cold War and Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939.

## Post-16 Progression

GCSE History enables you to take a wide range of qualifications at A Level. It is good preparation for further study of History, but also very useful in relation to Law, Psychology, Sociology and Politics.

## Example Career Paths

These can include: Law, Journalism, Politics, Medicine, Media, Accountancy, Teaching Tourism...  
Many top employers value the skills developed by studying history

## Assessment

Three exam papers at the end of Year 11  
Paper 1 (30%), Paper 2 (40%) and Paper 3 (30%)

## Did you know...?

The kingdom of England originated in the 10th century

# Languages

## (French / German / Spanish)

AQA | GCSE Single Award

*Languages are offered at foundation or higher tier level. The final tier of entry for each student will not be decided until after mock examinations in Year 11. Students can only choose a language they have already studied at Key Stage 3.*

### What will I learn?

You will learn about the language, culture and identity of your chosen language. You will be able to converse confidently in the language and you will study a range of topics including social media and mobile technology, customs and traditions of the countries where the language is spoken, future plans for work and holidays, your personal identity and the influence of famous people. You will be able to understand both spoken and written texts on all topics covered as well as being able to discuss these topics yourself through speaking or writing. You will learn new vocabulary, structures and grammar which will enable you to give your opinions and views on your own personal interests, narrate your past experiences as well as being able to discuss your goals and dreams for the future.

### How will I learn?

The GCSE specification has a set list of vocabulary which you will learn through lesson content and home learning and which will then be formally assessed alongside your ability in the four main linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

#### Post-16 Progression

A level languages

Language course at college

#### Example Career Paths

Teaching

International business and marketing

Translation and interpreting

Government, civil service and foreign office roles

Journalism and media

Tourism and hospitality

### Assessment

Four examinations: listening, speaking, reading, and writing (25% each)

Contact: Mr S Massey

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# Enterprise and Marketing

OCR | Cambridge National

## What will I learn?

Students explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers. They are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal. They will carry out market research, present data, use idea generation tools, seek and act on feedback, and cost their proposals. Students prepare for and pitch the business proposal that they have developed. They develop a brand identity and investigate how best to promote their product and then plan, practice and finally deliver their pitch.

## How will I learn?

This Cambridge National course will see students taught theory content from their teacher. Students will then use this knowledge to develop the concept for their own business product.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Business

A-Level Economics

BTEC Business

### Example Career Paths

Brand manager, product manager, social media manager, public relations officer.

## Assessment

One written exam at the end of Year 11

Two pieces of coursework throughout Years 10 and 11, including a “Dragons’ Den”-style pitch

# Media Studies

Eduqas | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

This course involves the close analysis of the images, sounds and text that we experience through the media. It is the study of individual media texts such as television, film, radio, newspapers, magazines and music.

## How will I learn?

Throughout the course you will examine the audience that each media targets and explore how different media use different methods to appeal to audiences. You will investigate the ways the media seeks to change and influence our point of view or the way we see things. To enable us to do this we use media equipment to make your own film posters and DVD covers. You will analyse films, adverts, music videos, images and write essays and evaluations on the media that you have studied. The course aims to enhance your creative skills through research and planning while developing skills that will be useful for careers in journalism, communication, and advertising or marketing.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Media Studies

Level 3 Performing and  
Production Arts

### Example Career Paths

Media researcher

Advertising media manager

Digital marketing

## Assessment

One examined unit (70%)

One non-examined assessment (NEA/coursework) (30%)

## Did you know...?

The average UK adult spends 8hrs 41mins each day using media and communication devices. More time than they spend asleep!

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# Music

Pearson | BTEC Tech Award

## What will I learn?

The music industry is a vibrant, exciting and highly competitive industry that contributed £8 billion to the UK economy in 2025 and generated a further £5 billion in export revenue. Constantly evolving, the music industry offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. In 2024, the music industry supported more than 220,000 full-time jobs in the UK, 157,800 of which were in the music creators' sector.

