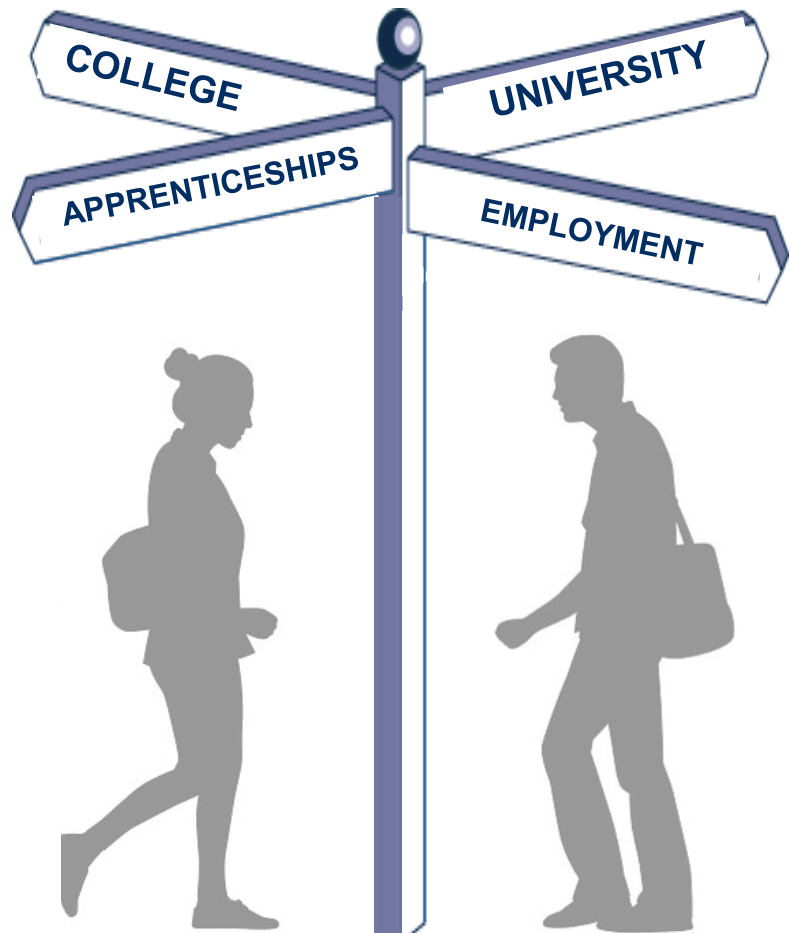




**Pleckgate**  
HIGH SCHOOL

**Ofsted**  
Outstanding  
Provider

# Year 9 Options 2021



**'Aspire and Believe, Act and Succeed'**



SILVER QUALITY MARK 2016 –



Religious Education Council  
of England and Wales

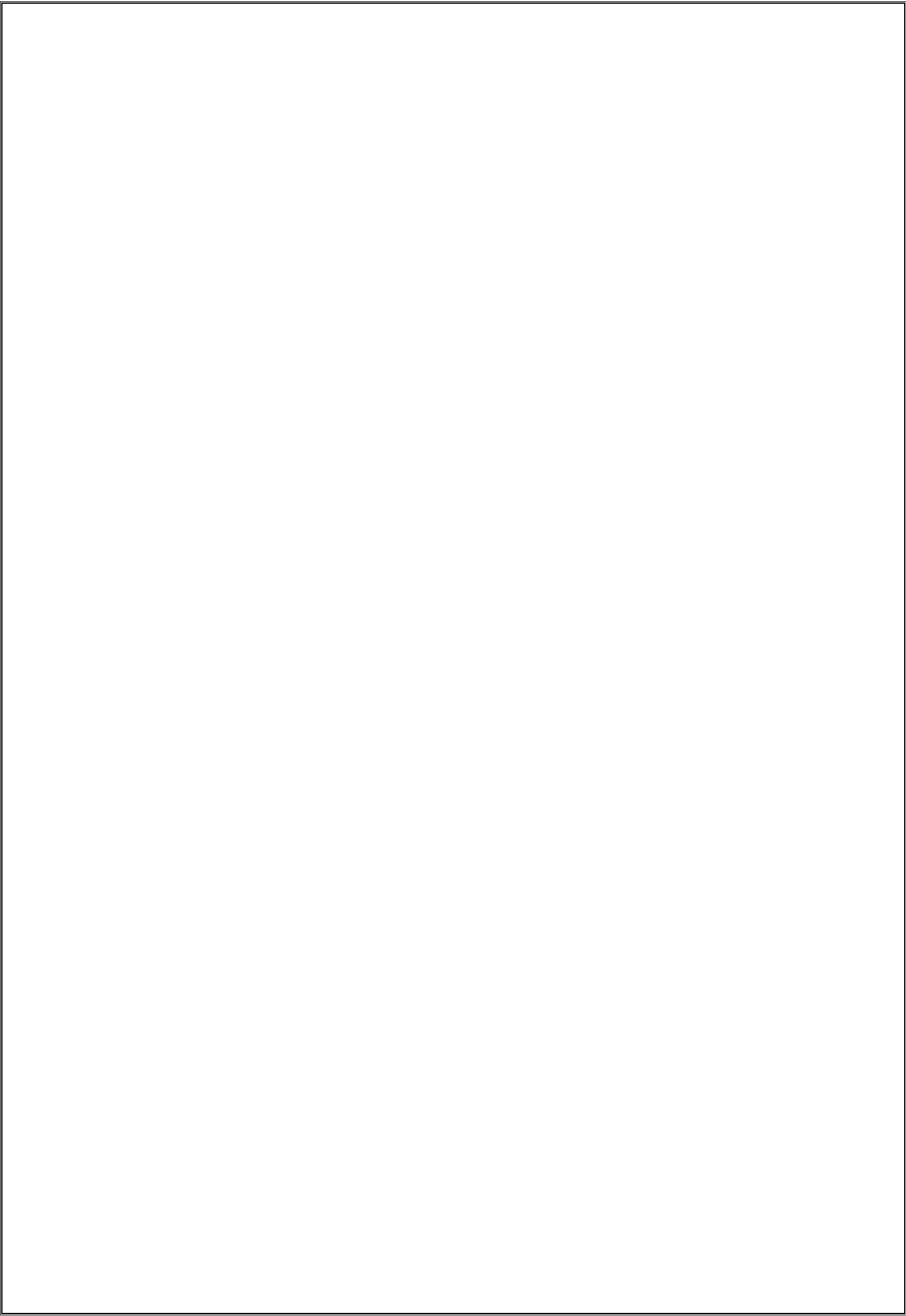


Secondary  
School of the  
Year 2016 & 2017



Education  
Partnership  
Trust

**Pleckgate High School**  
Pleckgate Road, Blackburn  
Lancashire, BB1 8QA  
Call **01254 249134**  
E-mail [info@pleckgate.com](mailto:info@pleckgate.com)  
Visit [pleckgate.com](http://pleckgate.com)



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Child Development

## **Headteacher's Introduction**

Dear Parent/Carer

The time has come for your child to select the subjects they will follow in Years 10 and 11.

GCSE courses have changed considerably and now contain more content to be learned, higher order thinking skills and advanced problem solving techniques. These take time to fully develop and embed and, in many cases, are subject specific. The school has been preparing your child through a rich Key Stage 3 curriculum and careers programme, to be able to make an informed choice on their next steps that will support their future career aspirations.

This booklet outlines all the Key Stage 4 curriculum information you will need to help your child make informed choices.

Please see this booklet as the beginning of the process and read it carefully. It is important that final decisions are made by your child but ideally with your input and agreement.

I am confident that your child is taught very well at Pleckgate, and will be fully supported. Throughout the duration of the GCSE courses students will also be regularly given advice on planning workload and revision techniques. We want to work with you for the benefit of your child and value your support in this journey.

Please note that while we aim to offer all the courses advised in this booklet, in the event of a group being extremely small, we cannot guarantee that course will run. We will, of course, inform you on an individual basis if we foresee this problem once you have made your choices.



Mark Cocker  
Headteacher



## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Pleckgate High School we aim for all students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum in order to keep as many pathways open to students in the future.

The timetable for subjects is as follows:

● English Language	3 periods per week
● English Literature	2 periods per week
● Mathematics	4 periods per week
● Science	4 periods per week
● Religious Education	2 periods per week
● Physical Education	1 period per week
● Option 1	3 periods per week
● Option 2	3 periods per week
● Option 3	3 periods per week

### Core Subjects

English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Religious Education are compulsory for all students. However, a large number of courses are still available for students to choose.

