



The John of Gaunt School
A Community Academy



KS4 Course Information booklet

Including SIMS Options on-line guidance

2022-2024



Dear Year 9 Student

In just a few months you will embark on the most important stage of your education so far when you will have the ability to steer your educational career in the direction that you feel suits your strengths and interests. You will soon be asked to choose some of the subjects that you feel will bring you the most academic success and life opportunities in the world of work and beyond. This is a daunting time for any child and their parent(s), therefore, we are committed to supporting every individual in Year 9 throughout this process. The qualifications you achieve by the summer of 2024 will reflect your attitude and application in each subject; it is, therefore, imperative that you select your subjects wisely.

Exams in ALL subjects, including technical awards (such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals), will have to be taken and these qualifications will largely determine the career path you follow into adult life. Those who achieve will find the doors of opportunity wide open.

Every young person must be in some form of education or employment with training until they are 18. Therefore, the choices you make now will, in part, affect your study pathways after Year 11. Most students will continue into our Sixth Form where they gain the continuing support they need to go on to University or the qualifications they require for employment. College is likely to be the other popular option for Post-16 education and some students will take part in apprenticeships and other training schemes.

This booklet will give you information about our Key Stage 4 courses and the choices available to you. Use the booklet in conjunction with information you will receive in Year 9 assemblies, PSHE, discussions with subject teachers, tutors, careers advisers and, of course, parents.

The booklet also includes guidance on how to use our new options system through SIMS Options on-line. Ensure you have these support notes when completing your options electronically whether you complete them at home or during a tutorial session in school.

You are lucky to be at The John of Gaunt School with its considerable range of subjects and courses. We aim to please as many of you as possible but **if we cannot run a particular course due to lack of interest or if the demand is too great we need to know your alternative choice subject.** Think carefully about this alternative choice when you complete your forms.

The next few weeks are of vital importance – make your choices carefully ensure they suit **your** goals not the goals of others.

Mr Rhodes
Deputy Headteacher

CONTENTS

Page Nos.

- 5. Frequently Asked Questions
- 6. Careers Education & Guidance
- 7. The Core Curriculum at The John of Gaunt School
- 8. The Guided Curriculum at The John of Gaunt School
- 9. The English Baccalaureate & Best 8 Qualifications
- 10. Key Dates for the Options Process
- 11. What to do Next
- 12. Options Careers Advice

Subjects

- 13. GCSE Art - edexcel-gcses/art-and-design
- 14. Astronomy - qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/astronomy-2017.html
- 15. BTEC Children's Play Learning & Development
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/childrens-play-learning-development-2012-nqf.html>
- 16. GCSE Business <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business/gcse/business-8132>
- 17. Citizenship - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-citizenship-studies-j270-from-2016/>
- 18. GCSE Computer Science – <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>
- 19. OCR National Level 1/2 Creative iMedia
- 20. Design Technology <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>
- 21. Drama - www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse
- 22. Engineering Level 1 / 2 Award - [WJEC Technical award level 1 and 2](http://www.wjec.co.uk/technical-award-level-1-and-2)
- 23. English Language - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>
- 24. English Literature - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>
- 25. Food Preparation & Nutrition - www.aqa.org.uk
- 26. French - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>
- 27. Geography - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse>
- 28. BTEC Level 2 Health & Social Care
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/health-and-social-care-2012-nqf.html>

29. History - http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867_GCSE2016_L12_History_Web.pdf
30. GCSE Mathematics - <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/mathematics-2015.html>
31. GCSE Media Studies - <https://outlook.office.com/owa/?realm=jogschool.org&exsvurl=1&llcc=1033&modurl=0&path=/mail/search>
32. GCSE Music - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271>
33. Personal, Social & Health Education
34. Photography - www.edexcelonline.com
35. GCSE Religious Studies (Full Course) - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies>
36. Separate Sciences - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>
37. Spanish - <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>
38. OCR National Sport Science - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82412-specification.pdf>
39. Textiles - www.edexcelonline.com
40. SIMS Options on-line step-by-step guidance notes

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q. How do I choose each subject?

It is important that you consider your options very carefully.

