



YEAR 8 2026
OPTIONS

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DEAR YEAR 8 STUDENT

you are now at an exciting stage

of choosing which subjects you want to study during Key Stage 4. Options assemblies, subject lessons, SPHERE lessons and form time will provide you with advice and guidance on the content of all subjects available for selection. You will need to think carefully about this process and ask plenty of relevant questions which will enable you to select the best subject choices for you. Do not panic, you have lots of time for this, the deadline for making your choices is February 26th.

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Wednesday 11th February	Options Subject Market Place & Core Parents Evening Core subjects will be conducting Parent meetings. Find out about subjects you are interested in by talking to the teachers. Link to the online application form sent out to parents via email.
During February	Discussions between form tutors and their Year 8 students about interests, progress and potential options choices. All tutors will sign off students' final options choices. SPHERE lessons during this period will focus on options choices.
Thursday 26th February	OPTIONS DEADLINE All forms must have been submitted electronically following the link sent to parents by email.
During the Summer Term	Options confirmation communicated to students.

It is important that you discuss your potential options with people you know well and who can help you make an informed choice. Clearly your parents or carers will be important in this process, however, other useful people include; your form tutor, individual subject teachers and subject leaders, and our Careers Team.

When you are making your choices please consider the following:

- read the subject booklet, ask questions where needed
- choose subjects you enjoy
- consider the benefits of a broad and balanced course selection
- don't choose a course because your friends have, or because you like the teacher

Please look carefully through the pages of this booklet, and talk to the subject teachers about the subjects that you have an interest in.

Mr A Dionisi - Progress Leader Year 8
Dr V Larner – Assistant Headteacher

HOW TO MAKE YOUR COURSE CHOICES

Year 9 provides the bridge into Key Stage 4 where we establish a strong connection between the curriculum in the lower years, and exam specifications studied in year 10 and 11. Year 9 balances continuity with change. Prior learning from KS3 is interwoven with new subject knowledge across a broad and balanced range of GCSE and non-GCSE options.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

- We ask Year 8 to select 7 option subjects to learn in Year 9. This allows them to experience further learning in a wide range of subjects before narrowing down further in a second round of options at the end of Year 9.
- Towards the end of Year 9 we will ask students to rank their option subjects in order of preference and we will then allocate groups for Year 10 and 11 to continue subjects based on these preferences. There will be no opportunity to start a new subject in Year 10, the second round of options is only choosing from those already studied in Year 9.
- Make sure you discuss your options with your parents and teachers before making your choices, they will be able to give you valuable advice and guidance.

COMPULSORY CORE EXAMINATION SUBJECTS



These courses are taken by all students in Year 9:

Combined Science
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics

COMPULSORY NON-EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Continuing alongside the CORE subjects of Combined Science, English Language, English Literature & Mathematics and the optional subjects chosen for study in Years 9 - 11, students will also study Practical PE & SPHERE to help support the development of their physical and emotional wellbeing.

Practical Physical Education
SPHERE (Spiritual, Personal, Health, Emotional and Social Education)

THE OPTIONS FORM & HOW TO COMPLETE IT

Following the Options Evening, parents will be emailed a link to complete the Options Form. If you have any issues, please email helpdesk@straffordschool.co.uk clearly indicating your child's name in your message.

HOW TO SELECT YOUR CHOICES

1 The core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science are all pre-selected for you, therefore you do not need to include them on your application form.

2 You need to choose **seven** subjects to study:

- one from each vertical block; A, B, C, D, E, F & G
- **at least** one from each of the coloured horizontal blocks

Please note separate science is optional and that the yellow block options are invitation only.

3 Use the subject ranking box of the online options form to honestly indicate which is your first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh subject in order of preference. In the event of an option subject being unavailable, this information will allow us to consider any changes that we may need to make on your behalf.

4 Indicate **two further reserve choices** in the event that we are unable to meet all of your first choice options.

	BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D	BLOCK E	BLOCK F	BLOCK G
CHOOSE AT LEAST 1	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
	History	History	History	History	History	History	History
	Art	Art	Art				Art
		Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama		
CHOOSE AT LEAST 1	French			French	French	French	French
	Photography			Photography	Photography	Photography	Photography
				(DT) Resistant Materials	(DT) Resistant Materials	(DT) Resistant Materials	
		Spanish	Spanish			Spanish	
		Textiles	Textiles				
CHOOSE AT LEAST 1	Business Studies	Business Studies		Business Studies		Business Studies	Business Studies
							Computer Science
					Citizenship	Citizenship	
				Economics	Economics		
						Health & Social Care	
	Religious Studies						
	Sociology	Sociology	Sociology	Sociology	Sociology	Sociology	Sociology
		Architecture, Engineering & Construction	Architecture, Engineering & Construction				
CHOOSE AT LEAST 1	Dance						Dance
				Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering
		iMedia					iMedia
				Media Studies	Media Studies		Media Studies
						Music	
					PE Football Academy		
						Sports Studies PE	Sports Studies PE
	Separate Science		Separate Science				
CHOOSE AT LEAST 1 (INVITATION ONLY)	STAR (DofE)		STAR (food)				
			STAR (King's Trust)				

CORE SUBJECTS



Y11 students filmed by Sky News after watching Macbeth, November 2025



ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE



7

At the heart of communication, English is an essential skill for life and an English Language GCSE is a vital qualification to access further studies. During the course of their English Language GCSE, students will learn how to produce effective Transactional and Imaginative writing and they will also explore how to analyse both fiction and non-fiction texts. This will enable students to communicate effectively and will help them to understand the world around them.

Course Content:

The course will enable students to:

- read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding;
- read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing;
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately;
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately;
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
- listen to, and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

Assessment Details:

English Language is a linear course consisting of two externally examined components and one endorsement or spoken language at the end of Year 11. Students must complete all assessments in the same series. Spoken language will be reported as a separate grade on the student's certificate.

Career Education Guidance:

English Language is an essential element in progression and achieving a Grade 5 or above allows students to access many further education and career options post 16. A grade 4/5 or above is often a requirement for many professions including teaching and nursing.



Progression Routes:

This subject provides an excellent route into A-levels and all other courses after the age of 16.

The ability to communicate effectively is essential in all Post 16 subjects; GCSE English Language will provide a strong background in analysing information and creating a suitable response.

ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE



Literature allows you to access and experience ideas and events that will alter the course of your thinking. During your English Literature lessons, we will study and explore a range of texts that will enable students to gain a better insight into several different literary time periods and explore how the world around the writer influences their work.

Course Content:

English Literature enables students to:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently, with good understanding, and make connections across their reading;
- read in depth, critically, in order to evaluate, so that they are able to discuss and explain understanding and ideas;
- develop the habit of reading widely and often;
- appreciate the depth and power of English literary heritage;
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English; and
- acquire and use a wide vocabulary (including grammatical terminology) and other literary and linguistic terms which they will need to apply to critical and analytical reading.

You will study a range of poems, plays and prose texts during the course.

You will explore how writers use language for effect and will look at ideas, themes and issues, characterisation and settings within the set texts. You will also be able to relate them to the time in which they were written.

There are a range of texts you will encounter during the course including: Animal Farm, A Christmas Carol and Macbeth.

Assessment Details:

English Literature is a linear course. It consists of two externally examined components. Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year.

Progression Routes:

The study of great literature can only improve the ability to communicate effectively, and English Literature is regarded as a core in supporting other studies. Across a range of books, students will understand how the greatest writers have reflected their times and drawn their readers into their characters and stories.

This can be continued through to A-level where it is highly valued by universities and employers as evidence of advanced communication skills.

Career Education Guidance:

A very useful subject for Higher Education, highly valued by employers and universities, good grades from GCSE allows access to A-level English Literature – it is a university facilitating subject favoured across all degrees.



MATHEMATICS GCSE



9

The study of Mathematics develops the ability of all students to use and apply Mathematics in both abstract and real life problems, as well as to communicate it both orally, and in written form. Number, algebra, geometry, statistics, as well as functional skills, are all developed.

Students are grouped in mixed attainment groups in Year 9 and then grouped by target grades in Years 10 and 11. They are taught using a variety of learning activities. Practical work is set when applicable. Where appropriate the use of IT is incorporated into teaching and learning activities, including student use of IT applications for both classwork and homework.