Sets and groups will be decided by subject teachers to ensure that your child can access the best possible learning in order to ensure the highest possible level of achievement.

### Final Subject Allocation

Every effort will be made to ensure that you are allocated a course in line with your preference, but this cannot be guaranteed. It is inevitable that some students will need to change their selection due to over subscription or low uptake of a subject.

### Careers and Post 16

Careers guidance also plays an important part in preparing students for life beyond Pleckgate High School. This will include one-to-one appointments, guest speakers and computer aided careers guidance. Various options are possible beyond Pleckgate High School such as Sixth-Form Colleges for academic and vocational qualifications, National Traineeships, Modern Apprenticeships and other employment opportunities.

## What is the English Baccalaureate ?

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself. The measure recognises where students have secured a 'good' grade, currently grade 5 across a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Modern Foreign Language.

The subjects we have included are designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression. For example, for students hoping to go to university, [The Russell Group guide on making informed choices for post-16 education](#) identifies 'facilitating subjects' at A Level. These are subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open. The subjects they identify are those included in the English Baccalaureate – Mathematics, English, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and languages.

# **Core Subjects**

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

## CORE SUBJECT



### Examination Board:

Eduqas English Language

### How will I be assessed?

The English Language qualification is assessed through formal examinations as follows:

#### English Language:

1 x 1hr 45min exam and 1 x 2hr exam

1 x Spoken Language individual presentation

### The English Curriculum

Alongside the study of the set texts for the English Literature GCSE, all students write for a wide range of purposes and audiences. In creative writing, there is a strong emphasis on completing full narratives, writing from both personal experience and being more imaginative. Viewpoint writing is also explored in depth, across a range of topics and formats including speeches, letters, articles, reports and reviews. This leads on to an individual spoken language presentation, when students are given the opportunity to express their opinion on a topic that is personal to them and that they feel passionate about. This is internally assessed at the end of Year 10, and students can be awarded a pass, merit or distinction mark, which is recorded on their GCSE certificate.

