Key Stage 4 Courses & Options

Year 9

Autumn 2026

to Summer 2028

"At Linton Village College our core purpose is to create successful, confident learners.

Educational excellence is achieved through outstanding learning experiences in a supporting and caring culture."

Helena Marsh

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Deadline: Monday 20th April 2026

"The secret of success is to be ready when your opportunity comes"
Benjamin Disraeli

Dear Year 9 Student

You are about to make some important decisions with regards to the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11. Making decisions is not always easy or straightforward, however the more informed you are, the easier the decision will be to make. The information contained in this booklet will help inform this decision. It is more vital than ever that you leave school thoroughly prepared with a range of qualifications, skills and attributes required for further study and/or for the fast-changing world of work and training.

The information contained in this booklet is designed to help inform the choices you make, with details about all the possible courses you can study in Years 10 and 11. When making these choices it is important to consider the following:

- What do you want to do in the **future**? Which subjects will help you achieve this?
- Aim for a **broad** and **balanced** curriculum with a good range of subjects.
- It is about academic **success** and not your social life. Don't make a choice just because your friends are — they are not going to be living the rest of your life, you are!
- Gather as much **information** as possible - ask somebody if you're unsure.
- Choose the **subject**, not the teacher.
- Which subjects do you **enjoy**?
- All subjects are **equally challenging**. There are no soft options. Choosing the right subjects makes hard work easier.
- Aim high and **challenge** yourself.

EBacc Subjects

English Baccalaureate subjects include **French**, **Spanish**, **Geography**, **History** and **Computer Science**. These specific subjects are highlighted due to their research-informed impact upon:

- Cognition and thinking skills
- Opportunities for further study at A-level and university
- Value for careers and future employment
- Personal development

All students are required to study a minimum number of EBacc subjects. Depending on academic profile, students will take:

- MFL, a second EBacc of choice, and two other free-choice subjects,
- MFL, and three other free-choice subjects,
- Or, one EBacc of choice, and three other free-choice subjects.

*All students will be given a personalised options form to communicate this expectation and to record their selections.

What happens after the options forms have been submitted?

I will put together option blocks that allow as many students as possible to study their preferred options, within the constraints of staffing, rooms and resources.

I will do my best to ensure as many of you as possible are able to study your preferred choices, however it may be necessary for you to study your reserve choice or choose an alternative option. Should this be the case, I will speak with you to agree the final combination of subjects.

I cannot guarantee that all the courses listed and outlined in this booklet will run. If there is insufficient interest or restrictions due to staffing, I will have to reallocate your choices. Again, I will speak with you if this happens. It is my hope that you will know the outcome of the options process in June.

It is very important that you take the process very seriously and that you gather as much information as you can about the subjects you might be interested in taking. Read carefully all the information your teachers have given you in this booklet. You should make sure that you discuss your options with your parents, your teachers, and your form tutor – listen to good advice.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Fehr
Assistant Principal
February 2026

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls looking like hard work."
Anonymous

Options Timeline

Wednesday 28th January **Options Launch Assembly**
An introduction to the GCSE Options. A PDF of this presentation will be shared on the College website and via the Satchel:One noticeboard. Following this, subjects will share information about their courses within their lessons. You can use the last page of this booklet for making notes throughout this process.

w/c Monday 9th February **Options Booklet and Personalised Options Form**
This Options Booklet has been printed for you and is available via Satchel:One and the College website. Your options form will be handed to you by your form tutor.

Thursday 5th March **Options Evening Event (in person)**
This multifaceted evening will feature three aspects. Firstly, a face-to-face meeting with your parents and your form tutor to discuss your choices. Secondly, a 30-minute presentation in the hall to provide guidance and an overview of the process. Thirdly, a subject marketplace where Subject Leaders will be on hand to provide course information and answer questions.

Thursday 16th April **Parent-Teacher Evening (online)**
Alongside the usual parents' evening, this is an opportunity for students and their parents to ask current teachers about KS4 courses.

Monday 20th April **Options Submissions Deadline**
You must submit your final option choices by this date. A link to the Microsoft Form will be released following the options evening.

If you do not submit your choices by this date, there is a risk of missing out on your preferred options. Do not miss this deadline.

After May Half-Term
Conversations will take place with those students whose options combination doesn't work or may need to use their reserve choice.

June
Confirmation of the options you will be studying will be given to you in writing once the timetable is nearing completion.

July
Timetables are planned to be issued before the summer holiday.

September
You start Year 10!

English Language and Literature GCSEs

What Will I Study?

English Language and English Literature are compulsory for all students. Over the course of these two GCSEs you will be taught how to write in a range of styles and genres, adapting your style and language to different contexts, audiences and purposes. You will also learn how to read actively and perceptively through the study of a variety of texts including a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, poetry and a range of non-fiction.

Who Will This Course Suit?

English Language and English Literature are compulsory for all students.

Post-16 Opportunities

Studying English at GCSE provides you with key skills necessary for succeeding in education and the workplace. English is a 'passport subject' and is required for all sixth form, college and university courses and most vocational courses. Plus, it allows you to demonstrate the level of your communication skills to potential employers in an increasingly competitive job market. For those of you with a passion for reading, thinking, writing and debating, a high grade in English Language and English Literature will help you to move onto A Level English Language and/or Literature as well as equipping you for other A Level subjects such as History, Psychology, Media and Film Studies and many more. In English, you learn how to write and articulate your ideas clearly and convincingly – any further education institution or employer will recognise the importance of English at GCSE.