- Read the subject information sections of this booklet
- Talk to your tutor and teachers as much as possible about whether courses will suit you
- Look at the progress you have made in the subject since the start of Year 7
- Consider feedback you received at the Yr9 subject evening
- If you would like more information book an appointment with our careers advisor.

DO

- Select subjects you enjoy
- Select subjects you are good at
- Ask teachers & Parents/Carers for advice
- Think through what you might want to study after Year 11
- Consider what careers you might be interested in and research whether specific subjects are important

DON'T

- Select a subject because your friends are doing it
- Select a subject because you like your Year 9 teacher (they might not teach you at Key Stage 4)
- Select subjects that are too similar
- Select a subject just because it is new and you haven't studied it before
- Select a subject simply because you think it is more practical. All subjects have high theory content and a large amount of time will be studying for exams

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE



Planning for the future, both in terms of study and employment is something that needs to be given a great deal of consideration even as early as Year 9. The world of work is changing rapidly and the choices that students make will lead them to the course or job they want.

In order to ensure students have support, information and guidance that is accurate and up to date we include careers education within the PSHE program in Years 8 - 11.

Students can gain specific and personal advice and guidance outside of lessons in the following ways.

1. **Speak to the school's careers adviser** based in the careers library next to the main school library. Opening hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, see Ms Lynch for an appointment or use the 'drop in' service each Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime – no appointment needed.
2. **Discuss plans with their tutors.**
3. **Speak to other key staff:**
 - a. Year Leaders
 - b. Mrs Baines (Assistant Headteacher, Director of Post-16)
 - c. Mr Rhodes (Deputy Headteacher)
4. **Speak to subject teachers about:**
 - a. Higher level courses in their subjects for future study
 - b. Careers which are linked to studying their subjects; not all of these are as obvious as you might think.
5. **Speak to people in the jobs you would like to do.** What do they do? What qualifications did they need? What personal qualities help in their profession?
6. **Speak to older students who are studying the courses you are interested in** for an 'insider' point of view.
7. **Speak to parents, carers and other family members about their** experiences and advice. **It is the student who will make the final choice** but these are the people who know students best and can give positive support and guidance.

Remember that it is up to you to ensure you have researched and found all the information you require to ensure the subject options right for you.

THE CORE CURRICULUM AT THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL

We believe that students in Key Stage 4, (Years 9-11) should follow a broad and balanced range of GCSE subjects or equivalent qualifications, so that they acquire certain skills and knowledge that all young people need to cope with situations and experiences that they are likely to come across in the outside world. **The aim is that our Key Stage 4 students can progress their education without closing doors to opportunities in the future.**

Core Curriculum

English

Mathematics

Science

Religious Education

Physical Education

Personal Development (this subject area includes the delivery of citizenship, sex education, careers education and work-related learning)



THE GUIDED CURRICULUM AT THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL

Our approach to the Key Stage 4 curriculum means that students will have a free choice of subjects, but they will be steered towards a certain breadth of subjects depending on their ability levels that will match their potential capability and provide them with sufficient challenge.

Students can opt to study up to an additional 4 subjects

Students aspiring to move onto sixth form and higher education – Our students must study a broad and balanced range of mainly GCSE subjects. These will include two English Baccalaureate subjects that will mainly include a modern foreign language.

Students who may be considering a more vocational further education pathway – Our students will have a wide choice of GCSE and vocational equivalent courses. These will include English Baccalaureate subjects including combined science.

Some selected students will have a reduced choice of GCSE and vocational equivalent courses complemented with timetabled study support periods to ensure they are able to progress well in all their subjects.

Option choices will be provided on individually personalised coloured pathway sheets that will need to be completed and returned by:

FRIDAY 28th JANUARY.



THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE & BEST 8 QUALIFICATIONS

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself but a method of recognising young people's achievements across a range of selected academic subjects. This sits within the government's key measure for student progress & performance across a range of 8 subjects in Pools 1, 2 & 3.