Homework is set weekly throughout the course and students are assigned an approximate GCSE grade to allow them to gauge their progress towards their end of year target. This is complemented with regular tests completed under exam conditions. By the end of Year 10 and throughout Year 11, students will be completing full exam papers on a regular basis. These are marked and graded in line with the official examination mark schemes. These assessments are always followed up with feedback to students allowing them to identify how they can improve and providing methods to aid their own revision on key topic areas. This is in addition to regular written comments and dialogue through marking and in lessons.

Assessment Details:

All students follow a linear scheme of work and will be tested by traditional examinations at the end of the course in Year 11.

There are two tiers of entry – the Higher Tier, which is aimed at grades 4 to 9, and the Foundation Tier, which is aimed at grades 1 to 5.

The final decision or entry will be made on an individual basis, dependent on progress across Years 10 and 11 and performance in mock exams.



Progression Routes:

Currently a grade 4 is a pass
grade 5 is a strong pass

Sixth Form Courses:

- A-level Mathematics (Pure Maths, Mechanics and Statistics)
- A-level Further Maths (Further Pure Maths, Further Mechanics, Further Statistics and Decision Maths).
- A one year AS 'Mathematical Studies'.

Career Education Guidance:

A facilitating subject for Further Education: A grade 5 in Maths is a basic entry requirement for most Post-16 qualifications.

A grade 6 or more in Maths is required to study Maths at A-level in our Sixth Form as well as for a number of other subjects. A pass in GCSE Maths is required for most Higher Education Post-18 qualifications, especially at university level.



Y10 Combined Science Models of Atoms, May 2025

COMBINED SCIENCE GCSE X 2



11

This course leads to two GCSE qualifications. You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics, this is not optional. You will sit separate exams for each science but the grades are combined to give you two identical grades and you will be credited with two GCSEs.

Course Content:

The key difference between GCSE Combined Science and GCSE Separate Science is that the Separate option covers a broader range of topics making it more suitable for students who already know they want to study A-levels in science or students with a keen interest in science. That said, Combined Science certainly does not prohibit studying science at A-level, but leaves options more open.

GCSE Combined Science is the preferred choice for students who do not have a science career in mind. There is less content to learn than in Separate Science and the exams are shorter in length.

Biology:

GCSE Biology will give you an understanding of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment. You can see how science is used to solve problems ranging from infectious diseases, genetic inheritance and how humans can look after our planet for future generations.

The course helps put Biology in the context of students' everyday lives so they can understand more about themselves and the living world around them.

Chemistry:

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and is known as the "central science" because it helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics, with applied sciences, like biology & medicine.

GCSE Chemistry will give you the opportunity to gain an understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how Chemistry is used in business and industry, and how our use of raw materials in fuels and manufacturing can affect the global and local environment.

Physics:

How did the Universe begin? How will it end? GCSE Physics offers you the chance to gain an understanding of the use and transfer of energy, waves, radiation and space.

You will investigate how topics relate to their everyday lives such as the efficiency of electrical appliances and braking distances as well as larger concepts like nuclear fission and fusion and evidence of the Big Bang.



Progression Routes:

Combined Science could lead on to further study in Science at A level, Applied Science or other science-related subjects or more vocationally-related courses. It can open the doors to future careers in Medicine and the Sciences and is highly regarded by employers and further education providers.

Career Education Guidance:

Grade 6 in Science and Maths GCSEs are required to study Science at A level within our Sixth Form.

GREEN BLOCK



Y10 Geography Trip to Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire, May 2025

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

13

Do you want to learn about wild weather and conflict at the coast, or are you passionate about population? If so this is the GCSE for you. You will learn about topics like this and develop your skills of analysing the real geographical issues facing our world.

You want to find out more about the country you live in and other places in the world. You want to develop a range of useful skills and see how they can be applied to real life. You would like to investigate problems facing our world, and maybe even play a part in solving them in the future.

Course Content:

How hazardous is our planet? – You will learn how and why different types of hazards affect us, such as earthquakes and tropical storms, as well as how our climate is changing.

Could we run out of resources? You will consider whether resources such as fossil fuels and food are spread evenly and consider the future of our resources.

Why do the world's plants and animals vary? You will learn why different ecosystems can be found throughout the world and the plants and animals that live there.

What is the UK like and why? – You will learn how the UK landscape has been shaped and how society is changing.

Why are cities growing? You will investigate the issues created by so many of the world's people living in cities. You will also consider how cities in rich and poor countries are different.

How is life different in poorer countries? You will aim to explain why some countries are poorer than others and how this affects people living there.

Assessment Details:

Geography GCSE will be assessed by exams at the end of Y11. There will be no controlled assessment or coursework. All Geography students also get to participate in a Fieldwork trip.

Progression Routes:

Geography can take you places! Good geographers are very employable people. This course will enable you to

show that you can investigate the world and explain why places vary. You will develop a range of transferable skills such as data handling, analysing current issues and teamwork. Possible career routes include work in flood management, town planning, logistics, resource management and many more.



Career Education Guidance:

A facilitating subject for Higher Education; a bridge between the Sciences and Humanities it is highly regarded by employers and universities.

"Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?"

Michael Palin 2007



Y10 History Trip to London Dungeons and Whitechapel, June 2025

HISTORY GCSE

15

This course is a great preparation for the future and will teach you important values and skills. The course has a range of topics with something to interest and excite everyone. If you are passionate about the past and love hearing the facts behind the fiction, then History is for you.

Course Content:

Year 9:

A Thematic Study covering Medieval to Present Day: Crime and Punishment c.1000 to present day (including a study of the historic environment of Whitechapel and the Jack the Ripper murders of the 1880s)

Year 10:

British Depth Study: Early Elizabethan England 1558-1585
Non-British Study: The American West, 1835-1895

Year 11:

A Modern Depth Study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Why Study History?

History is all around us; it is a subject that allows students to discover links between the past and present, how cultures are formed and why we are who we are today.

The course develops vital skills for the future including analysis, evaluation and writing structure. The GCSE has a hugely varied range of topics to study that will give a thorough and detailed understanding of history over time and across cultures.

You will also get the opportunity to participate in some of the many History trips to places like the WWI battlefields and London.

Assessment Details:

History GCSE will be assessed by exams at the end of Y11. The exam board we study is Edexcel.

Progression Routes:

GCSE History is a highly regarded exam that reflects good academic ability. It forms part of the English Baccalaureate of subjects.

GCSE History begins to develop the skills required for the A-level History examination. History is a well-respected academic qualification for university admissions.

It is also an excellent preparation for jobs such as Law, Journalism, Intelligence Services, Business Leadership and Politics as it teaches skills that are transferable to a wide variety of areas.



Career Education Guidance:

A facilitating subject for Higher Education and an EBacc subject. It is valued for the development of research, opinion and essay skills. History is highly regarded by employers and universities.

PURPLE BLOCK



Y10 & Y11 Spanish Trip to Andalucia including Seville & Granada, October 2025

ART & DESIGN - FINE ART GCSE

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Our Art GCSE will allow you to work in any medium, 2D, 3D, large or small. Projects are designed so you are able to use your imagination as well as demonstrate your drawing skills by working realistically. It is no secret that our most successful students are often those with a real passion for Art. It is essential that having chosen Art you regularly attend after school catch ups, and continue working at home. Whatever your ability, your eventual grade will reflect the amount of time and effort you have put into your work!

Course Content:

You will be required to create a coursework Portfolio for the AQA GCSE in Art and Design worth 60% – this is done in lesson time. Part of this will cover work produced from different themes, but will centre on a major project completed over three terms in Year 10 & 11. **You will choose your project theme for the major project.**

Past students have made large wire figure sculptures and then painted them on large sheets of cardboard. They have also made different versions using breeze blocks, plaster and carving into soap!

Other students have torn apart fresh mackerel and created fish sculptures. They have also painted still life objects as realistically as possible! All these experiences have been a prelude to students working more independently on their major project.

In Year 11, we visit The Tate Modern and Tate Britain in London.

