

**YATELEY  
SCHOOL  
GCSE OPTIONS  
BOOKLET  
2025**

*Art and Design*

*Dance*

*Music*

*3D Design*

*Food Prep and Nutrition*

*Drama*

**Arts and PE**

**Technology**

*Graphics*

*Physical Education*

*Religious Studies*

*Spanish*

*History*

**Humanities**

**Modern Foreign Languages**

*German*

**Specialist Subjects**

*French*

*Geography*

*Business Studies*

*Computer Science*

*Triple Science*

*Child Development*

**Core Curriculum**

**English Language**

**English Literature**

**Mathematics**

**Double Science**

**Core PE**

**PSHE**



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## YEAR 9 OPTION PROCESS 2024-25

### Introduction and welcome

Welcome to the GCSE option process! The subjects and qualifications you study over Years 10 and 11 will affect how you spend your time during your next two years at Yateley. It could also help set you up for the career or college course you want later on, so it is a very important process. Below is an outline of the important upcoming events:

In order to provide appropriate information and guidance in making choices, we have devised a full programme to support your child. The key events in the programme are:

#### Available Now: **Introductory Video for the Y9 Options Process**

To maximise convenience for busy families we are introducing the Y9 Options Process via a pre-recorded video available here instead of an evening event.

We recommend watching the whole video with your child as it will be very helpful in preparing them for the upcoming option process. If you later wish to recap and get specific answers to particular questions, then please use the direct timestamps below.



<b>VIDEO (All)</b>	<a href="#">HERE</a>	Example students (choosing, changing and mastery)	<a href="#">HERE</a>
Key Dates for your diary	<a href="#">HERE</a>	The Ebacc/aleureate	<a href="#">HERE</a>
The Core Curriculum	<a href="#">HERE</a>	What can help me decide?	<a href="#">HERE</a>
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The "Constrained Choice" Option	<a href="#">HERE</a>	Where can I go for help and advice?	<a href="#">HERE</a>

#### Available Now: **Options Website, Subject Videos and Options Booklet**

Our options website was created in 2022 and has really helpful subject videos that allow students to find out more about our course offer. Each video is about 3-4 minutes long and gives great insight into what each subject covers.

Additionally, the all important options booklet is available online now at <https://www.yateleyschool.net/Y9options> and on MCAS. This booklet lets students know what their GCSE options are, what each course contains, what subject combinations they can and can't choose together and also gives a peek at the options selection form (discussed later). Students will receive a printed copy of this from their tutor on the lead up to their options selection.



#### November 2024: GCSE Option Assembly

During November, I will run an assembly to guide students through the GCSE options process. We will explore exciting subjects like Business Studies, Graphics, Childcare, and 3D Product Design. These assemblies are designed to help students understand the wide range of opportunities available to them and to consider options that align with their interests and future goals. We encourage you to discuss these subjects with your child to support them in making informed and confident choices.

#### Monday/Tuesday 18-19 November 2024: Taster Sessions

Year 9 students will have the chance to attend taster sessions in the subjects that we do not offer at Key Stage 3. Notably, these are Business Studies, Childcare, 3D Product Design and Graphics. Students will receive their unique timetable with their allocations on the week beginning 11 November 2024. These are intended to give a flavour of what these subjects offer, and will help address any misconceptions that students may have before selecting a course.

#### Thursday 21 November 2024: Y9 Progress Reports

Year 9 academic progress reports for the Autumn term are sent to parents and students via MCAS. Our reporting system helps parents/carers understand the progress, knowledge and effort that your child is demonstrating in all their current subjects. We also report the computer-generated FFT target grades that students should be aiming for if they continue the subject into GCSE. Remember: these computer-generated grades are simply a reflection of how your child performed in their Year 6 SATS... and a lot of time has passed since then! We hope that the upcoming progress report will help inform decision making about subjects of interest to consider continuing into Key Stage 4.

#### From Thursday 21 November: Parents' Evening Booking System

From: Thursday 21 November 2024  
To: Wednesday 27 November 2024

Our Parents' Evening booking system goes live to parents wishing to make appointments with teachers of Year 9 subjects. Parents' Evening continues to be booked via the Parents' Evening booking system. This is also a great time to meet teachers of subject areas such as business, childcare and graphics as you can find out more about what studying these subjects is really like!

#### Thursday 28 November 2024: Parents' Evening and Options Evening

Parents' Evening takes place in-person at Yateley School. For the first time this year, all appointments will be held in the Sports Hall, which helps minimise movement between venues. If any parents/carers are unable to attend this important evening, we request that you contact [admin@yateley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:admin@yateley.hants.sch.uk) in advance to discuss alternative arrangements. I will also be available on the evening to discuss general option queries that you may have.

#### Making Your GCSE Option Choices:

From: Monday 06 January 2025  
To: Monday 13 January 2025

Students will be issued a paper form on which to complete their option choices. Despite using various pieces of online software over the years, it is the classic paper form which gives us the best accuracy when collecting this information!

**Very important:** *There is no priority given to students booking earlier or later in the Options window. Students are encouraged to take their time and think about their choices!*

#### And finally...

If you have any questions at all about the Year 9 Options process then please contact [peter.hill@yateley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:peter.hill@yateley.hants.sch.uk) and I will be more than happy to help. Alternatively, feel free to book an appointment with me at the Parents' Evening.