## How will I learn?

You will chart the development of your skills through practice logs and submit a variety of written and practical work including a project about four different music styles, recorded performances and DAW tracks using STEMS and original material. All of these skills will equip you with skills you can use in the modern music industry.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level and other Level 3 qualifications in Music and Music Technology

Theatre / Performance Studies

### Example Career Paths

Music producer  
Recording engineer  
Artist or tour manager  
Booking agent  
Music publicist  
Composer or music arranger

## Assessment

Three components:

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 1 - Exploring Music Products and Styles (30%) | Internally assessed |
| 2 - Music Skills Development (30%)            | Internally assessed |
| 3 - Responding to a Music Brief (40%)         | Written exam        |

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# Physical Education

AQA | GCSE Single Award

*GCSE PE students must be playing and training for sport consistently outside of school at Club level or higher. We will ask which club you play for and the name of a club contact so that we can assess the appropriateness of the course.*

## What will I learn?

You will learn, participate and develop your skills, game play and tactics in a range of different team and individual sports. You will complete an analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one sport. You will also learn about the theoretical aspects of physical education and cover seven topics: applied anatomy and physiology; movement analysis; physical training; use of data; sports psychology; socio-cultural influences; health, fitness and well-being.

## How will I learn?

You will learn through a combination of classroom-based theory lessons and practical performance lessons in both team sports and individual sports. You will also be expected to be training and competing on a regular basis in at least one sport outside school.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level PE, Psychology, Science and Sociology

Essential for sport courses at university

### Example Career Paths

PE teaching, physiotherapy, sports science, leisure and tourism, coaching and leadership, sports massage, medical disciplines, occupational therapy, dietitian

## Assessment

Two written exam papers (60%)

A series of internally- and externally- moderated practicals (40%)

# Photography

AQA | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

You will experience a variety of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes. You will use this to develop your own portfolio of pieces and study the work of photographers.

## How will I learn?

You will learn from practical exploration and analysis.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Photography

Level 3 extended diploma in visual communication

### Example Career Paths

Photographer

Photographic stylist

Scene of crime officer

## Assessment

**Unit 1** - portfolio of work, worth 60%

**Unit 2** - externally set assignment, worth 40%

## Did you know...?

Photography offers you an opportunity to capture visual qualities that memorialise a moment in time.

# Psychology

OCR | GCSE Single Award

## What will I learn?

GCSE Psychology explores how the human mind works and why people behave the way they do. Students study topics such as memory, perception, social influence, brain function, development, mental health and research methods, learning to think scientifically about behaviour. The course develops strong skills in analysis, evaluation, data interpretation and extended writing.

GCSE Psychology is ideal for curious students who enjoy discussion and want to understand themselves and others, and it proves an excellent foundation for A-level study and a wide range of careers. The course draws upon knowledge of maths and science and is suitable for students who are confident in these areas and want to understand how research is carried out

## How will I learn?

Lessons are a mixture of experimental learning challenges and learning key content including key words, theories and evaluation. You will also learn through practicing extended written responses.

### Post-16 Progression

A-Level Psychology and Sociology

Criminology diploma

Level 3 extended diploma in Health and Social Care

### Example Career Paths

Forensic psychologist

Sport and exercise psychotherapist

Counsellor or family mediator

## Assessment

Two written exam papers at the end of Year 11

## Did you know...?

Your mind re-writes unfamiliar or monotonous speech to make it more relevant and interesting.

# Sport

Pearson | BTEC Tech Award

## What will I learn?

This course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of sport. The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sport applied knowledge and skills through realistic scenarios in the sports sector. 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. They will then apply their knowledge and skills to planning and delivering sports activity sessions for participants in practical sessions.

## How will I learn?

The three components focus on the assessment of applied sporting knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis for progression and therefore learners need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification.

### Post-16 Progression

If you are interested in taking your study of sport further, the knowledge and skills developed through this qualification will give you a strong foundation for academic or vocational study at level 3, including apprenticeships.

### Example Career Paths

Many pathways into the sports, leisure and tourism industry and also coaching and leadership.

## Assessment

Two non-examined assessments (NEA/coursework)

One externally assessed unit

## Did you know...?

Rugby union, golf, football and tennis are among the most popular sports of the general population in the UK. Two million people in England alone play football at least twice a month. Overall, approximately 40.7 percent of male adults and roughly 31.7 percent of female adults participate in sports on a weekly basis.

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