Active reading of non-fiction, including understanding the writer's craft and viewpoint, is also explored in detail. Students read a range of 20<sup>th</sup> century and pre-19<sup>th</sup> century texts, often linked by theme, to look at the different perspectives across time about topics that are still pertinent today. Students also read a wide range of short stories and extracts from short stories to analyse the writer's craft and understand how writers create impressions of characters, settings and different moods and atmospheres.

### How can I progress further with an English GCSE?

English qualifications provide an excellent basis for any career route either academic or vocational. Please see below for examples of both pathways.

#### Progression Route – 'Academic'

- A Level English courses
- Degree in English
- All university courses require grade 9-4 at least, in English, in order to get onto degree courses.
- Students wishing to do A Levels at sixth form level are therefore required to have this qualification in order to progress on to A Level courses.

#### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| • Journalism     | • Public relations                        |
| • Librarian      | • Advertising                             |
| • Teaching       | • Publishing                              |
| • Translator     | • Careers in Law                          |
| • Administration | • Any career that involves communication. |
| • Marketing      |   |

**NB: It is a legal requirement that any student who does not achieve a 'good' GCSE grade in English (currently 'Grade 4') at the end of Year 11 will be required to continue to study the subject until 18.**

# ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

## CORE SUBJECT



### Examination Board:

AQA English Literature

### How will I be assessed?

The English Literature qualification is assessed through formal examinations as follows:

### English Literature:

1 x 1hr 45min exam and 1 x 2hr 15min exam

### The English Literature Curriculum

Our English Literature curriculum is engaging and allows pupils to study a range of full texts at GCSE. These include “Macbeth” by William Shakespeare, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, “An Inspector Calls” by JB Priestley and a range of poetry from the AQA “Power and Conflict” cluster of poems.

Students read the full texts and are encouraged to read independently. Home learning is required to enable students to develop skills and knowledge required in the examinations. We organise theatre visits and invite theatre companies into school to allow students to engage with the texts in performance. Through the study of Literature, students learn to link texts with their contexts and empathise with situations in different historical periods, and understand how writers were affected by the contexts they were writing in.

### How can I progress further with an English Literature GCSE?

English qualifications provide an excellent basis for any career route either academic or vocational. Please see below for examples of both pathways.

#### Progression Route – ‘Academic’

- A Level English courses
- Degree in English
- All university courses require grade 9-4 at least, in English, in order to get onto degree courses.
- Pupils wishing to do A Levels at sixth form level are therefore required to have this qualification in order to progress on to A Level courses.

#### Progression Route – ‘Vocational’

- Journalism
- Librarian
- Teaching
- Translator
- Administration
- Marketing
- Public relations
- Advertising
- Publishing
- Careers in Law
- Any career that involves communication.

**NB: It is a legal requirement that any student who does not achieve a ‘good’ GCSE grade in English (currently ‘Grade 4’) at the end of Year 11 will be required to continue to study the subject until 18.**

# COMBINED SCIENCE GCSE

## CORE SUBJECT

### Examination Board:

AQA



### How will I be assessed?

**Combined Science** (Combination of Chemistry, Biology, Physics)

2 GCSE's

Study all three sciences but in less depth than separate sciences to gain 2 GCSE's. The course is a mixture of theory and practical science. The course is assessed by 6 x 1hr 15min exams.

### The Combined Science Curriculum

Students who choose combined science will still study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. However, students will not cover the same amount of content in each topic as in separate science. Students will receive 2 GCSE grades but they are not attached to any particular science, they are a 'combination' of student performance in all the sciences.

Theory lessons will increase and enhance student subject knowledge and practical lessons will develop the student's skills. As students develop as a scientist they will learn to:

- Develop hypotheses
- Design investigations
- Use scientific apparatus to take accurate and precise readings
- Present results and analyse your data
- Draw conclusions and evaluate the validity of findings.

Students will also engage with the ethical dilemmas which accompany some scientific developments such as the uses of genetic engineering or the role of nuclear energy in combating climate change. In Combined Science students undertake required practicals which are experiments that students will be asked about during the examinations. Students will need to know the methods, how to use the equipment and how to analyse the results.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Osmosis Food tests Enzymes Photosynthesis Field investigations	Making salts Electrolysis Temperature changes Chromatography Water purification	Resistance V-I characteristics Density Specific heat capacity Force and extension Acceleration Waves

### How can I progress further with science GCSEs?

Combined science can also lead to A-level or a vocational course. If you wish to study sciences at A-Level then separate science is the better option.

### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- Technician
- Health occupations (physiotherapy, dental or veterinary nursing etc.)
- Electrician
- Sports science
- Electronics

# SEPARATE SCIENCES (Chemistry, Biology, Physics)

## GCSE

### Examination Board:

AQA



### How will I be assessed?

Study a GCSE in each science. The course is a mixture of theory and practical science.

The course is assessed by 2 x 1hr 45 min exams per subject.

To choose Separate Sciences students **must** choose physics as one of your options. This is only available to P Band students.

### The Separate Science Curriculum

Students will study a GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics meaning they will receive 3 GCSE grades. Theory lessons will increase and enhance student subject knowledge and practical lessons will develop the student's skills. As students develop as scientists, they will learn to:

- Develop hypotheses
- Design investigations
- Use scientific apparatus to take accurate and precise readings
- Present results and analyse your data
- Draw conclusions and evaluate the validity of your findings.