Supporting Studies:

Supporting studies will chart your progress, as you need to be able to show how your ideas develop before you complete your final piece. This will be evidenced through the use of large sheets of paper, each will contain drawings, photos, notes, worksheets, design sheets, different scale rough studies, samples, test pieces, maquettes, digital material and any other means that demonstrate your thinking and the development of your ideas.

You will have a block of time after Christmas in Year 11 to prepare your idea for the 10 hour timed set task. Which is the externally Set Assignment in Art and Design, much like a mini-project. The externally set assignment represents the culmination of the GCSE course and worth 40%.

Assessment Details:

There are four assessment objectives which must evidence the assessed portfolio tasks and controlled test. These cover;

- research by collecting images e.g. photographs you may have taken and realistic observation drawing;
- your research, developing imaginative ideas through experimenting with media, and developing techniques;
- making links and being inspired by the work of other artists;
- creating an amazing final outcome for each project.



Progression Routes:

Direct access to our successful A level Art course. To gain entry to Art-related Further Education courses.

Career Education Guidance:

To show future employers you possess a problem solving, imaginative mind, regardless of whether your career is Art related or not.

D R A M A G C S E (P E R F O R M I N G A R T S)

GCSE Drama gives you the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how theatre works. You will have opportunities to be a performer, theatre maker and a critical audience member.

Course Content:

You will be required to work practically with your peers but will also need to spend time researching material and putting your knowledge and understanding together. As Drama students you will practically explore a number of stimuli and scripted work, watch theatre productions, carry out research, learn lines and rehearse for performances.

This course provides opportunities to develop your creativity, really sharpen performance skills and give a good grounding in the technical aspects of drama and theatre work. We'll expose you to the professional world of Theatre and will see you grow in confidence, imagination and allow you to demonstrate how collaborative working creates great outcomes for you, your peers and the wider audience.

- Analysing and evaluating the creative process, parts and group devised performance

Overview of Assessment:

There are two parts to the assessment:

- 1) A portfolio containing evidence of: Creating and developing the group-devised performance and evaluating your devised performance. (1500-2000 words or a recorded speech of 8-10 mins)
- 2) A recording of the group devised final performance.

COMPONENT 2 - TEXT IN PERFORMANCE: 20% OF THE GCSE AND EXTERNALLY ASSESSED

Interpreting, exploring and performing two key extracts from a chosen performance text.

Overview of Assessment:

- Two extracts from the same play text can be monologues/duologue or group pieces
- The performances must be recorded by the centre and unedited

COMPONENT 3: WRITTEN EXAM 40% OF THE GCSE AND EXTERNALLY ASSESSED

- A play text and a live review of a theatrical performance
- Overview of Assessment:
- **Section A:** One main question broken into parts based on an unseen extract from the text.
- **Section B:** Live Theatre Evaluation
- 500 words of theatre performance notes are allowed to be taken into the exam

Progression Routes:

Drama GCSE leads to a variety of courses, be it A-Level or vocational and beyond, where you can select routes with an academic, technical or a performance focus. You will develop transferable skills: planning and organisation, teamwork, communication, public speaking and critical analysis.

COMPONENT 1 - DEVISING: 40% OF THE GCSE AND INTERNALLY ASSESSED

- Creating and developing a devised piece
- Group performance of the devised piece





Y9 GCSE Drama Lesson, January 2026

FRENCH GCSE

"I absolutely could not have competed at the level I did in sailing if I hadn't spoken French fluently. French opened up a whole new world of interviews and avenues for funding."
Ellen MacArthur (World record sailor)

- Would it surprise you to learn that nearly 30% of English words have a French origin? Ever been on holiday and got your 'Patisserie' confused with your 'Boulangerie'? If you have answered yes to any of these questions then GCSE French is for you!

Course Content:

You will explore a variety of topics including: Celebrity Culture, Healthy Living and Marriage & Partnerships. Within each topic, you will learn how to express your opinions and learn about cultural examples from Francophone countries.

- In this course you will learn useful vocabulary to help in many situations, and you will also learn how French people think and what French young people are into.
- You will develop your communication and problem solving skills and you will learn to give information about yourself, express your opinions and talk about your interests.
- Like any subject this course requires your full commitment in lessons either in the classroom or completing all homework to the best of your ability.
- You will have fortnightly vocabulary revision and you will practise key Reading & Listening skills using Language Gym and Kerboodle.

Assessment Details:

The four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing are examined by a formal examination at the end of the course.

You will be entered for the Higher or Foundation papers for all your exams. Your teacher will help enter you for the correct level in Year 11.

You will be able to complete three Speaking Mock Exams before your final Speaking Exam to ensure you are well-prepared.

What Other Skills Will I Develop?

Languages are all about communication, so if you love to talk and say what you think then this is the course for you!

You will also use problem solving skills to work out what is being said or written so that the next time you go to France or La Réunion, you can get your message across.

Progression Routes:

This course is a good basis for continuing with language learning after GCSEs on our French A-level course as well as our French for Business Enrichment in Year 12. More and more, you will find that jobs in the future will require you to keep up your language skills and even learn another language so you can trade abroad. You will stand out when applying for a job, and the skills you learn can be applied to a variety of careers including Journalism, Communications, Marketing and Teaching. However, even if you don't continue with learning a language, you will always have that skill, and who knows, you may end up living in Paris or Montreal.

Career Education Guidance:

A facilitating subject for Higher Education. In business, the ability to speak a second language is highly valued.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

You will have the chance to work with Language Ambassadors, undergraduates from the University of Warwick and have the opportunity to go on our French Exchange.



PHOTOGRAPHY (LIGHT & LENS BASED MEDIA) GCSE

21

Forget Instagram, unleash your creative potential! Want to be the next Rankin, Cartier-Bresson, or Testino? With Photography you call the shots.

Course Content:

Learn to shoot film using an SLR camera. Process your own black and white film, then see the print appear before your eyes. Move on to digital cameras. Create and enhance your images using Photoshop.

Projects require that you are a creative individual, capable of taking an initial idea and making it into a highly personalised response. This means lots of experimentation to test and develop your style and technique, before producing a final set of images for each project.

The value of this GCSE means that students who rely on just using their phone to 'point and click' invariably fail to demonstrate enough evidence to achieve a respectable GCSE grade. You must be prepared to use your own time to take photo shots to use in lesson time.

There are four assessment objectives which must be covered through the assessed portfolio tasks and controlled test.

For coursework assignments, mock exam and final Year 11 exam, students must fulfil the criteria below:

- Research and ideas generating techniques, linked to contextual and cultural references, act as a starting point for investigation;
- Experimentation to develop ideas using a range of media and techniques;
- Further research and development of ideas, ability to refine ideas, carry out test shoots, provide evaluation and on-going self – critique;
- Link to other influences from the Art and Design world;
- Create a final set of images that fit a theme, annotate and evaluate.

Assessment Details:

You will be required to create a Personal Portfolio:

- Year 9: Skills based learning tasks

- **Year 10:** Two Coursework projects (one with a controlled test mock exam)
- **Year 11:** One further piece of coursework
- There will also be an externally set Controlled Assessment (exam), a culmination of the GCSE. Students choose a theme from a choice of eight topics and work to produce an individual creative response over a series of weeks.

Progression Routes:

Direct access on to our successful A-level Photography course or gain entry to other Art & Design/ Photography/Media-related Further Education courses.

Career Education Guidance:

Creativity is valued in all areas of business and the portfolios developed in photography can act as evidence of the ability to capture, manipulate, evaluate and communicate new ideas.

Use as a qualification to show future employers you possess a problem solving, imaginative mind regardless of whether your career is Art & Design related or not.





Y11 Resistant Materials Lesson, January 2025

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY GCSE- RESISTANT MATERIALS

Do you like designing and making things, and being creative? Do you enjoy learning about materials and their applications? Are you interested in how well designed products affect our consumer-led society? If so, this is the course for you.

If you want to study design in a practical way and understand the working properties of materials and specifically timbers, then you will really enjoy this course. It enables you to work to develop the skills and knowledge to make high quality products, as well as providing you with the knowledge of how design and technology has an increasing impact on our modern world. You will have the opportunity to use traditional skills as well as modern technologies such as laser cutting and 3D CAD/ CAM.

