



Pathways

2024



Curriculum Offer 2024 - 2025

Student Pathways

At Ratton we endeavour to ensure that all students can follow a broad and balanced range of subjects. We offer a range of Pathways to meet the interests of all students.

All students will study the school's core curriculum of the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Ethics
- PE

In addition, students will study four subject options to enable them to work towards their life goals. In line with government targets we recommend that students consider taking both a language and either History or Geography to complete the English Baccalaureate. This is considered a balanced set of choices and will contribute to keeping students' options open in Further Education (16+) and Higher Education (18+).

This booklet contains full details on each subject area.

I look forward to meeting you at our Pathways evening on Thursday March 14th.

Mark Hatton

Senior Assistant Headteacher

Option Blocks

The majority of students will need to choose one subject from each option block shown below. More information about each subject can be found in the following pages. Some students will be offered adjusted pathways and parents will be contacted directly to confirm this.

Option Block 1	Option Block 2
History Geography Computer Science French Mandarin Spanish German	History Geography Computer Science French Mandarin Spanish German
Option Block 3	Option Block 4
GCSE Art GCSE Art Textiles Child Development Creative iMedia GCSE Dance GCSE Drama Engineering GCSE Geography GCSE Religious Studies Hospitality and Catering GCSE Music BTEC Music Performance/Technology GCSE Photography GCSE PE GCSE Sociology	GCSE Art GCSE Art Textiles Child Development Creative iMedia GCSE Dance GCSE Drama Engineering GCSE Religious Studies Hospitality and Catering GCSE Music BTEC Music Performance/Technology GCSE Photography GCSE PE GCSE Sociology

Subject choices are made in consultation with the school and preferences cannot be guaranteed. Courses are dependent on viable numbers opting for each subject, staffing and the student's ability to succeed in a given subject.

Note that:

- *Art and Art Textiles cannot both be chosen.*
- *GCSE Music and BTEC Music cannot both be chosen.*

Core Subjects



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela



COMBINED / SEPARATE SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of course: The GCSEs in Science promote an understanding of the material world by investigating, observing, experimenting and testing out ideas. Students will study units in each of the scientific disciplines Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Most students will follow a Combined Science course which will lead to two GCSE qualifications.

Course assessment: 100% Examination at the end of Year 11 comprising of six papers two in each of Chemistry Biology and Physics.

Additional information: Selected students who have achieved most highly across a range of subjects during years 7 – 9 will follow the Separate Science GCSEs, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Further study: Science GCSE will help you to understand the world around you. Progression to A Level Science qualifications is likely to require good grades (Grade 5 and above) in GCSE Combined Science, English and Maths.

Student view: *“My science lessons have opened my eyes to how the world really works.”*



ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Outline of the course: Students will follow two GCSEs. Both courses are linear and therefore examined at the end of the course.

Assessment: In English, students will sit two exams in each GCSE. Reading and writing skills will be examined. They will be required to read extracts and respond to questions on nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century fiction and non-fiction texts. They will also receive a certificate for Spoken Language to show their achievements in speaking and listening.

In Literature, students will be required to read and respond to a Shakespeare text, a pre nineteenth century text, a modern prose or drama text and a variety of poems.

Additional information: It is highly recommended that students have personal copies of the Literature texts to annotate in class. Revision guides will also be available for all aspects of the courses. The course will include a number of exciting opportunities to visit theatre productions and poetry events.

Further study: A good understanding of the English language is key to success in any field. A good pass in an English GCSE is a pre-requisite for almost all college courses.

Student view: *“I enjoyed English because it gave me the writing and speaking skills that I need for later life. It helped me with job applications and day to day situations.”*



ETHICS (CORE)

Outline of the course: Students will have one lesson a week covering statutory RS, PSHE and Citizenship. They will explore why people hold certain beliefs and how beliefs influence actions. Students will be expected to take part in regular discussions and debates around topical issues such as medical ethics and equality.

This course also includes PSHE and Citizenship such as relationships and sex, drugs and alcohol, mental health, the law and work-related learning.

Additional information: Personal opinions are essential for success in this subject.