Students will also engage with the ethical dilemmas which accompany some scientific developments such as the uses of genetic engineering or the role of nuclear energy in combating climate change.

In each subject required practicals will be undertaken which are experiments that students will be asked about during the examinations. Students will need to know the methods, how to use the equipment and how to analyse the results.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Culturing microorganisms Effect of antibiotics on bacterial growth Osmosis Food tests Enzymes Photosynthesis Reaction time Germination Field investigations Decay	Making salts Neutralization Electrolysis Temperature changes Rates of reaction Chromatography Identifying ions Water purification	Thermal insulation Resistance V-I characteristics Density Specific heat capacity Force and extension Acceleration Waves Light Radiation and absorption PHY o

### How can I progress further with science GCSEs?

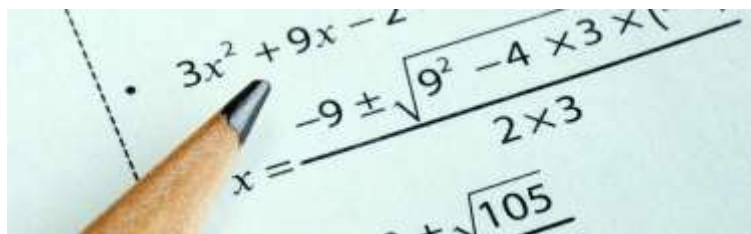
Separate sciences are the best preparation for students wishing to study sciences at A- level.

### Progression Route – 'Academic'

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary
- Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Electrical)
- Research scientist (industrial, medical and academic)

# MATHEMATICS GCSE

## CORE SUBJECT



### Examination Board:

Edexcel

### How will I be assessed?

Paper 1	Non-calculator (Foundation and Higher papers)	1hr 30minutes
Paper 2	Calculator (Foundation and Higher papers)	1hr 30 minutes
Paper 3	Calculator (Foundation and Higher papers)	1hr 30 minutes

### The Mathematics Curriculum

There are 243 topics which are tested on the Mathematics papers. These are broadly divided into the areas of Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Number, Data and Statistics and Geometry. Any of the topics on the specification can appear on either/all of the papers.

A willingness to persevere with an activity when you feel unsure of your ability is essential. Students will be expected to cope with not knowing and to use problem solving and reasoning skills to work out the answers to problems. Students need to be prepared to work and think hard and complete regular home learning.

### How can I progress further with a mathematics GCSE?

Almost all jobs and careers require maths GCSE but there are also many careers which make a lot of use of mathematics. These include business management, psychology, banking, ICT, engineering and medicine, to name just a few. Students need a 5-9 grade for entry to most university courses.

### Progression Route – ‘Academic’

- A Level mathematics and engineering courses
- Degrees in mathematics, statistics, all types of engineering, accounting and finance
- Pupils wishing to do A Levels at sixth form level are therefore required to have this qualification in order to progress on to A Level courses.

### Progression Route – ‘Vocational’

- Btec courses
- Apprenticeships
- Extended Diplomas

**NB:** It is a legal requirement that any student who does not achieve a ‘good’ GCSE grade in mathematics (currently ‘Grade 4’) at the end of Year 11 will be required to continue to study the subject until 18.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

## CORE SUBJECT



### Examination Board:

Edexcel

### How will I be assessed?

2 x 1hr 45min exams

- Exam 1- Religion and Ethics: Christianity
- Exam 2- Religion, Peace and Conflict: Islam

### The Religious Studies Curriculum

This qualification is for students who enjoy learning about the two biggest religions in the UK today; Christianity and Islam and the different beliefs within them. It is for students who love giving their own opinion but also listening to other people's opinions and considering why people disagree.

Religious Studies prepares students to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Religious Education contributes greatly to understanding the diversity of religion and non-religious belief in our community and the world today. It helps to foster young people's own cultural, social, spiritual and moral development. The lessons learned in Religious Education prepare students for responsibilities, experiences and opportunities later in life. Religious Education allows young people growing up in a diverse society to understand the views and opinions of people whose beliefs and values differ from their own. Lessons provide a space for young people to reflect on their own ideas and develop their thoughts about questions of meaning and ethics. The issues of religion and belief discussed in lessons frequently top the news agenda and RE helps make sense of them.

The course consists of the following topics:

- **Religion and Ethics: Christianity**  
Christian Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Christian Life and Matters of Life and Death.
- **Religion, Peace and Conflict: Islam**  
Muslim Beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Living the Muslim Life and Peace and Conflict.

### How can I progress further with a Religious Studies GCSE?

Religious Studies qualifications provide an excellent basis for any career route either academic or vocational. Please see below for examples of both pathways.

#### Progression Route – 'Academic'

There are a wide range of courses that you can go on to study with a GCSE in Religious Studies: A-Levels- Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Law, Politics.

#### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- Public Service Industries such as the Police
- Social Worker
- Civil Service
- Youth Worker
- Charity Officer
- Teaching
- Law
- Ministry
- Hospitality
- Tourism

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## CORE SUBJECT

### Examination Board:

This is a non-examined subject.



Compulsory one hour of physical education is required for all KS4 students.

Students who wish to take Physical Education as an option should refer to the subject pages for GCSE PE or Cambridge National Sports Studies.