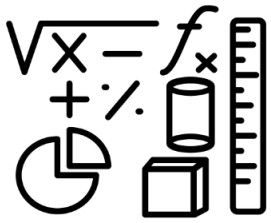
Qualifications & Assessment Details

English Language GCSE AQA https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance
Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 50%
Reading (40 marks) (25%) – one single text
Writing (40 marks) (25%)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 50%
Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts
Writing (40 marks) (25%)

English Literature GCSE AQA 8702 https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance

Paper 1: Section A: Shakespeare
Section B: The 19th-century novel
Paper 2: Section A: Modern texts
Section B: Poetry



Mathematics GCSE

What Will I Study?

The GCSE Maths course extends your prior learning in KS3 and branches out into new concepts relating to Number & Algebra, Handling Data, Shape, Space & Measures, and Ratio & Proportion. Your lessons will resemble those from KS3, with a greater emphasis on working independently and self-study.

For the highest attaining pupils there is also the opportunity to take an OCR Free Standing Maths Qualification called Additional Maths, which introduces some of the Maths studied at A-level.

Who Will This Course Suit?

All students study GCSE Maths and all students can succeed. Through studying Mathematics, you will develop an essential set of practical skills for everyday life, and also important skills for academic study and/or the working world. Maths will empower you to be a confident and independent adult in a complex world. Even when not chosen for further study, Mathematics provides students with problem solving skills and logical thinking skills.

The course can be studied at two different tiers, Foundation (those aiming for grades 1 to 5) and Higher (aiming for grade 6 and above), making it accessible and appropriately challenging for all.

Post-16 Opportunities

A Maths GCSE qualification opens doors and creates opportunities. Regardless of the direction you take, aspects of your Maths studies at GCSE will be relevant to your adult life and career choices. It is viewed by employers as a basic requirement for most occupations. Studying Maths to a higher level also increases earning potential as the skills learned are very highly desired in many professions.

All college courses will require a minimum grade at Maths GCSE. This grade will depend on the course.

- To study A-level Mathematics, a grade 7 or better at GCSE will be required.
- A-level science courses require a grade 6 or higher in GCSE Mathematics.
- Level 3 college courses will require a grade 4 or higher.
- Students who do not achieve grade 4 or above are required to continue studying Maths at college.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Edexcel GCSE Maths 1MA1
http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html
Paper 1: Non-Calculator (33⅓%); Paper 2: Calculator (33⅓%); Paper 3: Calculator (33⅓%)

OCR Free Standing Maths Qualification – Additional Maths 6993 (Reach group)
https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/fsmq/additional-mathematics/
Written Paper, Calculator (100%)

Combined Science GCSE

What Will I Study?

Your AQA science courses emphasise scientific literacy and the knowledge and understanding which you will need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The courses cover contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to students which we will approach through a range of teaching and learning activities. You will study the three sciences Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Who Will This Course Suit?

We have carefully designed our Double Science course so that most of you could benefit from and enjoy completing it. This is a core subject and will be studied by those students who have not expressed an interest in Triple Science, and have not been selected for Triple Science.

Post-16 Opportunities

If you take **Combined Science higher papers** you can take Science A levels at any of the local schools and colleges.

If you take **Combined Science foundation papers** and achieve the grades you need, you can take a Vocational Sciences course.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464

You will sit six examinations:

Paper 1 in **Biology** (16.7%) (Topics B1-B9) Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Biology** (16.7%) (Topics B10-B17) Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 1 in **Chemistry** (16.7%) (Topics C1-C7) Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Chemistry** (16.7%) (Topics C8-C12) Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 1 in **Physics** (16.7%) (Topics P1-P7) Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 in **Physics** (16.7%) (Topics P8-P15 but not P11 or P14) Written exam 1 hour 15 minutes

This course awards two GCSE grades.

Triple Science GCSEs

What Will I Study?

You will study the three separate GCSEs in **Biology**, **Chemistry** and **Physics**. Your AQA science courses emphasise scientific literacy and the knowledge and understanding which you will need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The courses cover contemporary, relevant contexts of interest to students which we will approach through a range of teaching and learning activities. You will cover the same content as the AQA Combined Science Trilogy course, but extends your understanding of some topics along with a few additional areas of study.

Who Will This Course Suit?

If you are currently in 9F1 or 9S1 you will be particularly well suited to Triple Science. You might want to choose Triple if you are particularly interested in science or if you think you might want to take any science subjects at A level. There are a limited number of places for this course. Selection is based on those students that expressed an interest in studying Triple Science in Year 8 or 9, grades achieved across KS3 module tests, and the end of KS3 test taken usually in the Spring term. Approach to your learning in lessons across KS3 is also considered when making the final selection.

Post-16 Opportunities

If you take **Science higher papers** you can take Science A levels at any of the local schools and colleges.