Further study: A good understanding of Ethics helps us to make the right decisions and choices throughout our lives. Studying Ethics will support progression to A levels in Philosophy, Law, English, Religious Studies, Psychology and Sociology.

Student view: *“Ethics widens your view of the world and allows you to understand different religions and cultures. We have good discussions about important issues in a safe environment.”*



MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: The aim of the course is to equip students with a greater range of problem-solving skills, along with fluency in basic mathematical processes.

Course assessment: The course is assessed by examination – 3 papers: 2 calculator and 1 non-calculator. The syllabus is examined in two overlapping tiers designed to optimise student achievement:

- Higher – grades 9 to 4 (unclassified if the standard for grade 3 is not achieved)
- Foundation – grades 5 to 1

Students will be taught towards the tier most suitable for them.

Additional information: Students are required to have the necessary equipment for both their lessons and examinations. This consists of a pen, a pencil, a ruler, an eraser, a protractor, a pencil sharpener, a compass and a scientific calculator.

Students who are working on the higher paper will also have an opportunity to take further qualifications in Statistics and/or Further Maths. Students in these classes will receive more information about both in year 10.

Further study: GCSE Mathematics opens the door to all further education and to career opportunities, which range from financial and economic planning through management services to scientific and industrial research. A good pass in a Mathematics GCSE is a pre-requisite for almost all college courses.

Student view: *“I have really loved my Maths lessons in Year 10. I have developed problem solving skills that have helped me in all my other subjects and are important for my future success.”*

EBacc Subjects



“Every child should receive an education that opens doors to their future and prepares them to realise their potential in adult life. This means young people leaving school fully literate and numerate, with an understanding of the history and geography of the world they inhabit, its workings as revealed by findings of science, and a grasp of languages other than their own.”

To achieve the eBacc, students need to study:

GCSE English, GCSE Maths, GCSE Combined/Separate Science (including Computer Science), GCSE History or Geography and a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: This GCSE provides a comprehensive breakdown of topics that form Computer Science for the basis for A levels and University Computer Science study. Topics include:

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology
- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Course assessment:

- **Paper 1:** Written exam (Computer Systems) (50% of GCSE)
- **Paper 2:** Written exam (Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming) (50% of GCSE)

Additional information: This subject requires a high level of competence in Mathematics (grade 5 or above). Students with lower grades who wish to study Computing may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Computing will require independent study outside of the classroom. Computing counts as a Science in the EBacc suite.

Further study: Our lives are increasingly impacted by automation and computers. A good grade in Computer Science will enable progression to Level 3 computing courses at college.

Student view: *“Computer Science is challenging but that’s what I like about it. This subject is great if you are really into programming. It is really tough learning how to write programs, but I get a big sense of achievement when I see an application working.”*



GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Studying Geography gives students the opportunity to travel the world via the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. They will understand how geography impacts everyday life and discover the key opportunities and challenges facing the world. Students will also develop academic and life skills from writing, teamwork and communication to analytical skills.

Modules:

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment
- Paper 3: Geographical applications

Course assessment:

- **Paper 1:** Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35% of GCSE)
- **Paper 2:** Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35% of GCSE)
- **Paper 3:** Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (30% of GCSE)

Additional information: This subject requires competence in literacy and numeracy and requires a commitment to regular homework. Students must participate in a local field trip as part of the course. Further information on the specification can be found at: www.aqa.org.uk/geography

Further study: Studying Geography allows students to practise key transferable skills such as analysis and collaboration, making students highly employable. Upon completion of this two-year course in Geography, students will have the skills and experience to progress to A-level courses and a huge range of university courses from International Relations to Business Management.

Student view: *“Studying geography is key to making our planet a better place to live for people now and in the future. The teachers have a real passion for the topics and clear resources make getting the best grades achievable.”*



HISTORY

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: This course would be appropriate for those with an interest in the subject and an enquiring mind. In this GCSE, students will study a range of time periods, to include:

- Superpowers and the Cold War 1941-91
- Elizabethan England 1558-88
- Medicine in Britain c.1250 – present and the British sector of the Western Front 1914-1918: injuries, treatments and the trenches
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

Course assessment: The GCSE is assessed by three exams:

- Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (30%)
- Paper 2: Period study and British depth study (40%)
- Paper 3: Modern depth study (30%)

Additional information: The literacy demands of the subject are fairly high and there is no Foundation level paper. We make an effort to cater for a range of learning styles within lessons, but if students have concerns, they should talk to their teacher and look at some examples of GCSE work.