Course Content:

As well as the focus area of Timbers, students study five core areas to equip them with a broad knowledge and understanding of Design Technology. These areas are:

Design and technology and our world:

- Smart materials
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical components and devices
- Materials and their properties and applications

The course has two parts:

Component 1: Examination

This is assessed through a two-hour written examination that is a combination of short and long answer questions. This accounts for 50% of the course. Section A of the paper focuses on core content (woods, metals and polymers, as well as Graphics and Textiles), and Section B the elective (Timbers).

Component 2: Non-Examination Assessment

This involves students undertaking a project based on one of several contexts released by the examination board towards the end of Year 10. Working together with a client, the project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making, and evaluating a prototype of a product. This accounts for 50% of the course and takes approximately 35 hours.

Assessment Details:

Component 1 (examination) is taken at the end of Year 11.

Component 2 (Non-Examination Assessment) is started at the end of Year 10, for completion in February of Year 11. The unit is assessed in school and is externally moderated.

Due to the ongoing assessment during this course low attendance may impact students' ability to achieve well.



Career Education Guidance:

Studying Design Technology provides you with a range of transferable skills including communication, planning and teamwork. It helps you to develop the knowledge, skills and experience required within industry and could potentially open the door to a wide range of careers, as well as providing core design and manufacture skills that would be of benefit further studying in the areas of Design and Engineering.

SPANISH GCSE

Ever wanted to know what David de Gea or Rafael Nadal are saying? Have you ever wondered what Spanish teenagers are into? Do you want to be able to talk to most of South America? If you have answered yes to any of these questions then GCSE Spanish is for you!

Course Content:

Learning any language means that you will find out how the language works but it is not just about that! You will also understand what Spanish people think, about celebrities, healthy living and many other topics.

The culture of a country is so important to understanding people, their differences but also their similarities. As well as finding out why Spaniards have crazy festivals like the tomato throwing festival, you will of course be able to speak and write in Spanish so that you can give your own point of view about things you like doing, you don't like doing and what you got up to at the weekend.

In lessons there will be lots of opportunities for you to practice speaking, listen to others and write about recent events as well as understanding how the language really works.

Like any subject this course requires your full commitment in lessons and completing all homework to the best of your ability. You

will have fortnightly vocabulary revision and you will practise key Reading & Listening skills using Language Gym and Kerboodle.

What Other Skills Will I Develop?

Languages are all about communication so if you love to talk and say what you think then this is the course for you! You will also use problem-solving skills to work out what is being said or written so the next time you go to Spain or Mexico, you can get your message across. You can also participate in our trip to Spain.

Assessment Details:

The four skills of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing are examined by a formal examination at the end of the course. You will be entered for the Higher or Foundation paper for all your exams. Your teacher will help enter you for the correct level in Year 11. You will complete three Speaking Mock Exams before your final Speaking Exam, so will be well-prepared.

Progression Routes:

This course is a good basis for continuing with language learning after GCSEs. You may find in the future that jobs will require you to keep up your language skills and even learn another language so you can trade abroad. Spanish clearly has a strong part to play, with many countries having Spanish as their first language. However, even if you don't continue with learning a language, you will always have that skill and who knows, you may end up living in Peru or Chile!

Career Education Guidance:

A facilitating subject for Higher Education. In business, the ability to speak a second language is highly valued.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities:

You will have the chance to work with Language Ambassadors, undergraduates from the University of Warwick. There is also the opportunity to travel to Spain on our KS4 trip in Y10 or Y11.



TEXTILES DESIGN GCSE



Do you have a passion for designing and making textiles products? Are you inspired by the ever-changing world of fashion and would like to know more about how designers develop new and exciting designs? Are you thinking about studying Fashion and Textiles in further education, with the view to one day working in the fashion industry? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then this course may well be for you.

Course Content:

GCSE Textiles Design offers a unique opportunity for learners to learn how to design and work with fabric to produce new and exciting designs. Through studying this course, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world and be aware of the wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/cultural and environmental factors.

The subject content encompasses a very broad range of materials, techniques and processes, including fabric and fashion design as well as decorative and construction techniques.

Students will also have the opportunity to research into contemporary practice. Students can explore practitioners working in occupations such as a textile designer, textile buyer, fashion designer, fashion forecaster, knitwear designer, milliner, theatrical costume designer, fashion illustrator and pattern-cutter.

Due to the ongoing assessment during this course low attendance may impact students' ability to achieve well.



Assessment Details:

Students will be assessed on two different components.

Component 1 – Portfolio: A major practical project/theme-based portfolio and outcome/s which will include critical and contextual analysis. This component is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment: Students will develop a personal response to an externally set stimulus in a 10 hour exam. Students will develop their response ahead of the exam. This will include critical, practical and contextual preparatory work and/or supporting studies, which will inform their final piece.

Progression Routes:

Students will develop the skills needed to study Design & Technology or Art & Design at Level 3. They will also learn a range of life-long transferable skills such as idea analysis, reflective editing, improved motor skills, problem solving and resilience.

Career Education Guidance:

“Creativity is the language we use to communicate the urgency of our dreams for a better future.” Audre Lorde

TURQUOISE BLOCK



Y9 Sociology Lesson, January 2026

BUSINESS STUDIES GCSE

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'McDonalds, Apple & Coca Cola are all No.1 brands in their market, have you ever thought why do they still advertise? Do you prefer Pepsi or Coca Cola; have you ever wondered how you were persuaded to pick one over the other?

How would you start a business in your garage that will one day make you a millionaire? The answers to these and many more questions you may have will be looked at in the Business Studies course we run.

Course Content:

Thinking of running your own business or want to work in business? Then this is the GCSE course for you. Enrol for GCSE Business Studies and you could be the next Steve Jobs, Alan Sugar, Anita Roddick or Richard Branson.

As students move into Year 10 the department will review students progress onto the most suitable qualification.

Theme 1 – Investigating a Small Business

This topic introduces key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for you to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business.

In this theme, you 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 – Building a Business

This topic 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 emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources.

Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. In this theme, you will be introduced to national and global business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.

Assessment Details:

Two written exams, each worth 50%. The first covers Theme 1, Investigating a Small

Business, whilst the second paper covers Theme 2, Building a Business.

There are three sections to each paper with a mixture of multiple choice, calculation, short answer and extended writing. Many questions are based on real-life, relevant business contexts and examples.



Progression Routes:

At Stratford upon Avon School we offer A-level courses in Business Studies and Economics, which pupils progress onto. Many students also progress into apprenticeships in marketing, accounting, insurance etc.

Career Education Guidance:

Recent research into employability skills showed an understanding of the world of business to be highly valued by all employers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Have you ever wondered: how do computers work? What happens when you connect to a website? How is data stored in a computer? What does it actually mean when a download speed is 72Mbps? How can I make my computer system less vulnerable to cyber attacks?

Studying Computer Science empowers you to solve complex, challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world.

The future possibilities for people with Computer Science skills are unlimited, and these skills are only going to become more important. Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions, from astronomy to financial analysis – not just in IT related jobs!

Course Content:

Students are assessed on the knowledge and understanding of the topics taught, with computational thinking skills and computer systems being the main focus.

Students will be introduced to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. The course also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Students will develop skills and understanding in computational thinking:

algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

There will be opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during the course, which will develop a student's skill to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language.

Assessment Details:

Paper one – Computer Systems

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

80 marks

Some multiple choice and mixture of short and extended response questions

50% of total GCSE

Paper two – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of total GCSE

Career Education Guidance:

Computer Science is a very diverse topic and makes students attractive to employers. Jobs roles include: software engineering, cyber security, network management, artificial intelligence, computer service technician.

Progression Routes:

The course has been developed to enable natural progression onto studying Computer Science at A-level.





CITIZENSHIP STUDIES GCSE

- Citizenship studies investigates how the citizen is enabled by society to play a full and active part and how citizens are empowered to effect change within society. Citizenship understanding develops through the knowledge of how a society operates and functions and its underlying values.