At The John of Gaunt School, all students will complete English, Maths and at least two Sciences. Students will gain the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) if they achieve GCSE passes at grade 4 or above in:

- English
- Mathematics
- Two sciences or combined sciences
- a modern foreign language
- either geography or history
- 2 other subjects

These need to fill the following pools:

Pool 1 (both of these subjects)

- English (English literature will also count)
- Mathematics

Pool 2 (3 GCSEs from)

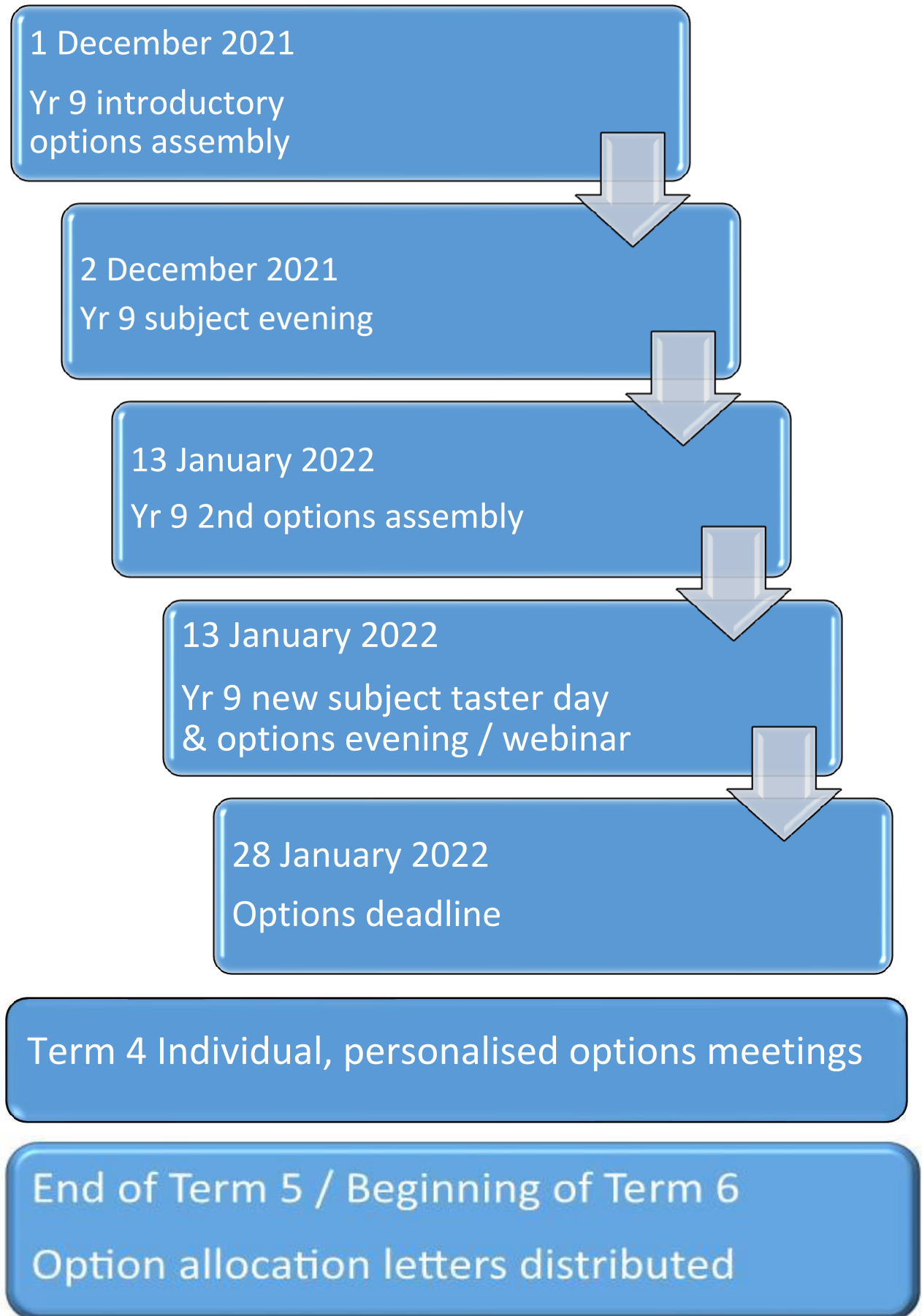
- Double science or separate sciences (computer science is included within the separate sciences) [2 out of the 3 allocated for this pool]
 - A modern foreign language (French or Spanish)
- Or
- History or Geography

Pool 3 (3 qualifications from)

- Any 3 high value qualifications that we offer not used in the pools above

Descriptions of courses of all subjects in the Key Stage 4 curriculum can be found in the next section of the booklet.