Further study: History provides us with a better understanding of how different ideas and societies have evolved. History GCSE is excellent preparation for any further academic study.

Student views: *“History GCSE is incredibly interesting, and I’ve never had a boring lesson. Teachers are all committed and enthusiastic about the subject. History helps people understand life. There is a lot of work, but if you’re committed it can be good fun. It gives you confidence when you do well.”*



FRENCH

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied French in Years 7-9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make a 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"French is challenging, but enjoyable because you learn a great deal from it."*



GERMAN

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied German in Years 7-9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make a 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly, Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"Studying GCSE German is a great way to explore different cultures."*



MANDARIN CHINESE

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied Mandarin in Years 7-9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make a 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism, education and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"Mandarin is different but not difficult, and fun to learn."*



SPANISH

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied Spanish in Years 7 - 9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make a 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"Opens gateways to jobs and travel across the world."*

Other Subjects



“Education turns walls into doors.”



ART AND DESIGN

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Students will develop ideas and techniques from given starting points, themes or briefs, producing work that is personal, informed and meaningful. Students will learn to analyse their own work and the work of others in contemporary, historical and cultural contexts.

Course assessment: Coursework (60%) Externally Set Task: (40%); comprising two in depth units of study. Portfolios explore various disciplines of art and design, such as painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, lens-based imagery and alternative media.

Additional information: Homework consists of research and gathering information, resources and artefacts.

Further study: A good GCSE or Vocational Certificate in Art and Design enables progression to a range of Level 3 courses including the study of Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography, Film Studies, BTEC in Art & Design and Visual Arts.

Student view: *“Art and Design is a challenging and very enjoyable course. There is a lot more creative freedom and a wide range of techniques and mediums to use. If you enjoy Art and have a creative imagination this is definitely a course worth taking.”*



ART AND DESIGN (TEXTILES)

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Students will be developing ideas and techniques from a given theme or brief, producing work that is expressive, decorative or functional through the use of fabrics, dyes and fibres. Students will demonstrate an understanding of various techniques, working practices and genres such as figurative, abstract and symbolic. Students will investigate the function of materials appropriate to their chosen specialism.

Course assessment: Coursework (60%) Externally Set Task: (40%); comprising two in depth units of study. Portfolios explore various disciplines of textiles, such as:

- Printing and dying: fabric painting, transfers, batik, silk painting, dipping, spraying, tie dying block, screen and discharge printing
- Constructing: working with natural or synthetic yarns, experimenting with alternative media including plastic, paper and wire mesh and investigating the properties of these by techniques such as folding, slashing and fusing
- Fashion: Fabric and fibres are used in a fashion context, body adornment, accessories and surface decoration

Additional information: Homework consists of research and gathering information, resources and artefacts.

Further study: A good GCSE or Vocational Certificate in Art and Design enables progression to a range of Level 3 courses including the study of Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography, Film Studies, BTEC in Art & Design and Visual Arts.

Student view: *“Art Textiles is a great course. You will get the chance to be creative and to use your skills and imagination to develop works of Art. Art Textiles is definitely a course worth taking.”*



ART AND DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY)

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Students will be developing ideas and techniques from a given theme or brief, producing work that is expressive and decorative using photography and digital manipulation of images. Students will demonstrate an understanding of various photographic techniques and processes.

Course assessment: Coursework (60%) Externally Set Task: (40%); comprising two in depth units of study. Portfolios explore various disciplines of photography, such as:

- digital processes
- time-lapse photography
- hand manipulation
- sun printing
- photomontage
- digital manipulation of images

Additional information: Homework consists of research and gathering information, photoshoots.

Further study: A good GCSE in Art and Design Photography enables progression to a range of Level 3 courses including the study of Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography, Film Studies, BTEC in Art & Design and Visual Arts.