If you take **Science foundation papers** and achieve the grades you need, you can take a Vocational Sciences course.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Course Code: AQA GCSE Biology (8461)
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461

Course Code: AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462)
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462

Course Code: AQA GCSE Physics (8463)
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463

For each GCSE you will sit two examinations.
AQA GCSE Biology - Your exams will be:
Paper 1 in Biology (50%) (Topics B1-B9) Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 2 in Biology (50%) (Topics B10-B18) Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes
AQA GCSE Chemistry - Your exams will be:
Paper 1 in Chemistry (50%) (Topics C1-C7) Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 2 in Chemistry (50%) (Topics C8-C15) Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes
AQA GCSE Physics - Your exams will be:
Paper 1 in Physics (50%) (Topics P1-P8) Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 2 in Physics (50%) (Topics P9-P16) Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes

French GCSE

What Will I Study?

You will learn to **speak, understand, read and write French** with confidence and accuracy.
Lessons focus on **real-life topics** like culture, travel, global issues, relationships, jobs and future plans — so what you learn actually makes sense beyond the classroom.
You will practise speaking with a **native French speaker**, build confidence using digital tools, and have the opportunity to take part in a **Year 10 or Year 11 residential trip to France**.
This is about using language for **real communication**, not just passing exams.

Who Will This Course Suit?

French is a great choice if you:

- Enjoy communicating and sharing ideas
- Are curious about **how people live in other countries**
- Like subjects that link to the **real world**
- Want a GCSE that **keeps your options open**
- Are willing to challenge yourself and grow in confidence

Post-16 Opportunities

Languages are known as **"door-opening" subjects** because they support so many other courses and careers.
French works brilliantly alongside subjects like **English, Geography, History, Drama, Science, Art, DT.**
Studying French helps you develop:

- Strong communication skills
- Confidence and independence
- Problem-solving and adaptability

Many sixth forms recommend a language, and **top universities (including Russell Group institutions)** value them because of the skills they develop — even if you don't study French beyond GCSE.
French doesn't limit you. It **connects**.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA GCSE French (8652)
Assessment is equally weighted across four skills:

- ✓ Listening – 25%
- ✓ Speaking – 25%
- ✓ Reading – 25%
- ✓ Writing – 25%

Spanish GCSE

What Will I Study?

You will learn to **speak, understand, read and write Spanish** with confidence and accuracy.
Lessons focus on **real-life topics** like culture, travel, global issues, relationships, jobs and future plans — so what you learn actually makes sense beyond the classroom.
You will practise speaking with a **native Spanish speaker**, build confidence using digital tools, and have the opportunity to take part in a **Year 10 or Year 11 residential trip to Spain**.
This is about using language for **real communication**, not just passing exams.

Who Will This Course Suit?

Spanish is a great choice if you:

- Enjoy communicating and sharing ideas
- Are curious about **how people live in other countries**
- Like subjects that link to the **real world**
- Want a GCSE that **keeps your options open**
- Are willing to challenge yourself and grow in confidence

Post-16 Opportunities

Languages are known as **"door-opening" subjects** because they support so many other courses and careers.
Spanish works brilliantly alongside subjects like **English, Geography, History, Drama, Science, Art, DT.**
Studying Spanish helps you develop:

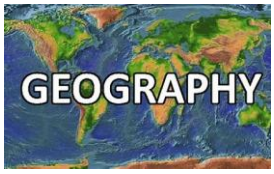
- Strong communication skills
- Confidence and independence
- Problem-solving and adaptability

Many sixth forms recommend a language, and **top universities (including Russell Group institutions)** value them because of the skills they develop — even if you don't study Spanish beyond GCSE.
Spanish doesn't limit you. It **connects**.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA GCSE Spanish (8692)
Assessment is equally weighted across four skills:

- ✓ Listening – 25%
- ✓ Speaking – 25%
- ✓ Reading – 25%
- ✓ Writing – 25%



Geography GCSE

What Will I Study?

Geography is about the relationship between people and the planet we live and depend on. Geography for Enquiring Minds is a GCSE that uses enquiry questions to encourage learners to "think like geographers" and give them the skills to make sense of a rapidly changing world.

Who Will This Course Suit?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- is relevant to the world you live in now and to the **future**;
- encourages you to discuss **current affairs** and issues in the news;
- focuses on the **environment and sustainability**;
- involves **practical** work **outdoors**;
- is studied through **investigation** not just listening and reading;
- develops a full range of **skills** that will be useful in other subjects and employment.

Post-16 Opportunities

If you enjoyed your Geography GCSE, you might want to continue with this subject, or study a related subject. Biology, Geology, Environmental Science, Economics, Government & Politics, Sociology and Travel & Tourism all have close links with some of the material you studied for this GCSE. Alternatively, you may wish to consider an apprenticeship course. Employment opportunities where your geographical skills will be particularly valued include journalism and media, law, engineering, business management, finance, data analysis, environmental management, teaching, economic planning, marketing, sustainability, leisure and tourism.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

OCR Geography B for Enquiring Minds (J386)
https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/geography-b-j386-from-2025/

1. **Our Natural World: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 35% of the GCSE**
   This tests knowledge and understanding of physical geography including fieldwork and other geographical skills.
2. **People and Society: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 35% of the GCSE**
   This tests knowledge and understanding of human geography including fieldwork and other geographical skills.
3. **Geographical Exploration: 1 hour 30 minutes worth 30% of the GCSE**
   This is a skills exam which encourages students to make links across all aspects of the course. The emphasis is on application of knowledge and critical thinking as well as a decision-making exercise.

History GCSE

What Will I Study?