KEY DATES FOR THE OPTIONS PROCESS



WHAT TO DO NEXT

- Read the booklet through carefully and discuss it with parents/carers.
- Attend the KS3 into 4 day, when you will be able to hear a presentation about the curriculum that you will be following during Key Stage 4 and also participate in taster sessions of our KS4 subjects that you will not have experienced before. You will also attend two options and careers guidance seminars led by Mr Rhodes and Mrs Ayling, our careers advisor.
- Talk to subject teachers and your tutor; arrange a private meeting with our careers advisor about the best choices for you.
- Decide on the subjects you wish to choose as your main choices and also your TWO reserve choices.
- Complete your choices on the SIMS Options on-line platform by the deadline, 28th January. **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE ON HOW TO USE SIMS OPTIONS ON-LINE IS AT THE BACK OF THIS BOOKLET**

Points to note:

- Options completed after **Friday 28th January** will be considered **after** those handed in by the deadline. This means that if you are late completing your choices you will have less chance of being offered your preferred subjects.
- **Not all subjects will run.** We have deliberately tried to keep our range of subjects as broad as we can and, in the main, students will be given their first choices. However, if a particular subject attracts only a few students those students will be given their reserve choice.

The following pages have descriptions for the various subjects that make up the general curriculum for all students in Key Stage 4.

"The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."

F. Whittemore

Options Careers Advice

Our Careers Adviser, Mrs Lynch, will offer some in-school appointments which Year 9s can self-refer or tutors can highlight any they think would benefit. They can email Mrs Lynch at Alynch@jogschool.org and she will make bookings during week of Monday 17th January and possibly into the following week too if necessary.

Dates for virtual school cloud meetings with parents.

Monday 17th January

10-11am and 2.00-4.00pm – 18 x 10-minute appointments

Wednesday 19th January

10-11am and 2.00-5.00pm – 24 x 10-minute appointments.

GCSE ART

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs N Maguire

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs R Knee

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016/summer-2021-exam->

Course content

The Art GCSE course is aimed at students who enjoy developing their creativity through experimenting with different materials and exploring ways of communicating their views and ideas through art. Students are encouraged to take a personalised approach to their studies and should become increasingly independent as artists over the course. Students are taught to:

- **develop** their ideas through investigations of artists work.
- **refine** their work as it progresses.
- **record** their thoughts, views and feelings through drawing, painting, print-making, sculpture, photography, digital imaging and working in mixed medias.
- **present** finished pieces of work that have been planned and show their understanding of a topic.

How is this course assessed?

The course is taught as units of inter-connected topics that build skills and understanding. The coursework project is started in Year 10 when the candidate must decide what art they will create from a given topic. In Year 11 there is an eight-week examination project that is set by the board (EDEXCEL), with a 10-hour practical exam.

What skills and interests do I need?

1. Creating and producing artwork in a variety of mediums. Completing this for homework.
2. Investigating and discussing art and design.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

6. Your own sketching, colouring pencils and paintbrushes.
7. We aim to organise a trip to London each year for students to view art in a gallery.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

1. A level in Art and Design or Level 3 BTEC in Art and Design.
2. A whole range of art and design jobs in industry.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes

Astronomy

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs Clare

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Lear

Link to the examining board website for full course details: qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/astronomy-2017.html

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. Naked eye Astronomy including planetary motion and Solar System and Celestial observations.
2. Telescopic Astronomy including aided observation will be carried out using the school telescope or the full size, John Moores University's 'Liverpool Telescope', which is situated on the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands which we will use to study stellar evolution, our place in the Galaxy and Cosmology.

How is this course assessed?

2. Paper 1: Naked eye Astronomy (50%)
3. Paper 2: Telescopic Astronomy (50%)

What skills and interests do I need?

If you've ever wanted to study, 'What is out there?': explore the Bay of Rainbows; observe giant gas planets; analyse star nurseries or delve deeply into the chaos of the Universe, then, Astronomy is the course for you.

You will undertake practical observations when studying this qualification and will collect first-hand data whilst making observations, following the same process as professional astronomers.