In the meantime, I trust you find both the information in this letter and the accompanying introductory video helpful, and we'll look forward to meeting with you at the Parents' Evening on Thursday 28 November.

## THE CURRICULUM AT KEY STAGE 4

### How do I choose my options?

There are some subjects that are so important that everyone has to take them, but you also have option choices in Year 9 that are the first steps in deciding your future. To help, start by asking yourself what you enjoy doing and what you're good at.

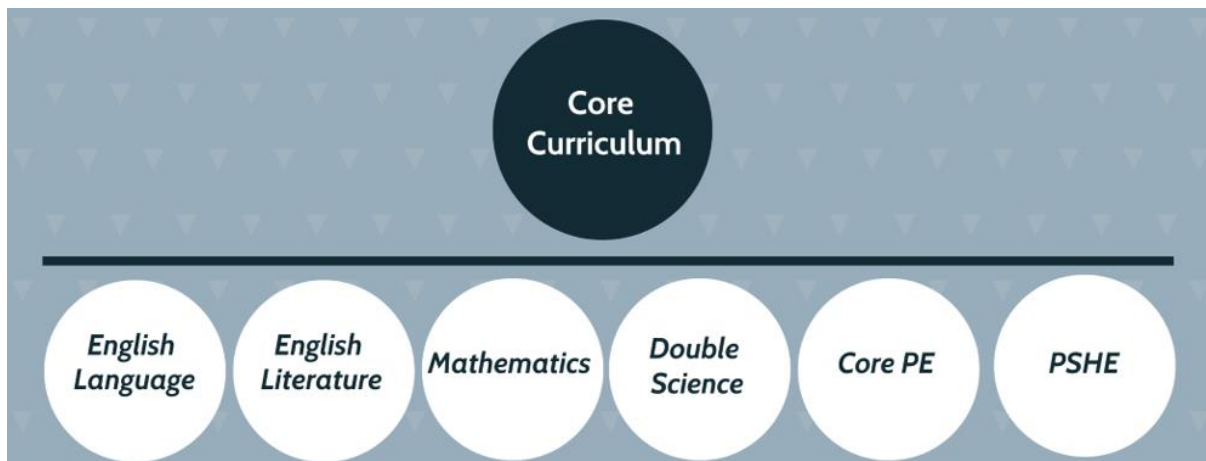
### Think about:

- What you're interested in: it could be other cultures and languages, writing projects, helping people, being outdoors or designing things?
- What types of activity you enjoy most - working things out and thinking them through, practical activities or artistic options like painting, acting, drawing or performing in music events?
- What you're like at home, as well as in school - what skills have you developed following outside interests?

### Don't think about:

- What your friends are choosing. Even if you pick the same subjects you are unlikely to be placed in the same class as there are four different options blocks (so a 25% chance of being together!)
- Picking a subject because you like a particular teacher (or not picking one because you don't)! We have multiple teachers for each subject so there is no guarantee who you are going to get.

The Curriculum Offer - All students will study:



The Curriculum Offer – Select Four Options



- Note: A very small number of students will be invited to join our **Mastery Group** which supports invited students to select three options and then receive support with functional skills English and Maths, as well as building confidence through Princes Trust, First Aid and Duke of Edinburgh

work. Invites to the Mastery Group come from our Student Support team in the Spring Term and are optional.

### ONE SUBJECT COMBINATION YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO CHOOSE:

1. The following subject combination is not allowed because of the nature and content of the course are too similar to each other.
  - a. 3D Resistant Materials **and** Graphics

### WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBACC)?

The EBacc collection of subjects is not a qualification in itself, rather a collection of subjects that if a student takes them (and passes) they are said to have “achieved the EBacc.”

The EBacc is recognised as a significant measure of student achievement by both employers and universities.

**The Ebaccalaureate**

**English EBaccalaureate (Ebacc)**

- The Ebacc is a collection of subjects a student can study. It is achieved if a student gets:
- Grade 4 (or above) in English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography

Maths      English      Science      Geography or History      German, Spanish or French

### A WORD OF CAUTION:

When picking your option subjects, it is essential that you pay attention to the skills required to do well in that course. This is particularly true for subjects like computer science, the performing arts and physical education – there may be more than meets the eye:

1. **Computer Science** requires you to be able to think logically, solve problems and have a keen attention to detail. Students wishing to study Computing should be targeted at least a GCSE Grade 4 in Mathematics. Computer Science bears very little resemblance to ICT!
2. **Dance, Drama** and **Music** all have a requirement to perform. You must be committed to this aspect of the course; students who do not wish to perform cannot enrol on these courses.
3. **GCSE PE** course will require all students to submit practical grades in **three** sports. It is highly advisable and advantageous if students regularly participate in at least one sport to a reasonably high standard.

If you are thinking of studying these subjects, you should make sure you are clear about the requirements of the course. As with all subjects, it is a good idea to meet with the appropriate teachers at the Subject Review Evening online or in person before making your option choices.