### What are the key areas of activity?

- Badminton
- Football
- Netball
- Table tennis
- Fitness training
- Rounders
- Cricket
- Athletics

### Core PE

All students receive one hour of physical education each week with a key focus on activity and the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. Other benefits taught include participation in lifelong sport, and the promotion of transferable skills such as communication, leadership skills, resilience, taking responsibility and working as a team.

### How can I progress further with compulsory physical education?

- Develop health and fitness
- Contribute towards good mental health
- Develop hobbies and interests outside of the classroom (this is an important part of a student's CV)
- Develop skill levels in a range of sports
- Learn aspects of health and safety
- Develop self esteem

### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- Fitness Instructor
- Personal Trainer
- Health Advisor
- Nutritionist

# **Options Choices**

# FRENCH GCSE



### Examination Board:

AQA

## How will I be assessed?

## Exams

Foundation Tier		Higher Tier	
Listening Exam	35 minutes	Listening Exam	45 minutes
Speaking exam	30 minutes	Speaking Exam	30 minutes
Reading exam	45 minutes	Reading Exam	60 minutes
Writing exam	60 minutes	Writing Exam	75 minutes

## The French Curriculum

All students who study French follow the themes below and on which the assessments are based.

### Theme 1: Identity and culture:

Family, Social media, technology, Music, Cinema and TV, Food and eating out, Sport, Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

## Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest:

Home, town, neighbourhood and region, Social issues, Charity/voluntary work, Healthy/unhealthy living, The environment, Poverty/homelessness, Travel and tourism

### Theme 3: Current and future study and employment:

My studies, Life at school/college, Education post-16, Jobs, career choices and ambitions

## How can I progress further with a French GCSE?

A French GCSE qualification provides an excellent basis for any career route either academic or vocational. Examples of both pathways are:

### Progression Route – ‘Academic’

- A Level French courses
- Degree in French or French with another subject eg Business, TEFL, Economics, Accounting

### Progression Route – ‘Vocational’

- Business and Marketing
- Teaching
- Translator/Interpreter
- International Administration
- Public Relations
- Diplomatic Service
- Careers in International Law

# URDU GCSE



## Examination Board:

AQA GCSE Urdu - Specification Number: 8648

Website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/urdu-8648>

## How will I be assessed?

The Urdu qualification is assessed through four formal examinations as follows:

<p><b>Paper 1: Listening</b></p> <p>Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.</p> <p>Written exam: 35 mins (Foundation Tier), 45 mins (Higher Tier)</p> <p>40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>25% of GCSE</b></p>	<p><b>Paper 2: Speaking</b></p> <p>Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.</p> <p>Non-exam assessment 7–9 mins (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 mins (Higher Tier) + preparation time</p> <p>60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>25% of GCSE</b></p>
<p><b>Paper 3: Reading</b></p> <p>Understanding and responding to different types of written language</p> <p>Written exam: 45 mins (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)</p> <p>60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)</p> <p><b>25% of GCSE</b></p>	<p><b>Paper 4: Writing</b></p> <p>Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.</p> <p>Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 mins (Higher Tier)</p> <p>50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier</p> <p><b>25% of GCSE</b></p>

## The Urdu Curriculum (Years 10 and 11)

**Theme 1 - Identity and Culture:** Family & friends, technology in everyday life, free-time activities and customs and festivals in Urdu-speaking countries/communities.

**Theme 2 - Local, national, international and global areas of interest:** Home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues and travel and tourism.

**Theme 3 - Current and future study and employment:** My studies, life at school/college, education post-16, jobs, career choices and ambitions.

## How can I progress further with an Urdu GCSE?

Urdu qualifications provide an excellent basis for academic or vocational careers.

### Progression Route – ‘Academic’

- A Level Urdu courses
- Degree in Languages and Linguistics
- Lawyer

### Progression Route – ‘Vocational’

- The Armed Forces
- Teaching languages (UK/abroad)
- Medical
- Police
- Secret Services
- Travel Agent
- Translator/Interpreter

**NB:** Language courses allow further studies and support university applications as higher education institutions look favourably at linguistic skills. Students who are bilingual have a greater chance of obtaining work opportunities in the target language community and studying abroad.

# GEOGRAPHY

## GCSE



### Examination Board:

EDEXCEL A

### How will I be assessed?

There will be three, 90-minute written GCSE examinations at the end of year 11.

Examinations are a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer responses. Marks are also awarded for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

### The Geography Curriculum

#### **Component 1: The Physical Environment: (1hr 30min exam) 37.5% of GCSE**

The changing landscapes in the UK (Rivers and Coasts), weather hazards and climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity and management.

#### **Component 2: The Human Environment: (1hr 30min exam) 37.5% of GCSE**

Changing cities, global development, resource management (energy resources).

#### **Component 3: Geographical Investigations: (1hr 30min exam) 25% of GCSE**

Urban and rural fieldwork, UK challenges

Students will undertake two field trips to contrasting environments to investigate the physical and human world around them. The data and statistics gathered from the field trips will be used to answer examination questions in component 3.

### How can I progress further with a Geography GCSE?

There are a number of different qualifications at Level 3 (A-Level) including geography, geology and environmental sciences. Geography is sought-after by universities, due to it being a broad subject, as it develops a range of qualities and skills that are beneficial to studying at Higher Education institutions.