The Astronomy GCSE is designed to develop your curiosity and enthusiasm for space; encourage an informed interest in current astronomical investigations and discoveries and space exploration. With this knowledge, we will investigate practical contexts, such as, using telescopes and studying theory.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

1. None.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

1. Useful for Science, Physics GCSEs, A-level Chemistry and particularly useful in A-level Physics.
2. Astrophysicist, Cosmologist, Rocket engineer, Pilot (both air and sea) Astrobiologist and

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16? Sadly, there is no A-level Astronomy, but we do study Astrophysics as part of A-level Physics.

NB: See Mr Lear for more details, don't be put off if it sounds too academic, it's all accessible.

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Child Development
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Vocational Education
MRS M LITTLEWORTH

Link to the examining board website for full course details:
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/child-development-level-1-2-j818/>

R018: Health and well-being for child development

This unit provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of parenthood, from pre-conception through antenatal to postnatal care. Students develop an appreciation of the importance of creating the best conditions for a child to thrive. R019: Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years

Students learn about the range of equipment and nutritional and hygiene requirements of children from birth to five years, and they demonstrate in a practical activity how these needs are met to promote a child's development and well-being.

R020: Understand the development of a child from birth to five years

Students investigate the developmental norms of children from birth to five years and develop an understanding of the impact of play on the developmental norms. They apply and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through practical activities.

How is this course assessed?

It is made up of 50% written exam and 50% coursework.

What skills and interests do I need?

You need a genuine interest in the Early Years Sector, for example caring for young children. You should be able to organise yourself well. Enjoying finding out about different people and their diverse needs. Ideally you will enjoy task led activities.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

No specific equipment is needed or trips to attend

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

This is a great course to study if you wish to work with young children. This course is suitable for students who may wish to follow a career in midwifery, teaching or a career in childcare.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

It is not essential to study this at Level 2 but it will make life easier at Level 3, as this will build on much of the work covered on this course.

GCSE Business

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr J Roberts

Link to the examining board website for full course details:
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business-subjects/gcse/business-8132>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Business operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

How is this course assessed? Two examinations will be sat at the end of year 11

Paper 1 = 50% (1hr 45)

Question types: multiple-choice, case study/data response stimuli, extended writing and SPaG.

Paper 2 = 50% (1hr 45)

Question types: multiple-choice, case study/data response stimuli, extended writing and SPaG.

What skills and interests do I need?

You should have a genuine interest in the business environment and the desire to learn more. You will be creative, innovative and proactive in your approach to your studies. You will need to work hard and be able to use a good level of English and Maths to support your learning. Team work in lessons will be essential and you should have strong communication skills.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

We will go on a trip to a large national business and investigate the way that they operate.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

1. The practical and transferable skills learnt in Business open up many opportunities to students who wish to study further after GCSE level, either at school or college.
2. It also opens a lot of doors into employment and apprenticeships.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

No, but you will need to have a good level of both mathematical and English ability as well as an interest in the world of business

GCSE Citizenship

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr M Perraton

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-citizenship-studies-j270-from-2016/>

Course content: The course covers all aspects of life and society as a Citizen of the United Kingdom and the world. The course is split into four sections:

Rights, the law and legal system in England and Wales. This topic examines the rights and responsibilities that a citizen has in terms of the law and the powers of authority in society (the police, magistrates and crown court, the CPS and judiciary). It looks into civil and criminal law and the sanctions which criminals may face. A knowledge of how a court works and how laws are made is also taught. **Democracy and government in the UK and Europe.** This part of the course focuses on the role of local, devolved and national government and the work of parliament. It examines the role of an MP and democratic voting process as a whole as well as The British Constitution at large. **The UK and the wider world.** This part of the course examines the relationship the UK has with Europe and the world at large. **Citizenship in action.** This part of the course allows students to focus and campaign on a variety of local, national and international issues.

How is this course assessed?

Students will face three external exams at the end of year eleven. These three papers will test a student's level of knowledge and understanding on the three core principles of the course: Citizenship in perspective, citizenship in action and our rights and responsibilities in society. Students will be teacher assessed during an active campaign in terms of their planning, organisation, team work and involvement.

What skills and interests do I need?