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CHOICES

### Will I get my options?

Although every effort will be made to accommodate all students' choices, it is possible that certain alterations have to be made.

1. In some cases, courses do not run as there are insufficient numbers to make them viable, and in other cases there are a maximum number of students due to staffing.
2. Also, as we offer such a wide range of possible subject combinations it is likely that we will not always be able to meet every student's requests.

If in the event of a course being oversubscribed, students will be selected in the order of:

- Meeting the option form deadline
- Good attendance
- Good behaviour
- Evidence of commitment to the subject both in lessons and beyond the classroom
- Possible career path
- Subject grades
- Teacher recommendation

We will, in the first instance, use the criteria above to decide who will be offered the course. If we can't resolve the situation through the use of the criteria and in the consultation with students and parents, we will use a means of random selection.

We therefore asked students to pick a **reserve choice** in the 'open choice' block in case we are unable to offer them all their other choices. Any changes that have to be made will be fully discussed with students and their parents.

Information about the subjects that are on offer is found on the following pages.

It is important that you and your parents read these, so that you have an understanding of what the courses entail. You will be given help and advice in school about these decisions.

I hope it all goes well, and remember if you are not clear about anything make sure you ask us!



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE and ENGLISH LANGUAGE</b>
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**CONTACT** MRS S MEADOWS

**EXAM BOARDS** EDUQAS (LITERATURE) and AQA (LANGUAGE)

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Assessment will be arranged as follows:

#### **English Language**

100% Exam

#### **English Literature**

100% Exam

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

You will study language and literature in an integrated way throughout the course and will gain two separate GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. You will study a variety of prose, poetry and drama, including a Shakespeare text. You will also learn how to write in a variety of forms and styles to suit specific audiences and tasks.

In preparation for the above examinations you will explore and develop your ability to communicate in a variety of ways, and to understand, analyse and comment on what you read and hear. Written communication will include imaginative, descriptive and personal assignments, as well as more factual writing, such as articles, letters, reports and instructions.

You will be expected to read a wide range of English. All students will study a play by Shakespeare as well as poetry from the EDUQAS anthology, a modern drama text and a 19<sup>th</sup> century prose text. There will also be opportunities to read modern fiction and study the media. Non-fiction is also an important part of the syllabus, and you will be expected to read and respond to a range of such writing.

The habit of wide personal reading around the subject is encouraged, and students are introduced to the rich and diverse canon of English literature. We certainly believe that this course will be a good foundation for those students wishing to continue with English at A Level, where we offer two separate courses: English Language and Literature and English Literature.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>GCSE MATHEMATICS</b>
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CONTACT MRS COLLOFF

EXAM BOARD OCR

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **External Examination**

The course is 100% assessed through three terminal examination papers taken in June. There are two calculator papers and one to be completed without a calculator.

The Mathematics GCSE has two overlapping levels, with the Foundation tier stretching students to a grade 5 and the Higher tier to grade 9.

Foundation Level Available grades 1-5

Higher Level Available grades 4-9

Students will be taught and entered for the level that gives them the best chance of achieving their target grade.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

All students will study the same fundamental Mathematics topics. They will pursue these to varying depths. The aim is to have each student challenged with mathematics at the appropriate level for them. The course covers five key areas of Mathematics; Number, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Ratio/Proportion and builds on previous knowledge throughout, gradually becoming more complex. The course will include the following areas of study:

Number concepts; computation with and without a calculator; ratio, proportion, percentage; measurement using all units in current use; personal and household finance; co-ordinates and graphs; algebra; geometry of lines, angles, polygons and circles; mensuration of shapes; collection, classification and presentation of statistical data; probability.

The course will offer a sound basis for the use of the subject in everyday life and at its highest level will provide good foundation for future work in Mathematics at A level.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SCIENCE COURSES

It is expected that the majority of students will follow the Combined Science GCSE Science course which is equivalent to two GCSEs. A number of students will be invited to follow the Triple Science route leading to the award of separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

	<b>Combined Science</b> (most students)	<b>Triple Science</b> (some students)
<b>Awards</b>	2 GCSEs	3 GCSEs
<b>Leading to:</b>	AS/A2 Sciences	AS/A2 Sciences

SUBJECT	GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE TRILOGY
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(Double Award)

CONTACT MRS S MCCARTHY

EXAM BOARD AQA

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams contributing 100% of the total GCSE grade – 2 Biology exams, 2 Chemistry exams and 2 Physics exams.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The majority of students will study GCSE Combined Science, with the aim of acquiring the knowledge and understanding needed to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues.

During the course you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. You will develop your understanding of the main scientific concepts that provide a framework for making sense of the world. You will also have the opportunity to reflect on scientific knowledge itself, the practices that have produced it; the kinds of reasoning that are used in developing a scientific argument, and the issues that arise when scientific knowledge is put to practical use. Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to plan and carry out a broad range of investigative tasks and to consider and evaluate critically your own data and that obtained from other sources.

### Why study Science?

Through your studies you will develop greater scientific knowledge, and the skills needed to apply it in new and changing situations in a range of domestic, industrial and environmental contexts. You will acquire an understanding of scientific ideas, how they develop, the factors which may affect their development and their power limitations.