This History GCSE course allows students to explore a broader range of history than ever before. The course involves an extensive study of the History of Medicine Through Time (including health care on the Western Front in WW1), a period study of Conflict in the Middle East, a British depth study of Anglo-Saxon and Norman England and a modern depth study of Russia 1917-1941. Throughout the course you will be asked to examine source material and develop your own knowledge and understanding of historical issues.

Who Will This Course Suit?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that involves learning about and discussing the kind of historical changes that have shaped today's world. You will study such diverse topics as what treatment was available to the soldiers in the trenches of WW1, why the Palestinians and Israelis find it difficult to live together in peace and why the Tsar and his family were murdered in 1918.
You may have the opportunity to participate in visits to relevant historical sites.

Post-16 Opportunities

A GCSE in History has a multitude of uses. You could choose to continue with the study of History by taking History at A Level or use your knowledge of history to support other courses, such as English Literature or Art. A GCSE in History shows a high level of literacy and that you are able to analyse complex information. These skills are highly valued by sixth form colleges, universities and employers.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Exam Board & Specification
Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History – EJ:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf

You will sit three external examinations.

- Paper 1 - Medicine Through Time (30%)
- Paper 2 - Conflict in the Middle East and Anglo-Saxon and Norman England (40%)
- Paper 3 - Russia 1917-41 (30%).

Computer Science GCSE

What Will I Study?

Computer systems - systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, protocols and layers, system security, system software, databases and SQL, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages, data representation.

Programming in Python - key concepts such as sequence, selection, iteration, arrays, reading from and writing to files and working with databases.

Who Will This Course Suit?

Computing is ideal for students who:

- **Are curious about technology** – If you're interested in how computers, apps, and networks function, this course will help you explore their inner workings.
- **Are independent learners with patience and perseverance** – Debugging code and troubleshooting errors require resilience, problem-solving skills, and a willingness to experiment. Regular programming practice, both in and outside of school, is essential.
- **Enjoy problem-solving** – If you like puzzles, logical thinking, and breaking down complex problems into smaller steps, you'll find programming and algorithms engaging.
- **Have an interest in Maths** – You don't need to be a Maths expert, but working with numbers, sequences, patterns, coordinates, and angles plays a key role in computing concepts.

Post-16 Opportunities

Further Study

- **A-Level Computer Science** – Builds on GCSE knowledge, introducing more advanced programming, data structures, and algorithms.
- **A-Level Maths or Further Maths** – Useful for students interested in more advanced computing topics like AI, cryptography, or data science.
- **A-Level Physics or Engineering** – Good for students considering careers in robotics, software engineering, or technical fields.

Apprenticeships

- Depending on local providers, apprenticeships offer the opportunity to get hands on experience with coding, IT systems, data analytics, web development, and more.

Career & University Pathways

- Software Engineering & App Development
- Cybersecurity & Ethical Hacking
- Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
- Game Development & Animation
- Networking & IT Support

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA – GCSE Computer Science (8525B)- https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science/gcse/computer-science-8525

Computational thinking and programming skills - Python (written exam) - 2 hours - 50%

Computing concepts (written exam) - 1 hour 45 minutes - 50%

Art & Design: Fine Art GCSE

What Will I Study?

You will create a personal portfolio of work based on a range of chosen themes. Your teacher will guide you through the course building on skills taught at KS3 and introducing new ones. As your skills and confidence grow you will gain increasing independence as you develop as an artist. You will have an opportunity to explore a range of 2D and 3D skills: including painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics and mixed media. For the exam in Year 11 you will create a body of work based on an externally-set theme.

Who Will This Course Suit?

The GCSE course suits students who are independent learners with a keen interest in all elements of art. You will be organised and disciplined as all work produced from September in Year 10 is likely to be included in the portfolio. Students need to be aware that the course demands a great deal of independent work and commitment.

You will need to:

- have a passion for the subject;
- have a good level of artistic ability;
- be enthusiastic about trying new ideas and developing skills;
- be willing to visit galleries and research information about artists in your own time;
- not be afraid to make mistakes;
- be able to discuss and write down your opinions and thoughts;
- be happy to work with increasing independence, in and out of school.

Post-16 Opportunities

- AS, A level, BTEC or Diploma in Art & Design, Photography, Fine Art, Graphics or Fashion and Textiles.
- Many of the skills you will develop like; creative thinking, resilience and problem solving are desirable in a wide range of career paths outside of art.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA Fine Art 8202
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8202/specification/specification-at-a-glance

Portfolio 60% - Exam 40%

Art & Design: Photography GCSE

What Will I Study?

Students create a comprehensive portfolio where they critically explore and learn to appreciate the work of others to develop their creative practice in Photography. They will be required to demonstrate the technical principles of photography such as depth of field, aperture, composition and lighting through their own work. Units of study include, but are not limited to, portraiture, photojournalism, installation, landscape and studio photography. Knowledge and skills in the technical and creative elements of photography are developed over the duration of this course.

Who Will This Course Suit?

The GCSE course suits students who are interested in the processing and creative practice that is required in the field of photography. It does require independent study and a commitment to complete a substantial portfolio of work. Learners have the ability to choose lines of enquiry within the units of study. This allows them to focus on photographers and techniques that they wish to explore.

You will develop the following key skills:

- Creativity and individual expression
- The technical aspects of photography i.e. aperture, shutter speeds, focus
- Digital postproduction and image manipulation
- Appreciation of creative works and Art History
- Contextualisation of photography in modern culture.