DANCE

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Dance is a powerful and expressive subject, which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. This course recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles. They can choose any style to perform and choreograph in, providing it meets the assessment criteria. The study of the anthology of professional works will develop their ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences and provides a springboard for engaging practical tasks.

Course assessment: Students will complete two assessments:

1. Performance and choreography (60%). This includes 3 Dance assessments (Solo Performance, Duet/Trio Performance and Choreography)
2. Dance Appreciation (40%). This is the written examination. It is clear, well-structured and easy for students to understand. Students will enjoy the variety of question styles, which include multiple choice, short and extended answer

Additional information: The course includes regular Dance evenings, theatre visits, workshops and extra-curricular classes.

Further study: People often dance for enjoyment and to express emotion. A good GCSE in Dance will provide students with the skills and experience to progress to Level 3 courses in Dance and other Performing Arts courses.

Student view: *"Choose GCSE Dance if you really like to dance. It is hard work, fast-paced and fun. It's always interesting and keeps you fit as you discover new things".*



DRAMA

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Drama in Years 10 and 11 is both a practical and academic course that allows students to develop their skills, knowledge and enjoyment of a wide range of performance styles and production work. As well as preparation for a career in the Performing Arts, the course helps to develop confidence, communication and group work skills.

Course assessment:

- **Understanding Drama – Written Exam (40%)** Students develop their knowledge and understanding of Drama styles, genres and practitioners. They respond to a set text and analyse and evaluate a live theatre production
- **Devised Work (40%)** Original work created by the students exploring style, theme and genre. This is supported by working logbook
- **Scripted Work (20%)** Students rehearse and perform two scripted extracts from modern plays, either as part of a group, or as a monologue

Additional information: Students will need to see as much live theatre as possible to support their written element of the exam and their own performance work. They will be required to learn sections of text lasting between 5 and 15 minutes. Due to the group work nature of the course, it is essential that students have good attendance to be successful in this subject. Students will be encouraged to involve themselves in as many extra-curricular performances as possible to extend their range.

Further study: GCSE Drama is a platform to study all Performing Arts courses at Level 3.

Student view: *"Drama has given me confidence and allows me to be creative. I love how it forces me to think 'outside the box' whilst at the same time developing my communication, teamwork and time management skills – all of which look great on my CV!"*



MUSIC GCSE

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students. It is advisable to be taking instrumental or singing lessons.

Outline of the course: Music GCSE is both a practical and academic course that allows students to develop their knowledge of a wide range of styles of music.

Course assessment:

- Performing (30%) – Students are required to prepare a solo piece and an ensemble piece
- Composing (30%) – Students are required to write two original compositions
- Listening (40%) – Exam paper that covers music from classical and pop to film music

Additional information: Students are encouraged to perform publicly during the course as well as to attend live music events to enhance their knowledge and experience. Some students who choose this option may be given the opportunity to follow BTEC Music Performance or BTEC Music Technology.

Further study: People play music for enjoyment. A good GCSE in Music prepares students for further study in Music and other Performing Arts at Level 3.

Student view: *“As well as continuing to develop my skills in composing and performing from KS3, I have learnt how to analyse music in detail which has prepared me well for A Levels.”*



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: The course is 70% theory based and covers topics including anatomy and physiology, training, using data and psychology. This element of the course is very science and maths based. The non-exam assessment (practical performance) is in one team activity, one individual activity and third in either a team or individual activity.

Course assessment: 70% Theory: 30% Practical

- Paper 1 written exam (30%) ***The human body and movement in physical activity*** (Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training)
- Paper 2 written exam (30%) ***Socio-cultural influences and well-being*** (Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and wellbeing)
- NEA Coursework (10%) Analysis of own performance in a selected sport
- Practical performance (30%) Assessed by teachers and externally moderated

Additional information: Students who follow the GCSE Physical Education pathway are expected to be competent performers in a wide range of sports, both individually and team based.