You need to be interested in the world around you and the part you have to play in it. As part of the course you will be developing the skills needed to research and analyse information and arguments about a particular issue and be able to present your own reasoned point of view taking into account other perspectives. You will develop team work through a practical project and developing an understanding of how to become actively involved in your community to make a difference. A keen interest in current affairs, watching news items and reading newspapers is a must.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

Every year we try to visit The Houses of Parliament to find out about how voting, democracy and decision making happen in The House of Commons and House of Lords. Local politicians, Lords, social workers and the police (as well as other external agencies) visit lessons to aid the teaching and learning of the course. All resources are provided as part of the course.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Citizenship Studies would be particularly useful if you're interested in a career involving Government (local and national); charities (especially those concerned with human rights, international development or environmental issues); law; social care, advisory bodies; the police; the Crown Prosecution Service; community groups; roles within the European Union; teaching; or journalism.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

There is currently not a post sixteen course in Citizenship Studies, however, the course will naturally lead students onto post sixteen courses involving law, government and politics, religious studies and any other humanities based subject/course. It enables young people to make a positive role in society in terms of public and democratic life. Those who study this course can move onto post sixteen courses as informed and active citizens.

GCSE Computer Science

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr Roberts

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. The theory around how computers work.
2. Programming and problem solving.

How is this course assessed?

1. You will have 2 written exams that are each worth 40%.
2. You will have one piece of programming assessment that is worth 20%.

What skills and interests do I need?

1. You should have a keen interest in how computer programs are written.
2. This requires a good level of logical thinking and maths skills.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

You will need to use some free software when you are at home to practice your programming.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

This course will set you up nicely for A Level Computer Science and a job working in any area of IT. Your programming skills will allow you to focus on software development.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

No, but you will need a grade 6 at least at GCSE Maths.

OCR National Level 1/2 Creative iMedia

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr J Roberts

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/creative-imedia-level-1-2-award-certificate-j807-j817/>

Course content

1. RO81- This unit aims to give you the skills to develop pre-production documents for all different types of media products.
2. RO82- This unit aims to give you the skills to develop and create digital graphics.
3. RO85. This unit aims to give you the skills to use the tools and techniques to develop web content that meets industry standards and is appropriate for all audiences
4. RO89- This unit aims to give you the skills to use the tools and techniques to develop digital videos

How is this course assessed?

1. You will have one 1hr 15 minute written paper.
2. You will have 3 other units that is assessed through controlled assessment.

What skills and interests do I need?

1. You will have a keen interest in how to design and create multimedia products for targeted audiences
2. You will have good creative and practical skills.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

All of the equipment you will need will be provided for you.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

This course will give you a number of practical skills that can be applied to any type of job requiring Digital applications and the design of websites and multimedia products.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes

GCSE Design Technology

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr R Kilby

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Course content

This course is ideally suited to students who enjoy and are inspired by the possibilities of designing and developing products that can solve real world problems. Through mini-projects you will learn new skills in problem solving and designing. You will then have the opportunity to realise and develop your ideas using different manufacturing techniques through computer design and practical hands on making.

Design Technology is a subject area which requires the application of knowledge and understanding to evaluate and developing ideas through planning and manufacturing products. You will learn about iconic designers and products, by investigate what made them so successful.

You will explore a range of materials including modern 'smart materials' and how they can be manipulated to manufacture novel and successful products.

7. Examine design processes and the implications for manufacture
8. Test your own creativity.
9. Study environmental implications of working with these materials
10. Thinking about how products can be manufactured in the 'real-world' using modern computer-aided-manufacture techniques.

How is this course assessed?

- Unit 1: 2-hour theory written exam worth 50% of GCSE
- Unit 2: Design and Make project, worth 50% of GCSE undertaken over approximately 45 hours of classroom time.

What skills and interests do I need?

This course is perfect for *creative thinkers* who also have good practical skills and enjoy Design and Technology. The course requires excellent *planning* skills, *problem solving* and *perseverance*. Drawing and computer skills will help you to present your ideas clearly.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

All the usual equipment for school, including an A3 folder to store work when taking it home.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Design Technology is relevant to all design related careers including Product Design, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, architecture, Construction, and any technical engineering based subject or career.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16? Yes

GCSE Drama

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs N Maguire

Subject Teacher: Miss J Regan

Link to the examining board website for full course details:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. Drama is an exciting, fun, creative and challenging course and has been designed to help students meet those challenges.
2. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their interest in acting and live theatre through contact with professional actors and theatre productions.