Post-16 Opportunities

- A-level Photography, Media Studies, Art and Design or Fine Art
- Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Art and Design, Creative Media and Creative Practice, Art History
- Degree in Photography, Photojournalism, Digital media

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA Art and Design: Photography 8206

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8206/specification/subject-content/photography

Portfolio 60% - Exam 40%

Dance GCSE

What Will I Study?

GCSE Dance enables students the chance to develop skills in performance, choreography and analysis. Students will study a wide range of professional dance works by the UK's most renowned choreographers. Dance genres/styles explored include contemporary, hip-hop and improvisation. Students will learn professional repertoire from performances by a range of dance companies including; Rambert Dance Company, The Royal Ballet and Phoenix Dance Company. Transferable skills such as analysis work will support the learning of other subjects including English Literature.

Who Will This Course Suit?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject which:

- provides opportunity for **performance** in a variety of styles;
- encourages you to develop your **creativity** through **improvisation** and **choreography**;
- focuses on **professional dance works** as a basis for performance and choreography;
- involves study of **dance techniques** and **creative practical** work;
- is studied through **experimentation** and use of **imagination**;
- develops a full range of **skills** such as **collaboration, negotiation** and **reflection**;
- develops the study of **dance as an academic subject** through **written outcomes**. Skills include researching historical contexts of professional works.

Post-16 Opportunities

If you enjoyed your GCSE Dance, you might want to continue at AS or A-level, or study a related subject, such as Performing Arts. Employment opportunities which value dance skills include areas such as theatre performance, dance teaching, performing arts teaching, producing, directing and marketing. Students who have studied GCSE and A level Dance have often gone on to study subjects including Marketing, Law and Psychology at higher education level.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

AQA GCSE Dance (8236)
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236

Component 1: Performance and Choreography (60%)

Performance

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately **one minute** in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (**three** minutes in a dance, maximum of **five** minutes in duration)

Choreography

- Solo or group choreography – a solo (**2-2½** minutes) or a group dance (**3 – 3½** minutes)

Component 2: Dance Appreciation (40%) – written paper

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own and professional work

Design and Technology GCSE

What Will I Study?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world where problem solving skills are a must. 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 whilst applying technical and practical expertise.

Design and Technology GCSE allows students to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, material techniques and equipment. Students will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth in order to support their NEA (coursework).

The course is divided into a 50% weighting for a theory exam and 50% to a NEA coursework component which is a research, design and make project. The theoretical component will test your knowledge on materials, processes and new and emerging technologies along with the ability to solve practical mathematical problems.

Who Will This Course Suit?

You will enjoy this course if you like to follow a project through from inception to production. The desire to have a high quality outcome will mean that you have great research, organisation and problem solving skills in order to make a finished prototype. It should be noted that both written and mathematical skills will be required and an ability to meet deadlines is a must.

Post-16 Opportunities

Our GCSE is certainly the perfect stepping stone onto A-Level design courses such as the Product Design and Architecture A-Levels available at local colleges, and certainly onto other similar courses such as engineering, electronics, fashion and apprenticeships in any of these areas.

Possible career paths from this course could include:

- **Design careers**: Product Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Furniture Design
- **Agricultural careers**: Product developers, Landscape Designers, Environmental Conservation, Planners
- **Automotive careers**: Automotive Engineers, Mechanics, Aeronautical Engineers
- **Construction**: Civil and Structural Engineers. Architectural Technicians, Architecture. Construction Trades
- **Healthcare**: Product developers - to design and develop medical equipment.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Design and Technology GCSE (AQA 8552)
https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552
NEA (50%) – Iterative design challenge
Written Exam (50%) – Principles of design and technology

Drama GCSE

What Will I Study?

In GCSE Drama you will devise work from a range of challenging stimuli and study diverse play texts from a variety of social, historical and cultural contexts.

Who Will This Course Suit?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. You will appreciate working as part of a team as Drama involves a lot of group work. You will also enjoy analysing drama performances and theatre.

- You like working collaboratively
- You like to put yourselves in other people's shoes
- You enjoy the process of creating drama
- You like reading plays
- You enjoy going to the theatre
- You like exploring topical issues
- You enjoy performing

This subject requires and will help develop skills such as communication, discipline, confidence, empathy and compromise.

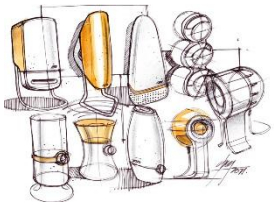
Post-16 Opportunities

You could go on to take an A level in Drama and Theatre Studies or a vocational course in Performing Arts.
You may wish to take a GCSE in Drama for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or as part of a range of other subjects.
You might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Drama, or where you will need to use some of the social skills developed during this course. These might include careers in fields such as law, sales and marketing, travel and tourism or any career that involves meeting people face to face and public speaking.
The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any job, such as teamwork, confidence, independence, literacy and emotional intelligence.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Drama GCSE (OCR J316)
http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-drama-j316-from-2016/

Devising Drama (External Moderator) 30%
Presenting and Performing Texts (External Examiner) 30%
Performance and Response (Written Examination) 40%



Engineering GCSE

What Will I Study?