This course will provide the opportunity to develop the scientific understanding needed to progress to further studies of Science at AS or A level.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN TRIPLE SCIENCE (AS AN OPTION) THEN PLEASE SEE PAGE 26 IN THIS OPTIONS BOOKLET**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>GCSE ART AND DESIGN</b>
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CONTACT MRS BREEN

EXAM BOARD AQA

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Coursework (2 projects)	60%
Exam (1 project)	40%

A GCSE Art project consists of four main areas:

- Developing ideas – investigating, analysing and putting in context
- Experimenting and selecting – resources, media and techniques
- Recording – ideas and observations
- Presenting – An informal and meaningful response to a project

Students are guided through the first project and given freedom towards the end to focus on strengths and preferred areas of study.

The other projects are based upon themes where students are far more involved in what areas are studied. You still work within the familiar framework but choose how you interpret the theme with guidance from your teacher.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This GCSE is different from most in that it allows you to express yourself in a creative way – it is both enjoyable and challenging. You will be taught a variety of techniques, these may include printing, sculpture, ceramics, digital photography, painting and drawing. You will also be taught how to develop your work to produce exciting and imaginative project work. The work produced in these projects will go towards your exam marks.

For the final exam project, you will be given the paper well in advance, typically the first week in January – this gives you a chance to think through ideas, practise techniques, consult with your teacher and thoroughly prepare for the exam itself.

### **Why Study Art?**

Art and Design is a subject where you learn to develop your creativity. If you enjoy drawing, painting or making things or if you enjoy finding creative ways of solving problems then this is the subject for you. There are many options after GCSE starting with AS and A level and leading to an ever-increasing range of Art related careers. Our society is becoming more visually literate and it needs people who can understand and develop visual ideas.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>GCSE DANCE</b>
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CONTACT MRS WEARING

EXAM BOARD AQA

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

60% Practical 40% Theory

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Dance GCSE offers students the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a choreographer, performer and critic. The course is highly practical and therefore you need to be fully fit and committed to all aspects of the course.

The course is open to all students who have a strong interest in creating their own work as well as performing alone and in small groups. Students who opt for dance must be self-disciplined and be prepared to rehearse at lunch times and after school during examination periods. You will be expected to keep a workbook of your theory work throughout the two-year course. Students are assessed in the following areas

<b>Performance (30%)</b>
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<b>Set phrases through a solo performance</b>
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You will be expected to perform set phrases of approximately 1 minute long.
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<b>Duo/Trio performance</b>
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You will be expected to perform in a small group dance, lasting 3½ minutes.
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<b>Solo or Group Choreography (30%)</b>
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You will be expected to choreograph either a solo (2 to 2½ mins) or a group (with 2 to 5 dancers) lasting 3 to 3½ minutes. The dance will be based on a prescribed list of stimuli.
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<b>Written Examination (40%)</b>
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<b>Dance Appreciation</b>
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You will answer questions based on your knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, critical appreciation of your own and professional works. The paper is marked by the examination board.
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### Why Study Dance?

- You have a strong interest in performing dance in various styles
- You have a strong interest in creating dances and want to develop your creativity
- You enjoy being challenged and want to develop your skills as a performer
- You are keen to learn about professional dance works and gain a broader understanding of what types of dance and choreographers are working in the UK today

**SUBJECT****GCSE DRAMA**

CONTACT

MRS AFFLECK-CRUISE

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The GCSE course has three components.

Component 1: (40%) Students create and develop their own performance based on a stimulus. They create a portfolio of work to support this. This can be written (2000 words) or given as verbal evidence (8-10 minutes).

Component 2: (20%) Students perform in two key extracts from a performance text. Alternatively, students can work as a designer for these extracts. Marked by an external examiner.

Component 3: (40%): A written exam lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. This involves the study of a performance text and the evaluation of a Live Theatre production. Students will explore one performance text practically in lessons; learning how to work as actors, directors and designers in bringing the play to life for an audience. Students will go and watch a Live Theatre performance.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION OF GCSE DRAMA**

Students will explore Drama from the perspective of an actor, director, designer and audience member. Over the course students will learn a range of techniques and experiment with various performance styles. The course enables students to do both devised and scripted work. There is also a strong written component to this course which students need to commit to fully. Component 2 allows students to create a polished scripted performance which they perform in front of an audience and examiner. They will need to be willing to commit to after-school rehearsals in order to do this.

**Why Study Drama?**

GCSE Drama is an active and generally fun subject although you must be prepared to complete the written work also as this is 70% of the grade. It encourages creative thinking, teamwork, communication skills and confidence. You will have increased opportunities to watch live theatre, work with professional acting companies and use theatre technology.

GCSE Drama is a challenging, exciting and creative subject which allows students to develop personally, socially, academically and creatively.