Course Content:

- The overarching theme of this course is 'How citizens can try to make a difference'. This aim is supported by three content themes: Life in Modern Britain, Rights & Responsibilities and Politics & Participation.
- The skills, processes and methods underpin the specification.

- The following topics will be taught over the three years:

1. Citizenship skills, processes and methods
2. Life in modern Britain
3. Rights and responsibilities
4. Politics and participation
5. Active citizenship

The Citizenship Action:

- Students will be required to undertake and evaluate the success of their own Citizenship Action Project at the end of Year 10. Students will be encouraged to work in groups and can choose any topic relevant to the course for their project.

Students will then be asked questions on their project in Paper 1 of the exam.

Assessment Details:

Students will complete 2 final written exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam will last for 1 hour 45 minutes. Each exam is worth 80 marks or 50% of the final GCSE mark. Both exams will include the following question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended answer.

Each paper will be divided into 2 sections as follows:

Paper 1

Section A: Active citizenship questions: questions on the citizenship action of others and questions on the students taking citizenship action investigation (40 marks)
Section B: Politics & Participation question (40 marks)

Paper 2

Section A: Life in Modern Britain questions (40 marks)
Section B: Rights & Responsibilities questions (40 marks)

Progression Routes:

The course will help students progress to A-level subjects such as Sociology, Criminology, Economics, History, Geography, Politics and Law.

Career Education Guidance:

The course can be useful for students considering Further Education courses and careers in International Relations, Human rights, the Environment, Education, Politics, Law, Journalism, Social Work, Emergency Services, Care work.



ECONOMICS GCSE

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Economics is about studying the world around us from a social, financial and cultural perspective. The subject looks at all the different factors that affect wealth and well-being. You will learn about how the economy runs and cover topics such as supply and demand, labour markets, business objectives and growth, market failure, market policies, money supply and exchange rates, economic cycle and interest rates, international trade and the European Union. GCSE Economics will develop your understanding of how the world works from local businesses to global corporations.

What Skills Will I Develop?

As you learn more about Economics, you will develop good analysis skills and will be able to pick out key information from statistics and text. You will learn how to use data to draw conclusions and make informed decisions. Analysis and evaluation skills are highly sought after by employers and you'll be able to apply your acquired skills to real-life situations in business.

Although Economics is about more than just numbers, studying the subject will help you develop better numeracy skills. Economists are often required to study figures and statistics and look for trends in order to decide on a course of action.

Numeracy skills are highly valued in almost any job, so studying Economics can help give you an edge when it comes to applying for jobs. Nowadays, even the smallest of companies can trade overseas and that's why having cultural awareness skills are so valuable to employers. By studying Economics, you will develop a good knowledge and understanding of how different cultures perceive social, political and economic events. Economics is also concerned with the study of people and society.

In any workplace, having good communications skills is essential and by studying Economics, you will learn how to communicate with people in business. Economics at GCSE and A-Level, will help you improve your written and verbal communication skills. Studying Economics will help you develop problem solving skills that you can apply to real-life situations. Economics can be a complex subject and by looking at case studies, you'll learn about effective problem solving techniques that will help you in other subjects and in your future career.



Assessment Details:

The course we follow is AQA Economics. Students will sit two papers at the end of Year 11.

Progression Routes:

By developing students' ability to think critically, GCSE economics will prepare them for further academic study, vocational study or employment. You'll gain a solid base of understanding to build upon through further education such as A-levels or higher.

Career Education Guidance:

Typical careers of students who study further Economics qualifications include; Economist, Accountant, Investment Analysis, Management Consultant, Civil Servant.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE BTEC LEVEL 2

Make a Difference. Build Real Skills. Shape Your Future.

Do you enjoy helping people? Are you interested in how doctors, nurses, carers and support workers look after others?

Health and Social Care BTEC Level 2 is a practical and exciting course that helps you understand how people are cared for at different stages of life. You will learn valuable life skills, explore real-life situations, and gain a qualification that prepares you for future study or work.

This course is ideal if you like hands-on learning, teamwork, and learning about people and society.

Course Content:

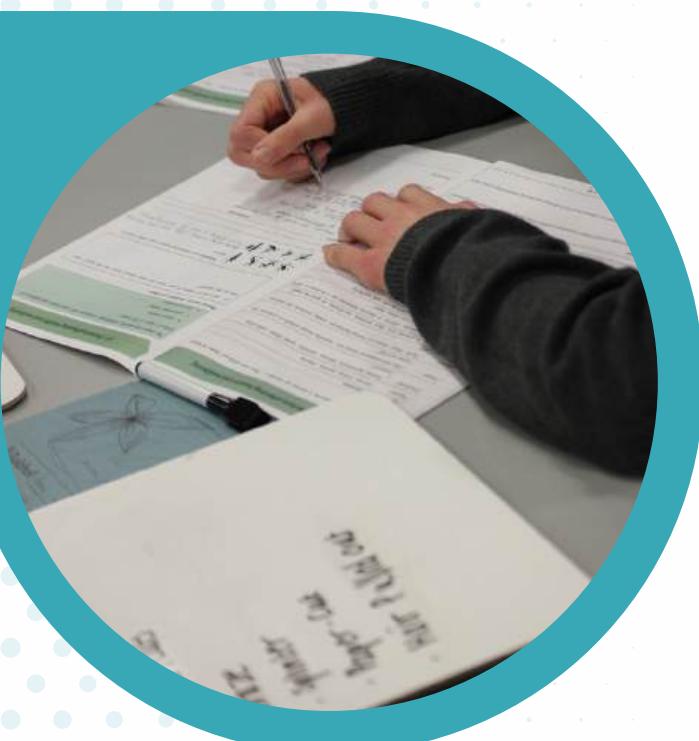
Throughout the course, you will study topics that help you understand how health and social care services support individuals.

You may learn about:

- **Human Lifespan Development:** investigating how people grow physically and emotionally from birth to old age.
- **Care Values:** learning the ethical principles like dignity, respect, and confidentiality that underpin the sector.
- **Healthy Living:** understanding nutrition, lifestyle factors, and how to promote wellbeing in the community

Lessons are interactive and may include:

- Case studies
- Group work
- Presentations
- Role play and discussions
- Real-life examples from health and care settings



Assessment Details:

This course is made up of 3 components.

Components 1 & 2 are written reports internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3 is an externally assessed exam.

Due to the ongoing assessment during this course, low attendance may impact students' ability to achieve well.

Progression Routes:

After completing Health and Social Care BTEC Level 2, you can move on to:

- BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care
- College courses in health, childcare, psychology or social care
- Apprenticeships in care, childcare or support roles
- Sixth form courses that link to health or people-focused subjects

This qualification gives you a strong foundation for further education and training.

Career Education Guidance:

Health and Social Care can lead to many rewarding careers, including:

- Nurse
- Doctor
- Midwife
- Paramedic
- Care worker
- Social worker
- Nursery nurse
- Youth worker
- Mental health support worker

You will develop transferable skills that employers love, such as:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem-solving
- Confidence
- Responsibility

These skills are useful in any career, not just health and care.



Y11 Health & Social Care Lesson, February 2026

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

Are you interested in some “big questions” such as:

- How do we decide what is right and wrong?
- Is it ever morally acceptable to harm others?
- Are humans naturally good or naturally evil?
- Do humans have a duty to help others?
- Do we need religion to be moral?
- Are intentions more important than consequences?
- Should moral rules apply in all situations?

Religious Studies GCSE provides an opportunity for students to engage with a variety of topical questions around belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. The course promotes awareness of current world issues and students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our multicultural society. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

Course Content:

Students will study different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. Potential areas of study include; Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, as well as other religious and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

Students will also study religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to the issues:
• Relationships and families (e.g. religious views towards marriage)
• Religion and life (e.g. religious views towards origins of life, abortion & euthanasia)
• The existence of God and revelation (and also themes such as miracles)

Religion, peace and conflict (e.g. religious views towards weapons of mass destruction or pacifism)
• Religion, crime and punishment (e.g. religious views towards reasons for crime and corporal punishment)
• Religion, human rights and social justice (e.g. the status of women, freedom of expression, wealth and poverty)

You do not need to be religious to study this course, but be interested in learning about different faiths and should approach the course with an open mind.