How is this course assessed?

You will have one written exam that will assess your understanding of Drama.

Your other two units will be based around performance pieces.

What skills and interests do I need?

You need to be confident, committed and well organised as well as being open to learn new things and try out new ideas.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

There will be trips organised to go and see theatre productions which the exam is based on so it is compulsory to attend these trips.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Many students who study GCSE Drama progress on to study BTEC Performing Arts.

This course also leads on well to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes, it will help to give you the confidence and understanding to have studied Drama at GCSE level.

ENGINEERING

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr R Kilby

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr R Kilby

[Link to the examining board website for full course details: WJEC Technical award level 1 and 2](#)

Course content

Engineering Level 1 / 2 Award provides a more practical alternative to GCSE 3D Design. The qualification is based around the world of engineering and aims to introduce students to the various strands available within the field. The qualification offers students the chance to develop knowledge, skills and understanding through tasks set in a realistic work-related context.

The course is designed around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning. This mirrors work-related activities in the engineering industry and allows learning to take place in a range of contexts. This approach also enables learners to apply and extend their learning.

How is this course assessed?

The qualification consists of three mandatory units.

- 1, Engineering Design:- looking at an existing problems within engineering and then redesign a new solution to a problem. This is set as a piece of controlled assessment.
- 2, Producing Engineering Products:- this is set as a piece of practical controlled assessment focused on make an engineered product.
- 3, Solving engineering Problems:- Written paper examination based on engineering practices learned through solving the two controlled assessments.

What skills and interests do I need?

This course is perfect for *creative thinkers* who also have good practical skills and enjoy Design and making. The course requires excellent *planning skills*, *problem solving* and *perseverance*. Drawing and computer skills will help you to present your ideas clearly.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

All the usual equipment for school, including an A3 folder to store work when taking it home.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Engineering is relevant to all design related careers including Product Design, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, architecture, Construction, and any technical engineering based subject or career.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

No

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs G Gilvin

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Foster

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Course content

Paper 1 – 50% - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing - The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves.

Paper 2 – 50% - Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives - The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives.

How is this course assessed?

Paper 1 – written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes based on one single text.

Reading section = 4 questions. Writing Section = 1 extended question.

Paper 2 – written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes based on two linked texts.

Reading section = 4 questions. Writing Section = 1 extended question.

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language – demonstrate speaking and listening skills.

What skills and interests do I need?

You should be interested in investigating and analysing the language you see around you.

You should be able to demonstrate your ability in functional/everyday English, and you will aim to develop these skills further.

You should be keen to experiment with language and try to use it creatively.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

All the usual equipment for school, including several highlighters for analysing texts.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

GCSE English Language is extremely useful for any future course of study and for all career paths.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

All Year 10 students will study GCSE English Language.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs G Gilvin

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Foster

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Course content.

Paper 1 – 40% - Shakespeare and a 19th century novel
Paper 2 – 60% - A modern text and a collection of poetry

How is this course assessed?

Paper 1 – written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on a Shakespeare play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th century novel: students will answer one question on a nineteenth century novel. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Paper 2 – written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes.

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

What skills and interests do I need?

You should be keen to develop your critical and analytical skills

You should be able to think and respond for yourself, communicating personal opinions and interpretations as effectively as possible

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

All the usual equipment for school, including several highlighters for analysing texts. You will need to buy the books we study so that you can make your own notes in them

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

GCSE English Literature is extremely useful for any future course of study and for all career paths.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

All Year 10 students will study GCSE English Literature.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr R Kilby

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs S Beattie

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA Examination Board - www.aqa.org.uk)

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. Food, nutrition and health
 - Macronutrients
 - Micronutrients
 - Nutritional needs and health
2. Food science
 - Cooking of food and heat transfer
 - Functional and chemical properties of food
3. Food safety
 - Food spoilage and contamination
 - Principles of food safety
4. Food choice
 - Factors affecting food choice
 - British and International cuisine
 - Sensory evaluation
 - Food labelling and marketing
5. Food provenance
 - Environmental impact and sustainability of foods
 - Food production and processing

There is also a focus throughout the course on food preparation skills. This covers: practical skills, knife skills, meat, vegetables, fruits and fish preparation. The use of a range of equipment, raising agents, setting mixtures, sauce making, doughs, tenderising and marinating.