Further study: Fitness is key to a healthy lifestyle. A GCSE in PE will enable progression to:

- Academic qualifications, such as A Level Physical Education
- Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as:
 - NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity
 - BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate/Diploma in Sport
- Employment within the sports and active leisure industry

Student view: *“The theory is difficult, but very interesting. It covers all aspects of PE and sport. The practical element is really good”.*



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: This GCSE explores Christian, Buddhist, Humanist and other contemporary British views. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards issues such as divorce, euthanasia, creation, forgiveness, terrorism and equality.

Course assessment: Students will sit 2 exam papers. Each paper is worth 50% and is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

- **Component 1: The study of religions:** beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Buddhism)
- **Component 2: Thematic studies:** four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes (Theme A: Relationships and Families, Theme B: Religion and life, Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict, Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment)

Additional information: Personal opinions are essential for success in this subject however, belief in a god or gods is not.

Further study: A good understanding of Ethics helps us to make the right decisions and choices throughout our lives. A good grade in Ethics will support progression to A levels in Philosophy, Law, English, Religious Studies, Psychology and Sociology.

Student view: *“Ethics widens your view of the world and allows you to understand different religions and cultures. We have good discussions about important issues in a safe environment.”*



SOCIOLOGY

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Those with a curiosity for how the world around us works and human experiences.

Outline of the course: This GCSE explores how society works, how it is organised and how we experience life. It helps students to understand how people fit into a wider social network and encourage them to question beliefs about society. Studying Sociology provides an understanding of reasons for social differences, including differences in social behaviour. It will enable students to learn how important factors such as family, gender and religion can play a significant part in how society is constructed and to what extent our behaviour and opportunities can be shaped by our social class, age, disability, ethnicity, gender and religion.

Course assessment: Students will sit 2 exam papers. Each paper is worth 50% and is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

- **Component 1: The Sociology of Families and Education:** The sociology of families, the sociology of education and social theory/methodology.
- **Component 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification:** The sociology of crime and deviance, the sociology of social stratification and social theory/methodology.

Additional information: This course is new for 2024. The subject requires personal opinions and an open mind to learning about others' views. There is a high literacy demand with this subject and although there will be much room for discussion-based work, students will be expected to articulate their views in an academic way as well.

Further study: Sociology provides students with a greater understanding of how the world works and how humans have played a role in shaping it. A good grade in Sociology GCSE will support progression to A-levels in Sociology or Criminology, Law and Politics, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, and Psychology.

Vocational Certificates



“One learns by doing a thing; for though you think you know it you have no certainty until you try.” – Sophocles



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (ENGINEERING DESIGN)

Qualification: Cambridge National in Engineering Design

Outline of the course: Students will be encouraged to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Engineering Design
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering design and development sector and more widely
- Analyse problems in design terms through practical experience of solving such problems

Course assessment:

Students must complete three units:

1. Principles of engineering design (externally assessed)
2. Communicating design (coursework)
3. Design evaluation and modelling (coursework)

Additional information:

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use what you learn in practical, real-life situations. This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering design and development sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as: completing research to inform engineering design ideas, solving problems by exploring different engineering design options and finding imaginative solutions through creative thinking.

Further Study: Design and Technology enables progression to employment in the craft and design industry, vocational apprenticeships and A Level Art & Design (3D) or A Level Design and Technology.

Student Views: *“Engineering is really inspirational! it has opened my perspective into the wider world of engineering.”*



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Qualification: Level 1/2 Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering (Technical Award)

Outline of the course: Students will learn to prepare and cook a range of different ingredients, developing and enhancing their practical skills; this will allow them to make a range of high-quality, well-presented dishes. As well as the practical element, the course focuses on five main theory units which are covered in Year 10; these units focus on the Hospitality and Catering industry and food safety. During Year 11 students complete the coursework element which puts into practice the theory they have learnt by planning and making a range of nutritious restaurant quality dishes.

Course assessment: Students will produce a portfolio of work demonstrating their skills and knowledge across the two years, with an externally assessed examination paper worth 40% of their final grade and a course work project with a practical exam worth 60% of the final grade.

Additional information: According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for 10% of the total workforce. Over the last 10 years, 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with most roles falling within the 18-24 age groups.