SUBJECT	GCSE MUSIC
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CONTACT MR CROFT

EXAM BOARD EDUQAS GCSE MUSIC

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Composing	Coursework	Internally assessed	30%
Performing	Coursework	Externally moderated	30%
Listening and Appraising	Written exam		40%

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

You will have to answer questions in the listening exam based on music heard on a CD. The exam lasts approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

- You will have to compose at least two pieces of music lasting about 2 or 4 minutes each. Both compositions must be individually composed, notated or written down, and recorded onto CD. You can use music technology to make up your music.
- You have to give 2 performances lasting no less than 4 minutes in total. They have to be recorded by your teacher. One performance must be solo and one must be ensemble performance (group). Solo and ensemble performance are usually from music composed by professional musicians. Grade 3 instrumental level is recommended.
- You will have the opportunity to compose and perform many pieces of music so that you can choose your best work to enter for coursework. The centre will choose pieces for your coursework.
- 60% of the course is about music that you produce.
- It helps if you already have instrumental or vocal lessons. These can be arranged for you if required.
- You don't just play music, you study music.
- You will learn about music that you haven't experienced before and you will begin to understand better the music you are familiar with.
- By learning to understand music, you will become a better performer and composer.
- We cover classical music, rock popular, jazz, musical theatre, fusion, film music and many other music genres.

### Why Study Music?

- GCSE music is many things. You don't have to be a particular 'type' of student to enjoy and achieve well in this course.
- It is both fun and challenging to study music and extremely rewarding after performances and compositions are completed.
- Music is a special subject (both academic and practical) that allows people to be creative, disciplined in preparing performances and creating own compositions and is mentally challenging as there are many facts to learn and remember.
- Music develops lateral and logical thinking and as such enhances mathematical skills. It is also closely linked to languages, history and certain parts of science i.e. acoustics. Studying music strengthens understanding of other subjects.
- Employers like to work with people who have studied music as they are always able to work by themselves as well as part of a team.
- Musicians also understand how to meet deadlines; concert dates cannot be changed so you have to be ready!
- Your fine motor skills will improve, along with your coordination.
- Your ability to work with others and your own confidence will develop.
- You will learn to analyse in a more subjective manner, justifying your findings and 'thinking outside the box'.
- Research shows that musicians use every part of their brain. That can't be a bad thing.

If you need any more information about GCSE Music talk to Mr Croft.



CONTACT

MRS K EVANS

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Paper 1** The human body and movement in physical activity and sport  
Written Exam - 1 hour 15 minutes  
78 marks (30% of GCSE)

**Paper 2** Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport  
Written Exam - 1 hour 15 minutes  
78 marks (30% of GCSE)

**Non-exam assessment:** Practical performance in physical activity and sport **3 different physical activities** in the role of player/performer (one team activity, one individual activity and a third from either) it is useful if you participate to a high level. 75 marks (30% of GCSE)  
Written analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. 25 marks (10% of GCSE)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION****Paper 1 - The human body and movement in physical activity and sport**

- Bones, structure of the skeleton, functions of the skeleton
- Muscles of the body
- Structure of synovial joint, types of joints
- Structure and functions of the cardio-respiratory system
- Effective use of warm up and cool down
- The components of fitness, benefits for sport, measurement of fitness
- How to optimize training and prevent injury
- Movement analysis
- Lever systems
- Planes and axes of movement
- Physical Training
- Anaerobic and aerobic exercise
- Principles of training
- Use of data

**Paper 2 - Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport**

- Sports Psychology
- Goal setting and SMART targets
- Mental preparation for performance
- Basic information processing
- Ethical and socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport
- Socio-cultural influences
- Commercialisation of physical activity and sport
- Guidance and feedback on performance
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Nutrition

**Why study GCSE Physical Education?**

A GCSE qualification in PE may be useful in the following career areas: Leisure/Recreation Centre work, Recreation/Sports Management, Armed Services, Teaching, Police and Physiotherapy.

CONTACT

MISS SELF

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL (Specification B)

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You will complete 3 units in this GCSE. Each one is assessed by an **examination**. There is **no controlled assessment** anymore in Geography GCSE (used to be known as coursework). There is still a requirement to do 2 compulsory days **field work** during the GCSE course, one concentrating on physical geography, the other on human geography. For each of the exams we provide interactive revision materials and a revision guide.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues

- Hazardous earth – studies of tropical storms and tectonic hazards;
- Development dynamics - a study of an emerging country;
- Challenges of an urbanising world - a study of a mega city in a developing or emerging country.

### Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues

- The UK's evolving physical landscape - studies of coastal and river landscapes including physical fieldwork investigation;
- The UK's evolving human landscape - studies of dynamic inner-cities and changing rural settlements including human fieldwork investigation.

### Unit 3: People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions

- People and the biosphere;
- Forests under threat;
- Consuming energy resources.

## Why study Geography at GCSE?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

It takes you on a journey exploring unusual (even strange) places, fascinating natural events, the actions and reactions of people who face life changing situations. You will be active in lessons, exploring and discovering Geography through practical group work and pair work activities. You will develop excellent investigative skills, decision making skills, ICT skills (using digital satellite images, street views and AEGIS – a Geographical Information System) and the ability to argue your viewpoints both spoken and in writing.

Geography as an academic subject is widely respected by employers and will enable you to study A levels and other further education courses. It forms part of the Ebacc and is also highly regarded as a facilitating subject for the UK's top universities. There has never been a better time to study Geography, so make the choice to go places by taking Geography at GCSE.

CONTACT MISS VINCI and MRS CURRAN

EXAM BOARD AQA

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is an exciting course that covers a range of topics from modern history.