The sky's the limit. Engineering is an increasingly innovative and exciting area to work in. It affects every aspect of modern life – from skyscrapers to smart phones, cars to carrier bags. Engineering is sometimes referred to as designing with science and maths. It will particularly appeal to those who enjoy being creative, with an affinity for drawing, design, maths and problem-solving.

The course is divided into a 60% weighting for a theory exam and 40% to a coursework component which is a design-and-make project. The theoretical component will test your knowledge on engineering materials, engineering processes and engineering systems. The exam will also test your ability to solve practical mathematical problems.

Who Will This Course Suit?

If you are interested in an Engineering career or in a similar industry, this course is ideal. You will enjoy solving real world problems with innovative and realistic solutions and able to apply both design and maths skills to help solve your ideas. Please note, the practical element of this course is just part of this programme of study and students must be aware that there is a lot of theory content, written work and maths involved across the GCSE.

Note: This is a challenging academic course, not to be confused with vocational BTEC courses focused on hands-on building skills.

Post-16 Opportunities

Our GCSE is certainly a good path onto A-Level, BTEC and NVQ courses in this field that are available at colleges locally and nationally, and certainly onto other similar courses such as more design related and electronics. Apprenticeships are also a very worthy path to choose where you can get paid to train in a subject you love straight from school.

Possible career paths from this course could include:
Civil engineering
Mechanical engineering
Electrical engineering
Aerospace engineering
Architecture
Product designing

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Engineering GCSE (AQA 8852)
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/engineering/gcse/engineering-8852

NEA (40%) – Practical engineering and research
Written Exam (60%) – Question paper

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

What Will I Study?

Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Learners will develop confidence in using high level skills, necessary in food preparation and cooking, alongside the study of theoretical knowledge.

Who Will This Course Suit?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- is studied through **investigations and practical** alongside classroom based learning;
- is pertinent to society and the environment;
- compliments many other subjects such as Science, Physical Education and Geography;
- Teaches you to creatively adapt recipes.

This course is suitable for all learners, a significant proportion is taught through practical. The purchase of ingredients is essential to access the course content.

Post-16 Opportunities

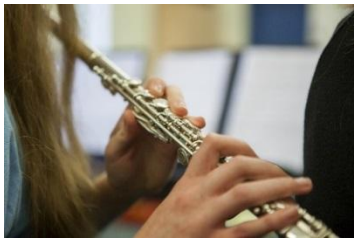
Many learners wish to continue their study within Food after completing the GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition. Level 2 and 3 qualifications are available within the subject area with post-16 providers. Qualifications, such as Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition, can be taken alongside other A-level subjects or learners may wish to choose a full-time course studying Catering and Hospitality or Professional Cookery. This GCSE will provide a solid foundation in which learners will develop their knowledge and skills for these pathways. Careers that follow these areas of study include:

- Nutritionist
- Dietetics
- Professional Chef
- Product development
- Food manufacturing
- Food journalism
- Event organisation and event management
- Food purchasing and buying positions
- Agricultural careers

Qualifications & Assessment Details

OCR Food Preparation and Nutrition J309
http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309-from-2016/

1. **NEA1 Food Science Investigation (10 hours) 15% of GCSE**
   This task assess the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.
2. **NEA2 Food Preparation Assessment (20 hours including a 3-hour practical exam) 35% of GCSE**
   This task assesses the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.
3. **Written Exam – 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of GCSE**



Music GCSE

What Will I Study?

- Techniques and knowledge of your chosen musical instrument.
- The Concerto through Time, including concertos from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras.
- Rhythms of the World, including Indian music and Bhangra, Eastern Mediterranean and Arabic folk music, African drumming and Calypso and Samba.
- Film Music soundtracks, including music used in video games.
- The Conventions of Pop Music from the 1950s to the present day– including Rock 'n' roll, rock, pop ballads and solo artists.

Who Will This Course Suit?

Music GCSE is for any student who enjoys and is curious about music. You must play an instrument or sing and commit to practising regularly.

It is a highly practical course and you will be active every lesson developing your musicianship and creativity. Music GCSE is about being a musician rather than simply learning about music. You would be expected to take part in extra-curricular music and concerts. Grade exams are useful but not essential.

GCSE music students enjoy the freedom of composing and writing music in any style they choose, exploring and expanding their musical horizons. Sometimes they have to be quite resilient, as they find their own pathway and select, reject and refine their ideas.

Post-16 Opportunities

Many students go on to take music or music technology (A-level or BTEC). Jobs that this might lead to include songwriting, writing music for film or television, publishing, journalism, theatre, teaching, music therapy, working in the community or media. However, for most students the course is a means to develop skills such as communication, problem solving and creativity, and as such it complements a very wide range of courses and careers.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Music GCSE OCR J536
http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-music-j536-from-2016/

30% Performance
30% Composition
40% Listening exam

Physical Education GCSE

What Will I Study?

You will gain an understanding of the mechanics behind sport, looking at the anatomy and physiological side while also considering how sports psychology plays an important role for performance. You will also consider how the sporting industry is affected through things such as sponsorship. Practically, you will look at a range of team and individual sports.