#### **Progression Route – ‘Academic’**

- Engineering
- Architecture
- Medicine
- Meteorology
- Hydrology
- Oceanography
- Environmental/Government Agencies

#### **Progression Route – ‘Vocational’**

- Leisure and Tourism
- Hotel Management
- Charities dealing with the impact of human and natural disasters



# STATISTICS

## GCSE

### Examination Board:

Edexcel



### How will I be assessed?

The new Edexcel GCSE Statistics examination will consist of two exams of equal importance. Both papers are 1½ hours and both focus on the same content and assessment objectives. Calculators may be used in both examinations. This GCSE Statistics qualification no longer includes any Controlled Assessment.

### The Statistics Curriculum

#### COLLECTION OF DATA

Students will learn how to plan an investigation, recognise and interpret different types of data, learn about populations and sampling techniques, learn about data collection techniques from different sources and consider their reliability.

#### PROCESSING, REPRESENTING AND ANALYSING DATA

Students will learn about measures of central tendency (e.g. mean, median, mode, seasonal variation etc.) and measures of dispersion (e.g. interquartile range, standard deviation, calculate outliers etc.) as well as additional summary statistics (e.g. index numbers, interpret rates of change etc.) Students will analyse bi-variate data using scatter diagrams and measures of correlation (such as Spearman's rank correlation coefficient and Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient), interpreting their calculations in relation to the 'real-life' context. Students will analyse time series data, identifying trends and calculating moving averages.

#### PROBABILITY

Students will build on their existing knowledge regarding probability. Students will also learn about probability distributions (such as Binomial and Normal distributions) and know how to interpret characteristics of these. As part of the course, the students will study the ideas behind conducting a practical investigation. This will help to pull together the skills that the students will have developed from the topics above.

### How can I progress further with a Statistics GCSE?

Statistics is used across the curriculum in subjects such as Geography, Science, Environmental Science, Psychology and Philosophy. Students taking Statistics GCSE will gain an advantage of a 'second' Maths qualification at GCSE and it will aid the transition between GCSE and 'A' level. Students going on to study subjects including Science, Geography, Social Sciences and Psychology at sixth form college will find knowledge of Statistics extremely useful.

#### Progression Route – 'Academic'

- AS or A level Maths
- AS or A level Further Maths

#### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- Btec courses
- Apprenticeships
- Extended Diplomas



# CREATIVE iMEDIA

## Cambridge National Certificate Level 2



### Examination Board:

OCR

### How will I be assessed?

- 25% Written paper on Pre-production Skills (external examination)
- 75% Coursework. Students will complete one mandatory unit on Creating Digital Graphics and an additional two units from a range of optional units including Web Design, Comic Design, Animation, Photography and Game Design.

### The Creative iMedia Curriculum

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia qualification is a vocational digital skills course that will equip students with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

Students will demonstrate effective use of these skills to develop creative media products to meet client requirements.

### How can I progress further with this qualification?

#### Progression Routes

- Level 3 ICT
- Web Designer
- Graphic Designer
- Game Artist
- 3D Designer

# BUSINESS STUDIES

## GCSE



### Examination Board:

Edexcel

### How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two examinations:

Theme 1	Investigating small business	(50%)
Theme 2	Building a Business	(50%)

### The Business Curriculum

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business. In this theme students will be introduced to local and national business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.

Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. In this theme students will be introduced to national and global business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.

### How can I progress further with this qualification?

#### Progression Route – ‘Academic’

- Level 3, AS and A level Business
- Degree-level qualifications in Business and Enterprise
- Management qualifications
- Careers in management, marketing, project management, human resources

# COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

## Examination Board

Edexcel



## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit one paper based examination and one on screen practical exam:

Unit 1 - Principles of Computer Science (50%)

Unit 2 - Application of Computational Thinking (50% on-screen, practical assessment of programming using Python)

## The Computer Science Curriculum

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- Understand how computers manipulate binary data arithmetically (binary addition, binary shifts, two's complement signed integers)
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs using a high-level programming language (Python)
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

## How can I progress further with this qualification?

- Level 3, AS and A level Computer Science
- Computer Programmer
- Software Engineer
- Database Administrator
- Systems Administrator
- ICT technician or network manager

**How can I find out more?** For further information on this course, please speak to Mr Moore

# ART & DESIGN

## GCSE

### Examination Board:

AQA

### How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through coursework and formal examinations as follows:

### Coursework:

Students undertake at least two projects during Year 10 and Year 11. Coursework is at least one of these projects, plus the 'best bits' of the students other work.

### Exam:

Students have a 10-hour exam that takes place in school lesson times. Students will spend all 5 periods of two days in the art room working on your exam. Don't panic – students WON'T spend 10 straight hours in an exam room!

### The Art Curriculum

Students are given a starting point, such as 'portraits', 'buildings', 'music' or 'fashion, look at the work of other artists and photographers and develop THEIR OWN ideas from their own starting points (photos) which will be developed using different materials and techniques to create a 'final piece' over several months. In Art & Design this involves drawing, painting, pastels, sculpture or any other media. Students require good imagination and creativity as work will be marked on originality and uniqueness.