- **Paper One** –Written exam 2 hours, 84 marks, section A- 6 compulsory questions, section B- 4 compulsory questions (50% of GCSE)
- **Paper Two**- Written exam 2 hours, 84 marks, section A- 4 compulsory questions, section B- 4 compulsory questions. (50% of GCSE)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### Paper One- Understanding the Modern World

##### Section A- America, 1920-1973- Opportunity and Inequality

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change. Some Americans lived the 'American Dream' whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

##### Section B- Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975

This wider world depth study enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals and the ideologies they represented. It focuses on the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam.

#### Paper Two- Shaping a Nation

##### Section A- Britain: Health and the People c.1000 to the present day

This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. It considers the causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long term developments, their impact on British society.

##### Section B- Elizabethan England, 1558 - 1603

This option allows students to study in depth the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints.

### Why study History?

History plays a powerful part in your general education. It provides you with the skills of analysis, interpretation, evaluation and communication which are very much in demand in the workplace and is a highly valued subject on any application form. There are a very large number of successful people in the worlds of business and public affairs who have studied History well beyond GCSE. Due to its study of human action History is regarded as of great value in any fields of employment involving contact with real people. History is well respected and gives you the opportunity to hone invaluable skills.

CONTACT MR BRISTOW

EXAM BOARD EDUQAS

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

100% exam. No coursework.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Religious Studies is a rigorous academic subject that teaches students skills in analysis, evaluation and persuasive writing. The subject covers the main World Religions of Christianity and Islam and also asks students to consider a wide range of Philosophical and Ethics topics and concepts. Religious Studies at GCSE is thought provoking, interesting and an insightful subject to study at GCSE and has a high uptake.

We look at issues that affect everyone and ask the sort of questions many of you will be already asking yourselves.

- Should we go to war?
- Is abortion murder?
- Should we help people in pain to die?
- Should divorcees be allowed to remarry in church?
- Can it ever be right to end a life even for the most serious crimes?

When we study Christianity as a world religion, we discover why people want their children baptised, examine Christmas as a religious or commercial festival; discover why Christians pray and assess how effective they think it is. What is Pilgrimage?

We also study a number of contemporary moral issues including racism, abortion, crime and punishment, war and peace, divorce, and medical technology. These topics always lead to heated debates!

Religious Studies teaches students to evaluate important moral issues by examining different viewpoints and gives students the skills to draw informed opinions.

The subject is not only widely accepted but welcomed as an entry qualification for further and higher education courses. It develops a wide range of skills, including those essential for enquiry, interpretation, reasoning, evaluation and communication.

### Why Study Religious Studies?

Students who take Religious Studies show better than average abilities in reading and writing – skills that are essential in life.

<b>SUBJECTS</b>	<b>GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES</b>
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GCSE FRENCH, GCSE GERMAN AND GCSE SPANISH

CONTACT MS McCABE

EXAM BOARD AQA

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

There are four key skills tested at GCSE – listening, speaking, reading and writing.

All four skills are tested at the end of the course all via external examinations. These examinations can be taken at Foundation or Higher level but they all must be taken at the same tier. It is worth to note that the speaking assessment is carried out 1:1 by the class teacher and is marked by the examination board.

It is important to remember that being successful in a language will involve a lot of independent work and resilience. The more you put into your lessons, the more you will get out of them.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The GCSE course builds on work done in KS3 and aims to develop:

- understanding the language in a range of situations including my family, my free-time, where I live, holidays and leisure, my education and future plans.
- the ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing;
- knowledge and understanding of grammar and the ability to apply it;
- knowledge and understanding of the countries and communities where French, Spanish and German are spoken;
- positive attitudes to language learning which will help in study of other languages or academic disciplines later in life.

There will be opportunities for you to use the internet and various authentic materials. There may also be visits organised to France, Spain and Germany to support your language learning.

### **Why study a language?**

A foreign language opens new horizons and will be extremely useful no matter what career you envisage doing. Those who have foreign language skills will always have the edge in the job market; it is also possible to combine the study of a language with a wide range of other subjects in further education.

Also, a language makes travel abroad much easier and far more interesting!

### **Please note...**

French, Spanish and German are offered at GCSE, however, you can only study the language at GCSE that you have studied at Key Stage 3, unless you have previous knowledge from outside school. You cannot start a GCSE language from scratch. It is possible, and for those who have the ability and aptitude, to study two languages at GCSE if they choose this option combination.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE IN THE EARLY YEARS</b>
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CONTACT MRS D'ALTON

EXAM BOARD NCFE CACHE

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The level 1/2 Technical Award is designed for students who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational element.

If you enjoy being with children and are interested in working with them as either a nursery nurse, Primary school teacher, social worker or in child Psychology then this is a good choice for you. It would also serve as another GCSE qualification for the future.

The qualification has 2 assessments externally set:

- One non-exam assessment
- One externally set and marked written exam paper.