Theory topics include:

Applied Anatomy & Physiology – including body systems and the effect of exercise on these systems, engaging with levers and planes of movement that occur during performance.
Physical Training – considers the different parts of our fitness and how we can train these to aid performance. Looks at how different principles are used when developing an exercise programme.
Sports Psychology – how people perform in a particular way and how the environment, etc. can affect ways in which skills are used. You will gain knowledge on what a skilful movement looks like and understand how performers learn through the guidance and feedback they receive.
Socio-cultural Influences – issues such as performance enhancing drugs and violence in sport are considered. Gain knowledge of why certain people participate in particular sports compared to others and how patterns of participation change.
Health, Fitness & Well-being – diet and nutrition play a big part in sport and performance. Looks at the roles that different food groups play in maintaining a healthy body. An individual's well-being is not just about being physically fit, it must take into account their social and psychological state.
Analysing & Evaluating Performance (AEP Controlled Assessment)

Who Will This Course Suit?

It would be suited to students who participate in competitive sport, as students can only be assessed in either a team or individual sport in competitive situations. Students will draw their grade from either two team & one individual **OR** one team & two individual. Students are expected to attend extra-curricular clubs and encouraged to join clubs outside of school to achieve their performance targets. Students must be competing in at least one sport outside of school to be considered for this course. Students need to write coherently and have a good understanding of science, in particular biology.

Post-16 Opportunities

This qualification is the first step into many sporting based careers, providing a basic knowledge and understanding of many key concepts and theory linked to sport. It is ideal preparation for those considering studying courses such as Physical Education teaching, Physiotherapy, Sport Psychology or Dietetics. It will allow you to continue your study of a sports course of either A Level PE or Sport Level 3 Diploma.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Sport Science – Level 1/2 Cambridge National

What Will I Study?

This course is a vocational qualification designed to make learning active and engaging. You'll explore the fascinating world of sports science, gaining a broad understanding of key areas such as injury prevention, medical conditions, training principles, and sports nutrition. Alongside theory, you'll develop practical skills like creating and evaluating personalised training programmes—perfect preparation for anyone interested in fitness, health, or a future career in sport.

R180 Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions (Exam – 40%)
Ever wondered how athletes stay fit and avoid injuries? In this unit, you'll learn how to prepare for physical activity safely and reduce the risk of getting hurt. You'll also discover how to treat common sports injuries and spot signs of medical conditions like asthma, epilepsy, and diabetes. This is your first step into the world of sports medicine and physiotherapy.

R181 Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance (NEA Coursework– 40%)
Want to know what makes top athletes so good? This unit dives into the science behind fitness and how it boosts performance. You'll explore the components of fitness, principles of training, and different training methods. Then, you'll put your knowledge into action by designing your own training programme and testing fitness levels. This unit provides a good foundation for becoming a coach or personal trainer.

R183 Nutrition and sports performance (NEA Coursework – 20%)
What you eat can make or break your performance. In this unit, you'll uncover the secrets of a healthy, balanced diet and learn why athletes need specific nutrients to perform at their best. You'll also look at what happens when diets go wrong and create a diet plan tailored for a sports performer. If you're curious about how food powers success, this is the unit for you and a good foundation to become a sports nutritionist.

Who Will This Course Suit?

This qualification is mainly assessed through non-examination assessment (NEA) in the form of coursework. This gives you the chance to build a wide range of skills while getting involved in practical activities. Instead of focusing heavily on anatomy and physiology, the course explores the key areas of sports science that matter most for fitness: health, injury prevention, performance, and sports nutrition. It's a great way to understand how science powers success in sport without getting lost in complex biology

Post-16 Opportunities

Studying Sport Science opens the door to exciting future pathways! You can progress to A Levels, BTEC National Diplomas, or university degrees in a wide range of PE and sport-related subjects. This qualification also sets you up for careers in professional sport, coaching, fitness, leisure, education, sports science, physiotherapy, and many more roles within the ever-growing sports industry.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science
https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j828/
OCR Cambridge Nationals Approved Sporting Activity List
https://ocr.org.uk/Images/638351-approved-sporting-activity-list.pdf

Unit R180 is an externally assessed written exam, worth 70 marks (40%)
Units R181 and R183 are non-examination assessment (NEA) units. **R181** is made up of five tasks, worth 80 marks (40%). **R183** is made up of four tasks, worth 40 marks (20%)
Note: There is no practical assessment. This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE qualification.

Health and Social Care - Level 1/2 Cambridge National

What Will I Study?

Do you want to understand how people grow, develop, and stay healthy? This course is a vocational qualification designed to make learning practical and relevant. You'll explore the world of health and social care, gaining insight into how professionals support individuals across stages of life. From understanding human development to learning how to provide care and support, this course is perfect for anyone interested in health, wellbeing, or a future career in care services.

R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings (Exam – 40%)

Ever wondered what makes good care? In this unit, you'll learn the core values that underpin health and social care, such as dignity, respect, and safeguarding. You'll explore how professionals meet individual needs and keep people safe. This is your first step into understanding the principles behind careers like nursing, social work, and healthcare support.

R033 Supporting individuals through life events (NEA Coursework – 30%)

Life is full of changes—some positive, some challenging. In this unit, you'll discover how major life events, like starting a job or coping with illness, affect people physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. You'll learn how care professionals provide support during these times. This unit is ideal for those interested in social care or health services.

R035 Health promotion campaigns (NEA Coursework – 30%)

How do we encourage people to live healthier lives? In this unit, you'll explore the importance of health promotion and create your own campaign to improve wellbeing in your community. You'll learn about lifestyle choices, public health challenges, and how to make a real impact. Perfect for anyone curious about health education or public health careers.