Assessment Details:

- Assessment is 100% exam
- 2 papers- each 50% & each 1hr 45mins

Progression Routes:

GCSE Religious Studies provides progression routes into A-level Religious Studies, Philosophy, Ethics, Sociology and History. It also supports vocational courses such as Law, Health and Social Care, and Criminology. The subject builds critical thinking, essay writing and evaluation skills, which are valuable for university study, apprenticeships and future careers.

Career Education Guidance:

GCSE Religious Studies supports careers in teaching, law, social work, psychology, journalism, healthcare, politics and the police. It develops ethical awareness, critical thinking and communication skills, which are valuable in roles involving decision-making, people, and understanding diverse beliefs.



S O C I O L O G Y G C S E

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Have you ever wondered 'how does your gender, religious/ethnic background, and social class open up or close down opportunities in your life? 'Is childhood getting better or worse? 'Does a good education guarantee a highly paid job? 'Why do people commit crime? 'What kind of people have the most power and influence in society?'

The Sociology curriculum intends to introduce pupils to the fundamentals of the subject. Pupils will develop their analytical and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of sociological issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions based on their acquired knowledge.

Course Content:

By studying Sociology, pupils will develop transferable skills including how to investigate facts and make deductions, and analyse and better understand the social world. The curriculum will develop skills valued by Further/Higher Education and employers, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research, and allow pupils to gain the required knowledge, cultural capital, and skills to be able to consider careers in Sociology.

The following topics are taught:

Year 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sociological approach• Sociology research methods
Year 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the sociology of families• the sociology of education
Year 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the sociology of crime and deviance• social stratification

Each written exam has a range of multiple choice, short and extended questions.

There is NO Coursework component for this course .



Assessment Details:

Students are assessed on the knowledge and understanding of the content and on their analysis and evaluation of key sociological issues

Paper 1 - Families & Education

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

Paper 2 - Crime/ Social Stratification

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

Progression Routes:

The course has been developed to enable a smooth progression to A-level Sociology. Sociology relates closely to Criminology, Economics, History, Law, Media Studies and Psychology.

Career Education Guidance:

The course can be useful for students considering Further Education courses and careers in: education, politics, social work / care work, policing, nursing and childcare, journalism, law and HR.

ORANGE BLOCK



Y9 Hospitality & Catering Lesson, Making Chocolate Mousse, January 2026

ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

Level 2 Design, Engineer, Construct

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Consider a day in your life, from the minute you wake up to the time you go to bed. Architecture, Engineering and Construction is all around you, providing you with somewhere to live and go to school, giving you power, heat and light, and a supply of clean, safe water. Roads, bridges, tunnels, sports stadiums, shopping malls, schools, skyscrapers, dams and drainage systems, these are just a few things that make up the built environment. All these fantastic creations are born out of the talent of highly skilled designers, engineers and construction professionals – people who one day were students just like you.

Course Content:

In this course you will carry out a project where you design sustainable buildings in the local community. You will use industry standard software (Autodesk, Revit and Forma) and work alongside construction experts from industry.

Level 2 Design, Engineer, Construct covers four units:

50% Portfolio / 50% Exam

Unit 1

Defining a sustainable construction project

Unit 2

Developing a sustainable construction project

Unit 3

Delivering a sustainable construction project

Unit 4

Evaluate a sustainable construction project

Due to the ongoing assessment during this course low attendance may impact students' ability to achieve well.

Career Education Guidance:

"If we are to compete on a global scale in a rapidly urbanising world, we need to develop a new generation of professionals who will uphold our reputation for world class innovation."

Keith Howells – Chairman Mott MacDonald PLC



Progression Routes:

This course will provide an introduction for any construction career for example: architect, land surveyor, structural engineer, building services engineer and quantity surveyor.

DANCE BTEC (PERFORMING ARTS)

The course has been created through working with dance teachers and subject experts to create a qualification that encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their experience in the subject. Dance can play an expressive part in a young person's life and students will study a range of Dance styles and style fusions.

Course Content:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

In this component you will develop an understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners and the processes used to create performance in different dance styles.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Working as a performer, in this component you will explore the application of skills, techniques and practices that enable you to produce and interpret a performance work.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

In this component you will work as part of a group to contribute choreography for a 7-minute performance in response to a stimulus set by BTEC.



Assessment Details:

Component 1:

Exploring the Performing Arts

Internally assessed by your SUAS Dance teacher and externally moderated by a BTEC examiner
30% of overall BTEC Qualification

Component 2:

Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Internally assessed by your SUAS Dance teacher and externally moderated by a BTEC examiner
30% of overall BTEC Qualification

Component 3:

Responding to a Brief

Externally assessed – Assignment Brief set by BTEC which is released in January and marked by an unknown Dance teacher
40% of overall BTEC Qualification

Progression Routes:

Many students who complete BTEC Dance go on to study Dance at Further Education or at prestigious vocational Dance Colleges such as Laine Theatre Arts, The Urdang Academy and Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Studying dance at KS4 level will embrace the thinking dancer, containing a good mix of both practical and academic elements.

Career Education Guidance:

These qualifications can lead onto either Level 3 Performing Arts or A level Dance qualification. Dance can build confidence in all areas of life, developing better communication, presentation and teamwork skills.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING TECHNICAL AWARD

39

Would you like to be the next Jamie Oliver? Would you like to work in the vibrant and exciting world of Food and Catering? Are you interested in Heston Blumenthal's creative cooking? If so Hospitality and Catering is the option for you. The Hospitality and Catering industry is one of the biggest employers in the UK, employing almost three million people across the UK alone. Such a growing, international industry offers so much potential for creative, hard-working students.

Course Content:

In Hospitality and Catering, you will learn how restaurants, hotels, cruises and more are organised, as well as the wide range of jobs working in this vibrant industry.

Alongside this, you will be taught to make a range of food products and develop skills related to commercial food preparation including food hygiene, food presentation and considering production in quantity. You will need to apply technical and practical expertise to ensure that the food meets customer needs and preferences and is appropriate for a given occasion.

You will have the opportunity to use a wide range of practical skills and techniques, gaining an understanding of catering and an awareness of related career paths. You will also develop valuable transferable skills including communication and collaboration.

This course allows you to gain a greater understanding of what the Hospitality and Catering industry is about and potential career paths you may wish to follow in the future.

Assessment Details:

The course is broken down into two units. Unit 1 is the theory content of the course. Students need to have an understanding of topics such as food hygiene and safety, different types of catering establishments, job roles and specialist equipment. This knowledge is then tested in an exam which is worth 40% of the final grade.

Unit 2 is one piece of coursework which includes; research, planning and making two dishes linked to a brief set by the exam board. This is worth 60% of the final grade.

Due to the ongoing assessment during this course low attendance may impact students' ability to achieve well.



Progression Routes:

This Technical Award is designed to give you the practical skills in Hospitality and Catering that you need to progress to further general or vocational study. A number of past Stratford upon Avon School students have gone onto apprenticeships within the Hospitality & Catering sector.

Career Education Guidance:

You will develop a broad understanding of the Hospitality and Catering industry, so you can make informed decisions about career opportunities. Possible careers could include; working in recipe development, buying and purchasing, pastry chef, or even a chocolate taster!

iMEDIA - OCR NATIONALS IN CREATIVE iMEDIA

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. This qualification will help you develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

Course Content:

Two mandatory units underpin the qualification and reflect the key aims, including to understand about how and why digital media products are used in sectors of the media industry. This will allow students to learn how to use the software used to create digital media products as well as how they are planned for and create products that are fit for purpose and audience.

The range of optional units cover different media disciplines such as; web development, comic strip, animation, sound and video. This will motivate students and appeal to a range of learning styles and allow students to demonstrate their ability and passion.

Each optional unit is assessed through a practical task-based assessment with OCR-set tasks to support you in producing assessment evidence.



Assessment Details:

The course is assessed in the following way:

One external examination in year 11:

Creative iMedia in the media industry
1 hour 30 minutes
40% of overall course

Two coursework units:

Visual identity in digital graphics (mandatory) 25% of overall course

Plus one option unit for example: Characters and Comics

35% of overall course

Progression Routes:

At Stratford School we offer Media Studies at Level 3. The course will equip students with a diverse range of transferable skills such as research, planning and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. Further study may include a wide range of subjects from art to computer science, or digital media itself.