### How can I progress further with an Art GCSE?

The examining board recently surveyed 100,000 different UK businesses and found that Art based GCSEs were the THIRD most sought-after qualification to these employers! Over 1,000,000 people in the UK are currently working in Art related jobs. Almost EVERYTHING these days is internet based, and the internet relies on Art and what is called 'visual literacy'. Graphics, Media, magazines, web or game design – they all need Art!

### Progression Route – 'Academic'

- A Level or BTEC in Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Fashion, 3D or Ceramics courses
- Degree of Higher National Diploma ('HND') level in all of the above

### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- Painter
- Graphic Designer
- Furniture or Interior Designer
- Jewellery, Fashion designer
- Website Design
- Gaming Development
- Television or Media
- Museum or Gallery Curator
- Sculptor
- Book Illustrator
- Make Up Artist, Cake or Food Decorator, Tattoo Artist – the list is endless!



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## GCSE

### Examination Board:

AQA

### How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed through coursework and formal examinations as follows:

**Coursework:** Students will undertake at least two projects during Year 10 and Year 11. Coursework is at least one of these projects, plus the 'best bits' of your other work.

**Exam:** Students have a 10-hour exam that takes place in school lesson times. Students will spend all 5 periods of two days in the art room working on their exam. Don't panic - you WON'T spend 10 straight hours in an exam room!

### The Photography Curriculum

Students are given a starting point, such as 'portraits', 'buildings', 'music' or 'fashion', look at the work of other artists and photographers and develop THEIR OWN ideas from their own starting points (photos) which will be developed using different materials and techniques to create a 'final piece' over several months.

The photography GCSE is very similar to the Art & Design GCSE in terms of 'creativity' and 'imagination', but Photography is less 'drawing and painting' and more software based using Photoshop and animation. Photography still involves some drawing and painting, though not to the same standard or amount as the Art GCSE.

Both courses require a good imagination and creativity as you will be marked on how original and unique your work is! We have a set of 'DSLR' cameras that students use, but we also work a lot with iPads which all students have.

### How can I progress further with a Photography GCSE?

The AQA examining board recently surveyed 100,000 different UK businesses and found that Art based GCSEs such as Photography were the THIRD most sought-after qualification to these employers! Over 1,000,000 people in the UK are currently working in Art/Photography related jobs. Almost EVERYTHING these days is internet based, and the internet relies on software and Photography! Graphics, Media, Film making & editing, magazines, web or game design – they all need Photography!

### Progression Route – 'Academic'

- A Level or BTEC in Graphics, Photography, Fashion or Film Study courses
- Degree or Higher National Diploma ('HND') level in all of the above

### Progression Route – 'Vocational'

- Graphic Designer
- Film Editor
- App Developer
- YouTube creator
- Fashion designer
- Website Design, Gaming Development, Television or Media, Museum or Gallery Curator – the list is endless!



# MUSIC



## EXAMINATION BOARD:

AQA

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

### Unit 1: Understanding Music (40%)

Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Listening, understanding and appraising music from 1650 to the present day; learning about a range of types of music, including vocal, instrumental, music for film, pop, jazz, fusion and new music

There are 2 parts to this unit:

1. Questions based on 2 prepared set works
2. Questions based on unfamiliar music

### Unit 2: Performing Music (30%)

Coursework - Practical Exam

2 pieces in one or both of the following ways

Instrumental (including DJ/vocal

Production using technology

Piece 1 – Solo

Piece 2 – Perform in a small group

### Unit 3: Composing Music (30%)

Coursework

2 pieces

Piece 1 – Externally set brief set by the Examining Board

Piece 2 – Free composition

## THE MUSIC CURRICULUM

Our music curriculum continues to be varied and exciting despite the Covid restrictions this year, ensuring pupils have access to music in all its forms, performing, listening and appraising, and composing.

At Key Stage 3, students receive an hour a week of music lessons, where they develop a range of musical skills including performance, music appreciation, and creating music. Topics this year include The Blues, Minimalism, Popular Song. The lessons are a mixture of practical work, theory, music appreciation and composition, giving students as broad an experience of music as possible.

Students have been using their ipads to support their performance skills very successfully, but will be loaned an instrument from school if required to assist with their learning at KS 4.

## ENRICHMENT – CURRICULUM SUPPORT

Most of the wide range of extracurricular activities that were on offer have had to be put on hold due to Covid restrictions, but as soon as we are able, the school productions, showcases and trips will be back on offer.

We have been able to continue to offer enrichment activities to support students' learning in a safe and controlled environment through 1-1 instrumental and/or singing lessons. This has enabled pupils with more interest in performing to continue to flourish and gain enjoyment from their music making. Several of these pupils showcased their talent on our online Music Show at the end of term last year. These lessons will continue in KS 4 to provide further support in composition as well as performing.

AQA Music students will have the opportunity to focus and develop their main interests within this subject, making it a rewarding and enjoyable option. ***Instruments will be loaned to students for the duration of the course if required.***

## HOW CAN I PROGRESS FURTHER WITH A MUSIC QUALIFICATION

A qualification at KS 4 in music is regarded highly beyond school, being academic as well as creative. Being a specialist and skilled subject, music sets job/college applicants apart from their peers, demonstrating to employers, colleges and universities that students have a wide range of interests and skills and have shown commitment to learning a musical instrument or singing. Additionally, making progress in performing is recognised as a skill in the Duke Of Edinburgh Award.