The ability to plan, prepare and present food is an essential life skill as well as providing a possible career route. The WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering equips learners with theoretical knowledge about the industry as well as enabling them to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of dishes.

Further Study: Preparing healthy and nutritious food is a key life skill. A pass in Hospitality and Catering enables progression to employment in the catering industry, vocational food apprenticeships, Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery, Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles as well as food science and nutrition degrees.

Student View: *"This course will prepare me for a job in the catering or hospitality industry."*



Creative iMedia

Qualification: OCR Nationals Creative iMedia Level 1/2 J834

Outline of the course: Throughout the course you will explore the inner workings of the media industry including media sectors and products, job roles, planning techniques and media distribution.

In the course you will learn practical and theoretical skills used to produce creative and innovative media products. With one benefit being many of the skills are transferrable into other careers

Course assessment:

The Media Industry (40% - Written Exam)

Visual Identity and Design (30% - Coursework)

Animation with Audio OR

Interactive digital media OR

Digital games (30% - Coursework)

Additional information: Throughout the course you will be expected to work independently on occasions. When completing coursework, you will be expected to manage your own time.

Further study: Choosing Creative iMedia will provide you with a great foundation to pursue further learning such as the Creative iMedia Level 3 course, website design or even game design at KS5.

Student view: *“iMedia is a very fun and creative course, I enjoy the practical elements of making logos but also learning about how media products are created.”*



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Qualification: Cambridge Nationals Level 1/ Level 2 (GCSE equivalent)

Outline of the course:

- Health and well-being for child development
- Safe environments and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years
- Understand the development of a child from one to five years

Course assessment:

40% written exam (Health and well-being for child development)

60% coursework

There are two pieces of coursework, which are set by the exam board:

Coursework A: Creating a safe environment and understanding the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.

For example, you might be asked to select the correct equipment and create a feeding plan for children of a variety of ages. You will have learnt about travel, feeding, sleeping, clothing and footwear, as well as the nutritional value of foods. You will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various choices.

Coursework B: Understanding the development of a child from 1-5 years.

For example, design a plan for different play activities, which will develop a child's physical, intellectual, or social skills. You will test your activities on real children and must evaluate your chosen activity, comparing the child against the expected developmental norms for their age.

Additional information: Homework consists of research, planning, gathering, resources, and inspiration.

Further study: A Level 2 qualification in Child Development is equivalent to a GCSE and will allow access to Level 3 childcare courses. Child Development is an excellent course for anyone interested in working with young children in the future, or who might be interested in a career in the caring professions.

Student view: *"It gives you a real understanding of how to look after a child properly and opens your eyes to how much a child costs."*



MUSIC - PERFORMANCE

Qualification: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Suitable for: All Students. The ability to play an instrument or sing is an advantage.

Outline of the course: Music Performance is a practical course that allows students to develop their knowledge of a wide range of styles of music as well as specialising in the area of performance. Students will also gain practical skills such as recording and mixing to preparing them for the music industry.

Course assessment: This course is made up of 3 coursework units.

Additional Information: Students are encouraged to perform publicly during the course as well as to attend live music events to enhance their knowledge and experience. Some students who choose this option may be selected to follow GCSE Music.

Further Study: BTEC Music (Level 3), Music Technology and Performing Arts.

Student view: *“The Music Performance course really suits me as I can choose to specialise in performance and prepare for a job in the music industry.”*



MUSIC – TECHNOLOGY

Qualification: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

Outline of the course: Music Technology is a course that allows students to specialise in the use of computer and recording studios to produce and record music. Students will learn how to operate and work with advanced sequencers such as Logic Pro X, as well as learn about different types of microphones and their applications.

Course assessment: This course is made up of 3 coursework units.

Additional Information: Students are encouraged engage in music creation outside of lessons during the course as well as to attend live music events to enhance their knowledge and experience. Some students who choose this option may be selected to follow GCSE Music.

Further Study: People play music for enjoyment. A good pass in Music Technology prepares students for further study in Music Production and other Performing Arts at Level 3.

Student view: *“I’ve really enjoyed the computer side of music during the lower years and now I can specialise in technology and concentrate on making electronic music.”*