Career Education Guidance:

Students can also progress into apprenticeships in the many areas of IT. Many students who have taken Creative iMedia, have progressed on to other areas such as; Media Studies, Business Studies and Computer Science.

MEDIA STUDIES GCSE



Media has an increasingly prominent role in our society, covering every aspect of daily life. It also offers a large and varied number of careers within the many associated businesses. This course enables students to demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis whilst acquiring knowledge and understanding of a range of important media issues.

Course Content:

This course enables students to:

- develop appreciation and critical understanding of the media and its role both historically and currently in society, culture and politics;
- understand and apply specialist subject-specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed in order to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues;
- appreciate how theoretical understanding supports practice and practice supports theoretical understanding;
- develop practical skills by providing opportunities for creative media production

Assessment Details:

Media Studies consists of two 90 minute examinations focused around:

Exploring the Media (35% of course)

Understanding Media Forms and Products (35% of course)

Non-Examination Coursework Unit (30% of course)
Students create media products of their own

In the past students have created:

- a magazine front cover
- a double page spread
- DVD cover
- film poster.

Progression Routes:

For students who so choose, GCSE Media Studies will provide a foundation for the study of Media Studies at A-level and the analytical skills will contribute to a higher degree course in Media Studies or a range of other related areas.

Career Education Guidance:

Media Studies is a multidisciplinary course, which affords you opportunities to develop and demonstrate a wide range of study and life skills.

In the modern age, an element of media is evident in most careers and therefore study of media would be an asset to many careers, not only those in the media industry.



Lesson 2 – Development Plan

In my second practice I intend to focus on being able to play bar 3 on my right hand. To achieve this I will use sheet music and help guides for tab music to help me learn. I will purposefully repeat playing the bar until I am able to comfortably play at the correct speeds and the correct notes. I am using it specifically to help with my development and my SMART target. I will start by doing five finger exercises.



MUSIC BTEC FIRST AWARD

The BTEC course consists of three units, comprising the analysis of different musical genres, performing and composing. All three explore music in both a practical and written manner enabling students to develop their individual instrumental skills and their knowledge and understanding of different styles through both research and practical tasks.

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Course Content:

The ability to play an instrument or sing is desirable; should you not have one of these skills already, it would be beneficial to seek instrumental lessons.

Exploring Music Products and Styles:

explore musical styles and techniques and gain an understanding of how to apply these to performance and composition.

Music Skills Development: develop practical musical skills, setting targets and documenting your progress.

Responding to a Commercial Music Brief: put all the skills you have developed into practice by responding to a brief as a composer or performer. This is completed in Year 11.

Assessment Details:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Internally assessed by your SUAS Music teacher and externally moderated by a BTEC examiner
30% of overall BTEC Qualification

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Internally assessed by your SUAS Music teacher and externally moderated by a BTEC examiner
30% of overall BTEC Qualification

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

Externally assessed – Assignment Brief set by BTEC which is released in January and marked by an unknown Music teacher
40% of overall BTEC Qualification

Progression Routes:

The ability to perform, compose and understand music opens up many opportunities Post-16 such as Music Technology, Performance and Production based qualifications.

Career Education Guidance:

In addition to Post-16 options, studying Music at BTEC First Award Level helps develop transferable skills required by many careers that may otherwise be considered unrelated to music.

For example, working with others, listening, target setting and resilience to name just a few.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity.

Course Content:

GCSE PE builds on the understanding developed at Key Stage 3, supporting a smooth transition to the next level of study. It encourages learners to become more competent, confident and expert in their techniques, and apply them across different sports and physical activities.

The course covers a blend of scientific and social knowledge that positions candidates to access a range of qualifications.

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology
Topic 2: Movement analysis
Topic 3: Physical training
Topic 4: Use of data

Component 2: Health and Performance

Topic 1: Health, fitness and well-being
Topic 2: Sport psychology
Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences
Topic 4: Use of data

Component 3: Practical Performance

One team activity, one individual activity and a free choice from the list published by

the DfE. Students are assessed in skills in isolation and skills in a competitive/ formal situation.

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

- Aim and planning analysis
- Carrying out and monitoring the PEP
- Evaluation of the PEP

Assessment Details:

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
36% of the qualification

Component 2: Health and Performance

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes
24% of the qualification

Component 3: Practical Performance

Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated
30% of the qualification

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated
10% of the qualification

Progression Routes:

This course provides a smooth transition to A-level Physical Education.

In addition, students are also prepared for vocational sports qualifications such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals.

Elements of the qualification will also provide some preparation for other post-16 qualifications such as sciences, psychology and sociology.

Progression Routes:

This qualification provides a foundation for students wishing to progress into sports careers in fields including sports science, physiotherapy, sports therapy, teaching, sports analysis and nutrition.





Y10 Cambridge National Sports Studies Trip, September 2024

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORT STUDIES

A practical and engaging course that suits students who enjoy coursework, projects, and hands-on learning. This course consists of continual Coursework and Assignment Based Assessment with an exam in year 11.

Course Content:

CNAT Sports Studies is perfect for students who enjoy practical work and prefer to be assessed through a mixture of coursework and controlled tasks rather than relying heavily on exams. CN Sports Studies directly assesses Skill Acquisition and Sporting ability in two key sports. This can be made up of either team or individual sports.

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

In this unit you will learn about a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, relating to; participation levels and barriers, promotion of values and ethical behaviour, the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used within sport.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

In this unit you will learn how to develop your skills as both a performer, in two different sporting activities, and as a leader in one activity. As a leader you will have the opportunity to plan, lead and review safe and effective sporting activity sessions yourself. You will develop a range of transferable skills and work both independently and as part of a team; communicating with teammates and being

independently and as part of a team; communicating with teammates and being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. You will also deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

In this unit you will learn how to find out information about what opportunities there are in your local area, as well as nationally in the UK, for all different types of activities. You will learn how you can benefit from and enjoy activities safely by finding out what equipment, clothing, facilities and technology you need, as well as completing planning to help keep you safe.

Assessment Details:

Cambridge Nationals use both internal and external assessment. There are two mandatory units and a choice of optional units. The externally assessed unit makes up 40% of the qualification.

Grades for Cambridge Nationals and for GCSEs align at key points:

Level 1 covers GCSE grades 3–1 (or D–G) and Level 2 GCSE grades 9–4 (or A*–C).

- Low Level 1 Pass aligned to GCSE grade 1
- Low Level 2 Pass aligned to GCSE grade 4
- Low Level 2 Distinction aligned to GCSE grade 7

Progression Routes:

By developing applied knowledge and practical skills, this course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A-levels, a Cambridge Technical in Sport & Physical Activity, an apprenticeship or university.

Career Education Guidance:

You'll develop a range of skills to help you succeed in the workplace and other studies:

- analytical skills
- creative thinking
- leadership
- research & planning
- team working
- verbal communication & presentation skills

Sport Studies careers can take a student anywhere – from coaching to leading participation.



FOOTBALL ACADEMY

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A practical and engaging course that suits students who enjoy coursework, projects, and hands-on learning. This course consists of continual Coursework and Assignment Based Assessment with an exam in year 11. This course is designed to stretch and challenge students' football ability offering additional hours of training in conjunction with Stratford Town FC.

Working closely with Stratford Town FC's Academy, we provide a bespoke Physical Education football curriculum. Students will enrol onto the Cambridge National Sports Studies course where the course will be centred around an educational pathway into football.

The Football Academy offers a unique and targeted experience, opening doors to Post-16 study and careers that may otherwise be inaccessible.

One of the many additional benefits will be half-termly visits to Stratford Town FC, where students will take part in detailed coaching sessions with Stratford Town FC Academy coaching staff.

Students will have regular access and opportunities to represent the school in high level competition fixtures; including the FA School's National Cup, Warwickshire County Cup along with other regional competitions.

We expect students to represent the school in football throughout this course.