The qualification is graded as pass/merit /distinction and distinction\*

The course content includes:

- The development of children from conception to birth.
- Child Development – key areas – physical, social, emotional, and intellectual.
- Factors that influence a child’s development.
- Everyday care routines and the type of activities that can support the development of independence.
- Early years provision - An introduction to working with children in a variety of settings.
- Expectations of the Early year’s practitioner.
- An understanding of the key roles and responsibilities in childcare settings.
- The observation of children and how we use them to plan age-appropriate activities to help progress development.
- Transitions – types and how they affect children.
- Legislation, Policies and procedures in the Early years setting.

Students opting for this course could go on to study at level 3 in –

- Early years Education and Care
- Health and Social Care
- Health Science



CONTACT

MISS WILLIAMS

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Coursework project (50% of the total mark)

Examination (50% of the total mark)

The coursework project consists of the designing and making of graphical products using card, paper, foam board or similar materials. Examples of coursework projects include packaging, pop-up books, board games, point of sale display stands, table talkers; adverts/posters/DVD covers etc. The examination paper consists of questions based on drawing fundamentals, graphics techniques, product analysis, graphic materials and sustainability issues.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is concerned with teaching the principles of design and uses the design process to generate a range of solutions in response to a design brief. You will learn the basic skills of drawing including isometric, perspective, planometric and orthographic projection and how to be selective in choosing the correct method to communicate and illustrate your design ideas. Students are involved in designing and making activities using both hand techniques and a range of computer packages and CAD/CAM. In graphics students will use Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Techsoft 2D Design tools, Sketch up and Microsoft office packages particularly Publisher.

In Year 10 you learn and work through a range of tasks and mini projects that teach formal drawing methods and constructions as well as design and creative solutions. Students are involved in projects ranging from product design and interior design to packaging and logo design. Students gain a good understanding of the design process and use knowledge of materials and processes to develop their ideas and solve problems.

In Year 11 you complete the coursework project, making use of the design process to research, design, develop and then realise your design solution. This project will be based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board and you will submit a design folder and 3D Graphic prototype. The main focus of the project is the manufacture of quality prototype model using a range of appropriate materials and Computer Aided Design.

### Why Study Graphics?

Each section of the course is set as a problem-solving exercise and seeks to encourage creative thought and a high standard of communication skills. Students will learn how to use a range of 2D and 3D computer aided design packages that are used in the design industry, as well as experience a variety of graphic modelling techniques. This course would be a suitable foundation for a variety of future careers including advertising, architecture, product design, graphic design, industrial design, interior design, illustration and animation. We have an A level course which is a continuation from this GCSE, which is also highly popular. Many of our past students have also gone on to study Design related courses at further education.



CONTACT

MR SIBBALD

EXAM BOARD

EDEXCEL

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Innovation Challenge coursework project (50% of the total mark)

Examination (50% of the total mark)

The Innovation Challenge tasks students with researching, designing, making and evaluating the success of a Product for a real client/end user. To complete this the students may use textiles, card, foam board, metals, thermoplastics or timbers. There is no common outcome, every project is unique and uses the widest possible range of skills.

The examination paper consists of questions based on Product Design Core knowledge of textiles, thermoplastics, paper and board, metals, timbers and maths as well as specialist questions on timber-based products; maths is a significant part of the paper.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Year 10, you will build on your KS3 learning to develop all the skills needed to undertake your major project in Year 11. You will complete three mini projects - **Industry** designing and making a prototype of a toy for a disabled child, **Disaster** designing and making a model of a Textiles based shelter for refugees and **Production** Techniques focused on Injection Moulding. In all you will be working in Textiles, Polymers, Card and Board, Metals and Timbers, visualising your ideas using sketch up, isometric grids and card models. You will learn how to create files in 2D Design which can then be laser cut in Acrylic or MDF, you will also spend time developing your researching, creative design, drawing and presentation skills. In year 11, you will undertake a single design and make activity (major project) in response to a Contextual Challenge set by the exam board. You will need to submit a 3-dimensional outcome in a combination of materials and a concise design folder of 25 pages of A3 packed with information.

#### Why study 3D Product Design?

This course is for you if you are creative, prepared to take on a challenge, are inventive, an independent learner and hard-working. Do NOT consider this course if you do not carry out homework and home study which in Year 10 should be of about two hours a week. Do NOT consider this course if you want to merely make - manufacture is about 10% of the course, the rest is research, design and exam preparation.

A GCSE in 3D Product Design will give insight into working practices in the real world, gives you the opportunity to produce designs to the highest standard as well as giving you valuable experience needed for the A Level course. All in all, it's a very rigorous, exciting, relevant, and challenging choice as well as being great fun. It provides a strong foundation for further education and careers in the creative industries as a Product Designer, Architect, Industrial or Interior Designer.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES</b>
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CONTACT

MISS NICHOLSON

EXAM BOARD

AQA

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The new GCSE Business Studies course consists of six main topic areas:

1. Business in the Real World
2. Influences on Business
3. Business Operations
4. Human Resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

Assessment is through two external exams consisting of a range of multiple choice, short-answer and longer-answer questions from case study analysis. Exams are sat at the end of Year 11.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

GCSE Business Studies gives students the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. The variety of topics studied gives students the opportunity to explore concepts by looking at real business examples ranging from small enterprises to large, global companies. Students can gain an understanding of all areas of business along with an awareness of how the economy and the changing world around us affects the decisions businesses make.