Who Will This Course Suit?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy helping others and want to learn how care professionals make a positive difference. It focuses on practical skills and real-life scenarios through coursework rather than complex science. You'll explore principles of care, life events, and health promotion—perfect for anyone interested in health, wellbeing, or a future career in care services.

Post-16 Opportunities

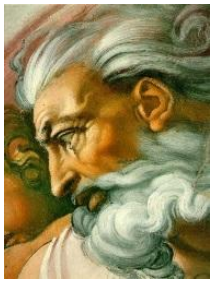
Studying Health & Social Care opens the door to exciting future pathways! You can progress to Level 3 Health & Social Care qualifications, BTEC National Diplomas, or A Levels in related subjects. This qualification also sets you up for careers in nursing, midwifery, social work, counselling, healthcare support, and many other roles within the growing health and social care sector.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

OCR Cambridge Nationals in Health & Social Care
https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/

- Unit R032 – Externally assessed written exam, worth 70 marks (40%)
- Unit R033 – NEA coursework, five tasks, worth 60 marks (30%)
- Unit R035 – NEA coursework, four tasks, worth 60 marks (30%)

Note: This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE.



Religious Studies GCSE

What Will I Study?

Religious Studies is a GCSE course designed around responding to ultimate questions and examining what might be considered right and wrong. The course is made up of 3 papers. The first 2 papers allow you to explore the fundamental beliefs and practices of Christianity and of Islam and of the differences in belief and practice within each religion. The third paper is devoted to philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world through the perspective of Christianity. Four themes are studied: relationships and family, the existence of God, peace and conflict, dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes. You will explore some of the philosophical questions which have puzzled and perplexed the greatest minds for millennia for example, "Is there really a God?" or "When does life begin?". You will also investigate issues of war and conflict, medical ethics and life after death.

Who Will This Course Suit?

This course would suit anyone who enjoys thinking about spiritual and ethical matters and anyone with an open mind with regards to the wider world and the influence of the 2 biggest religions on earth. This GCSE encourages you to think critically on various interpretations and views of religious text and to come to your own personal conclusions about some of the world's greatest conundrums. An integral part of the course includes discussion, extended writing and independent research.

Post-16 Opportunities

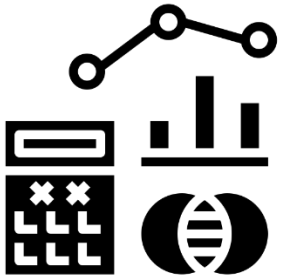
Religious Studies provides you with the skills of critical enquiry which can be adapted to a range of subjects at Sixth Form including History, Sociology, Geography, Law and Philosophy. Beyond Sixth Form, Religious Studies is a well-respected qualification which demonstrates ability to reason independently and will set you up for further study at university. In terms of career, Religious Studies is suitable for a wide range of careers including, policing, nursing, social work, the law, teaching, politics and policy making.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

OCR GCSE (9–1) in Religious Studies (J625)
http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/240547-specification-accredited-gcse-religious-studies-j625.pdf

Written examination: 100%

- Paper 1: Christianity: beliefs, teachings and practices (25% of GCSE)
- Paper 2: Islam: beliefs, teachings and practices (25% of GCSE)
- Paper 3: Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world (50% of GCSE)



Statistics GCSE

What Will I Study?

You will study three main themes:

- The collection of data.
- Processing, representing, interpreting and analysing data.
- Probability.

Wherever possible, our statistical investigations will involve data we collect ourselves so that our classroom activities are relevant, engaging and meaningful.

Who Will This Course Suit?

Having a secure understanding of statistics is a valuable skill for everyone, and as such, this course is suitable for all learners. Statistics GCSE provides students with a deeper understanding of the role that statistics plays in the real world. Understanding how statistics are communicated, what they are telling you and their potential use and misuse are all vital life skills.

We encourage students to study Statistics to empower them to be knowledgeable and analytical in their adult life, but also because of the significant role statistics play in any field of academic study.

Statistics GCSE course content supports and extends the Mathematics GCSE syllabus. The course gives students the opportunity to broaden their Maths learning at secondary school, and inevitably the course supports students with improved outcomes in Mathematics GCSE. This statistics course helps to develop skills that are useful in other subjects such as the Sciences and Geography.

The structure of the course allows for additional supported study time for all students to strengthen their performance at Mathematics GCSE. Higher attaining students will have the opportunity to study advanced maths in preparation for A-level.

Post-16 Opportunities

Statistics is one of the components of the A-level Mathematics syllabus.

This course is beneficial for all further academic study, including subjects like Physics, Chemistry and Biology, but also social sciences like Psychology, Sociology and Criminology, alongside Economics Business Studies, Finance and Geography.

Qualifications & Assessment Details

Statistics GCSE (Edexcel 1STO)
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-2017.html

The course is assessed by two exam papers, each contributing 50% to the final grade.

Options Appointment Notes

Date		Time		Form tutor	

Preparation for the Meeting **Please complete, but don't worry if you're not sure or don't know. This is a rough document.**
Shortlist (initial ideas for options choices):
Future career route (if known):
Do you know where you want to go when you leave LVC? College or Apprenticeship?

Notes
Which EBacc subject(s)? Are your preferred subjects "Broad and Balanced"? Who might you speak to with any questions you have?

Follow Up Actions