Course Content:

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

In this unit you will learn about a range of topical and contemporary issues in football.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

In this unit you will learn how to develop your skills as both a performer and a leader, with the opportunity to plan, lead and review safe and effective sporting football sessions yourself.

R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

In this unit you will find out information about what opportunities there are in your local area, as well as nationally, for all different types of outdoor and adventurous activities. You will learn how you can benefit from and enjoy activities safely by finding out what equipment, clothing, facilities and technology you need, as well as completing planning to help keep you safe.

Assessment Details:

Cambridge Nationals use both internal and external assessment and have two mandatory units and a choice of optional

units. The externally assessed unit makes up 40% of the qualification. Grades for Cambridge Nationals and for GCSEs align at key points:

Level 1 covers GCSE grades 3–1 (or D–G) and Level 2 GCSE grades 9–4 (or A*–C).

- Low Level 1 Pass aligned to GCSE grade 1
- Low Level 2 Pass is aligned to GCSE grade 4
- Low Level 2 Distinction is aligned to GCSE grade 7

Progression Routes:

By developing applied knowledge and practical skills, this course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A-levels, a Cambridge Technical in Sport & Physical Activity, an apprenticeship or university.

Career Education Guidance:

You'll develop a range of skills to help you succeed in the workplace and other studies: analytical skills, creative thinking, leadership, research & planning, team working, verbal communication & presentation skills.

Football Academy careers could take a student anywhere – from coaching to leading sports participation.



Applications for the Football Academy will be assessed by our specialist staff.



Y11 Chemistry Practical Lesson, January 2026

SEPARATE SCIENCES: GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS

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This course leads to three separate GCSEs, all independent of each other. This option is suited to you if you intend to take Science A-levels, if you want to streamline into a career in science, and if you have a genuine interest in science and are willing to work hard for it.

Course Content:

GCSE Science lessons aim to set academic concepts in a real-life setting. Whenever possible we teach via demonstrations and practical activities to allow you to explore the world around you.

GCSE Biology:

GCSE Biology gives students a wide-ranging understanding of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment. You can see how science is used to solve problems ranging from infectious diseases, genetic inheritance and how humans can look after our planet for future generations.

The course helps put Biology in the context of students' everyday life so you can understand more about yourself and the living world around you.

GCSE Chemistry:

Chemistry helps us to understand the world in which we live and is known as the "central science" because it helps to connect physical sciences, like maths and physics, with applied sciences, like biology & medicine.

GCSE Chemistry will give you the opportunity to gain an understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how Chemistry is used in business and industry, and how our use of raw materials in fuels and manufacturing can affect the global and local environment.

GCSE Physics:

How did the Universe begin? How will it end? GCSE Physics offers you the chance to gain a good understanding of the use and transfer of energy, waves, radiation and space. You will investigate how topics relate to their everyday lives such as the efficiency of electrical appliances and

braking distances as well as larger concepts like nuclear fission and fusion and evidence of the Big Bang.

Progression Routes:

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics could lead on to further study in Science at A-level, Applied Science or other science-related subjects or more vocationally-related courses.

They can open the doors to future careers in Medicine and the Sciences and is highly regarded by employers and further education providers.



Career Education Guidance:

Grade 6 in Science and Maths GCSEs are required to study Science at A level within our Sixth Form.

Individual Sciences are highly regarded by employers as evidence of technical and logical thinking and a facilitating subject at A-level for universities across all degrees.

YELLOW BLOCK



STAR DofE Expedition, Summer 2025

STAR PROGRAMME PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

The STAR program provides students with an opportunity to complete a valuable vocational area of study and promotes maximising practical activity and engagement, whilst still allowing students to attain a valuable qualification at either Level 1 or Level 2. These qualifications have a reduced examination element and assessment is via practical evidence, or coursework related tasks.

For some students, a combination of GCSE and Level 1 courses may be a more appropriate learning package leading to students maximising their potential in terminal examinations.

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There are three different STAR options to choose from:

STAR - Personal Development Skills

STAR - Duke of Edinburgh Award & Outdoor Education

STAR - Food & Catering

STAR - PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT SKILLS

Qualification(s):

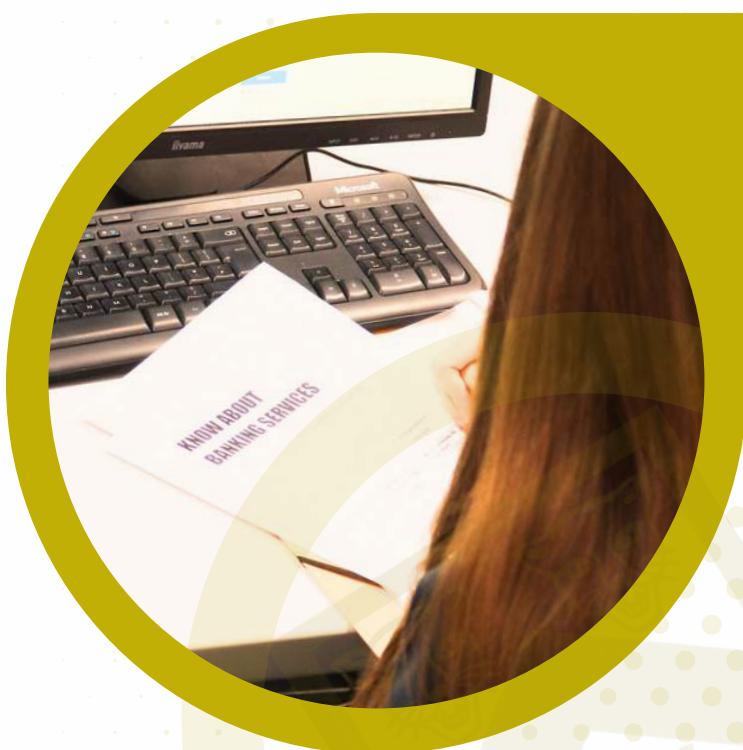
- King's Trust Award: Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2

On this course we study:

- Career Planning
- Preparing for the World of Work
- Digital Skills
- Managing Money
- Well-being, Healthy Eating

Assessment:

By an internally assessed portfolio of evidence.



STAR PROGRAMME

DofE & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The STAR program provides students with an opportunity to complete a valuable vocational area of study and promotes maximising practical activity and engagement, whilst still allowing students to attain a valuable qualification at either Level 1 or Level 2. These qualifications have a reduced examination element and assessment is via practical evidence, or coursework related tasks.

- For some students, a combination of GCSE and Level 1 courses may be a more appropriate learning package leading to students maximising their potential in terminal examinations.

There are three different STAR options to choose from:

STAR - Personal Development Skills
STAR - Duke of Edinburgh Award & Outdoor Education
STAR - Food & Catering

STAR - DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Qualification(s):

- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
- Health & Safety Certificate

On this course we study:

- Teamwork, Team-Building & Problem-Solving
- Leadership
- Orienteering & Map Navigation
- Developing Fitness & Practical Skills
- Preparing for, and Completing an Expedition

- Volunteering
- Experiencing the World of Work

Assessment:

Supported completion of: a physical activity, a skill acquisition, volunteering, completion of a camping expedition and an internally assessed portfolio of evidence.





Y9 STAR Food Lesson, January 2026

STAR PROGRAMME FOOD & CATERING

The STAR program provides students with an opportunity to complete a valuable vocational area of study and promotes maximising practical activity and engagement, whilst still allowing students to attain a valuable qualification at either Level 1 or Level 2. These qualifications have a reduced examination element and assessment is via practical evidence, or coursework related tasks.

- For some students, a combination of GCSE and Level 1 courses may be a more appropriate learning package leading to students maximising their potential in terminal examinations.

There are three different STAR options to choose from:

- STAR - Personal Development Skills
- STAR - Duke of Edinburgh Award & Outdoor Education
- STAR - Food & Catering

STAR - FOOD & CATERING

Qualification(s):

- NCFE Level 1, Certificate in Food & Cookery Skills
- Food Hygiene Certificate

On this course we study:

- Preparing to Cook
- Understanding Food
- Plan & Produce Dishes in Response to a Brief.

Assessment:

By an internally assessed portfolio of evidence.





Stratford upon Avon School Sixth Form