### **Why study GCSE Business Studies?**

Businesses play an important part in all our lives and this is a relevant subject whatever career path you eventually choose, whether you want to start your own business or work for an existing company. Studying GCSE Business Studies allows you to understand how the businesses around you work and investigate new business opportunities for the future. The course provides you with the key skills of decision-making, problem solving and evaluation, all in the context of the real world.

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

CONTACT

MRS S MCCARTHY

EXAM BOARD

AQA

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH GCSE:**

Two exams contributing 100% of each GCSE (six exams).  
Available as Higher and Foundation, depending on ability.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

To take 'triple science' you will need to put in the necessary work and commitment to ensure that you succeed in this additional GCSE.

During the course you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics. You will develop your understanding of the main scientific concepts that provide a framework for making sense of the world. You will also have the opportunity to reflect on scientific knowledge itself, the practices that have produced it; the kinds of reasoning that are used in developing a scientific argument, and the issues that arise when scientific knowledge is put to practical use. Through the study of extra topics you will have the opportunity to further develop an understanding of science explanations, how science works and the study of elements of applied science, with particular relevance to professional scientists. The extra topics covered introduce new scientific ideas while illustrating important features of their applications.

Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to plan and carry out a broad range of investigative tasks and to consider and evaluate critically your own data and that obtained from other sources.

**Why study for the separate science qualification?**

Through an extended study you will gain an insight into what is involved in being a practitioner of science. You will learn how scientists develop scientific understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit and how these understandings can be applied to the benefit of humanity.

You will have the opportunity to develop the scientific knowledge and understanding required to progress to further study of the Sciences at AS or A-level (should you wish to).

SUBJECT	GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE
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CONTACT MRS COBBOLD

EXAM BOARD OCR

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exam 100%

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. It will give students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. There are two components in this GCSE:

#### Component 01 – Computer Systems (Exam 50%)

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

#### Component 02 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (Exam 50%)

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

#### Practical Programming

Students will be given the opportunity to undertake programming tasks to solve problems during their course of study.

#### Why Study Computer Science?

This course will help you to develop computational thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills. These skills can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science then this course will provide a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject.

#### **Note:**

Computer programming is challenging and requires attention to detail and logical thinking. Whilst we will be teaching the programming skills required on this course, it is important that students enjoyed the programming they did in KS3 and enjoy problem solving and working independently if they are to do well.

**SUBJECT****PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH & ECONOMIC EDUCATION (PSHE)  
INCLUDING RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (RSE) & CAREERS****CONTACT****MRS WILLIAMS**

This subject is compulsory but is not an examination subject; it is taught once every two weeks in a single timetabled lesson throughout Years 10 and 11.

In addition, all students complete a planned programme of study during Tutor Time over the course of the two years covering additional aspects of RSE and Careers Education.

**Why Study PSHE?**

Any society depends on good citizens for its success and good PSHE education ensures that young people grow up able to contribute wisely and thoughtfully to their community. The skills developed during PSHE and RSE are the so called “soft skills” so valued by universities and employers.

PSHE allows our students to acquire a range of important skills vital for personal effectiveness in an increasingly complex world, where sensible judgements require increasingly higher levels of knowledge, skill and understanding. Through our Careers programme, we aim to help students envision their future, set goals for themselves and gain information and understanding of the world that awaits them.

We also seek to give students the capacity to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of various life choices and thereby make informed and well considered decisions.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

We cover six core themes within PSHE lessons;

- Rights, Responsibilities and British Values
- Celebrating Diversity and Equality
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Staying Safe Online and Offline
- Health and Wellbeing
- Life Beyond School

PSHE at Yateley School is designed to meet the needs of the young people in our community and builds on the themes covered and work undertaken in Years 7, 8 & 9.

## STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Remember that everyone is individual and will have different strengths and weaknesses from someone else. For example, some people are very creative and can put that creativity into words when others are excellent at drawing or painting or designing and making. You need to think about what you are really good at in order to succeed and to enjoy the subject. We want you to keep as many choices open as possible and there will be some subjects that you will have to study – and this is detailed at the front of this booklet - but we will also help you to choose the right subject for you.

Look at the careers software (Unifrog), and decide what skills are required, how jobs that interest you might affect your life and which subjects will help you achieve your ambitions.

Why do you think people choose certain subjects? Try to answer these questions for yourself - please circle ✓ or x as it might apply to you.

Like or am interested in the subject	✓	x
Help in future job	✓	x
Want subjects which can be passed at GCSE	✓	x
Good at the subject	✓	x
Would help in home or hobbies	✓	x
Want a variety of subjects – leave career open	✓	x
Would help understand the world	✓	x
Do not like other options	✓	x
Do not want to waste three years' work	✓	x
High exam marks in subjects in year 9	✓	x
Want to do new subjects	✓	x
Parents want me to choose a certain subject(s)	✓	x
No good at other options	✓	x
Like the teachers who teach the subject	✓	x
Teachers advise me to choose their subject	✓	x
Want some easy subjects	✓	x
Not able to choose the subjects I wanted to	✓	x
Cannot think what else to do	✓	x