The skills required for this course can also help with confidence and performance skills needed in situations such as job interviews. Music GCSE is hard work, but equally one of the most enjoyable subjects to learn and succeed in.

## PROGRESSION ROUTE – 'ACADEMIC'

- A Level Music
- BA/BMus degree in performance, academic music, arts, theatre work,
- BA (Hons) degree in performing arts/drama/music
- MA or PhD in performance, academic music, arts, theatre work,

## PROGRESSION ROUTE FOR A CAREER DIRECTLY LINKED TO MUSIC

- Secondary Music Teacher
- Primary Music Teacher (In great demand)
- Private Music Teacher
- Music Therapy
- Professional Musician
- Composer – Song writer
- Booking Agent
- Concert Hall Manager
- Concert Promoter
- Sound Technician
- Music Web designer
- Lyricist
- Music Producer
- Director
- Presenter/radio DJ
- Journalist
- Entertainment Lawyer
- Public Relations
- Film/television work
- Any other job in the entertainment industry



- Product designer
- Architect
- Electrician
- Engineering – a wide range of further education courses are available
- Construction



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## GCSE



### Examination Board:

OCR

### How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed as follows:

### Physical Education:

2 x 1hr exams (60% of the course)

Assessed in 3 sports and a piece of coursework analysing and evaluating your performance in a chosen sport (40% of the course)

### The GCSE Curriculum

Students will receive a well-rounded introduction to the world of PE, sport, and sport science through the combination of physical performance and academic challenges.

Students will study towards two final exams worth 60% of the qualification, whilst 40 % of their final mark will come from marks gained whilst taking part, and being assessed in three sports of their own choice.

This qualification is suited to students who have a love for sport and PE and are also willing to study the subject academically. It is an ideal pathway for those who want to study PE at A level and degree level.

### How can I progress further with a PE GCSE?

As well as going on to study related courses at College and University, GCSE PE develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include progression into areas such as:

### Progression Routes

- A level PE
- Recreational Management
- Leisure Centres
- Coaching
- Officiating
- The Fitness Industry
- The Armed Forces and Civil Service
- Physiotherapy
- Teaching
- Events management

# **SPORTS STUDIES**

## **CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL AWARD**



### **Examination Board:**

OCR

### **How will I be assessed?**

The course is assessed as follows:

#### **Sport Studies:**

4 equally weighted units marked out of 60 as follows:

- R051- Contemporary issues (marked by an exam that students sit in year 10)
- R052- Practical unit
- R054- Sport and the media
- R055- Working in the sports industry

### **The Curriculum**

The Cambridge Nationals in Sports Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

### **How can I progress further with a Cambridge National in Sport Studies?**

As well as going on to study related courses at College and University, Sports Studies develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include progression into areas such as:

#### **Progression Routes**

- Recreational Management
- Leisure Centres
- Coaching
- Officiating
- The Fitness Industry
- The Armed Forces and Civil Service
- Physiotherapy
- Teaching
- Events management

# HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

## Vocational Award



### Examination Board:

Eduqas Level 1 and 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

### How will I be assessed?

Hospitality and Catering is assessed by:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| • An on-screen examination taken at the end of Year 10 | 1 hour 30 minutes            |
| • A non- examined unit (coursework) which includes a   | 3-hour practical examination |

You will be graded a Level 2 Distinction to a Level 1 Pass

### The Hospitality and Catering Curriculum

This course will develop students' knowledge and understanding of a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to consider to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. Students will also have the opportunity to develop high level food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

**Unit 1 'The Hospitality and Catering Industry'** which is examined at the end of year 10 (40%).

**Unit 2 'Hospitality and Catering in Action'** which is a centre assessed task completed in Year 11 and includes high level practical work which is carried out in both Years 10 and 11 (60%).

There will be the expectation that students will provide their own ingredients for practical sessions.

### How can I progress further with a Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering?

Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

However, this award covers content that would be considered beneficial to professions such as teaching, nursery assistants, nursing and a range of other caring and medical professions.

### Progression Route

- Level 3 Hospitality or Catering
- Level 3 Health and Social Care
- A-Levels

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT

## Cambridge National Award



### Examination Board:

OCR Cambridge National Level 1 and 2 Certificate in Child Development

### How will I be assessed?

This course will be assessed by:

- a) A 1 hour 15-minute examination taken at the end of Year 10 (50%)
- b) Two non-examined units (coursework) (25% each)

Students will be graded Level 2 Distinction\* to a Level 1 Pass

### The Child Development Curriculum

This course allows students to study the care and development of children from conception to five years. The examined unit covers topics such as: responsibilities of parenthood, contraception and reproduction, antenatal, health, delivery, postnatal checks, illnesses and child safety. There are two centre assessed units, one shows an understanding of equipment and dietary needs of children from birth to five years and the second is a 'child study' where you will visit a child of your choice, carrying out activities with them and observing their development.

Students will be expected to know of a friend or relative who has a child that they can study on a regular basis for a six-month period starting June in Year 10. The child needs to be four or under when they start the study.

### How can I progress further with vocational award in Child Development?

It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology. The course covers content that is not only useful for students wishing to continue towards working with children under 5 years but also a range of teaching qualifications, midwifery, nursing and other caring and medical professions.

### Progression Route

- Level 3 certificates or diplomas in child care and/or education
- Level 3 Health and Social Care
- A-Levels