How is this course assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes equivalent to 50% of the GCSE

Food investigation Task 1 NEA1 – this is worth 15% of the total GCSE grade

Understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.

Task: Food preparation assessment NEA2 – this is worth 35% of the total GCSE grade

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

You will need to be able to bring in ingredients to cook and prepare a range of different foods, apron, oven dishes, cake tins, quiche tins, pie dishes and containers with lids.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification

1. **Courses:** Food preparation and Nutrition leads directly onto A Level Courses in Food Technology, BTEC Food Hygiene and Catering. Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries.
2. University to study food studies, food science, epidemiology, food media, food business, baking & confectionary science and home economics.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes.

FRENCH

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Ms V Lopez

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms V Lopez

Link to the examining board website for full course details:
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

How is this course assessed?

- Writing exam 25%
 - Speaking exam 25%
 - Listening exam 25%
 - Reading exam 25%
- All exams are sat in May of year 11 and are entered at either Foundation or Higher Tier.

What skills and interests do I need?

- Skills you will need to demonstrate: being organised, determined, resilient, hardworking.
- If you are interested in communication, other people, cultures and countries this will help!

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

- A bilingual dictionary and headphones are both very useful.
- Exchange participation is strongly recommended.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Access to careers involving communication, travel, and working with people will be enhanced with a languages qualification.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes, you will need to achieve at least a grade 5 at Higher Tier at GCSE to be successful at A level.

GEOGRAPHY

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr Gray

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Tuckey

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse>

Course content? Geography is about understanding people and places. It is about investigating and making sense of environmental and social issues at local, national and global levels. The new Geography course explores a wide range of interesting topics:

1. **The Physical Environment** will investigate: Tectonic and Weather Hazards; Ecosystems such as Tropical Rainforests and Deserts; and UK landscapes including Coasts and Rivers.
2. **The Human Environment** will investigate: Urban (city) challenges such as slums; Global Trade and Development issues; and Resource Management challenges such as Food Security.
3. **The Fieldwork Trips** will investigate Physical (Studland) and Human Environment (Bath) topics for class project work. Also, a mystery topical issue, based on pre-release information, will be explored.

How is this course assessed? The Geography course is assessed through three exams in Year 11:

1. **Living with the Physical Environment (Paper 1) = 35% (1.5 hrs)**
Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source interpretation, extended prose and SPaG.
2. **Challenges in the Human Environment (Paper 2) = 35% (1.5 hrs)**
Question types: multiple-choice, source interpretation, short answer, extended prose and SPaG.
3. **Geographical Applications – Skills (Paper 3) = 30% (1.25 hours)**
Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source interpretation, extended prose and SPaG.

What skills and interests do I need?

To **succeed** in Geography, you need to be well behaved, work hard in class, have good attendance, complete homework on time and study regularly. It is a subject which suits students who enjoy learning about the world around them. Also, Geography can help to improve your skills for employment including: effective team working and communication skills; problem solving skills; research and data analysis skills; creative thinking and report writing skills; and becoming active and responsible global citizens.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

You are required to go on at least two Geography fieldwork trips and have a fully stocked pencil case.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Geography helps you into 6th Form and a wealth of careers. A qualification in Geography leads onto any career that involves working with and understanding people. Some examples include: law, tourism; business management; surveying; environmental conservation; landscape architect; research; teaching; urban planning; cartography; engineering; geology; police force; local government officer; politics (Theresa May, a former Prime Minister) and many more. **Geography is a versatile subject.**

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

It is strongly advised you study GCSE Geography, however, consideration will be given to high achievers in EBacc subjects such as History and Science.

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Health and Social Care

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Vocational Education

MRS M LITTLEWORTH

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j801-j811/qualification-at-a-glance/>

R021: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings

Students learn about the rights of individuals and the values of care required when working in a health, social care or early years environment. Through role play and case studies they gain understanding of how to apply these values so that individual's dignity is maintained.

R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings

Students explore different types of communication. They learn about the importance of effective communication to connect individuals using care services and they develop their understanding of how the way they communicate impacts on an individual's care.

R025: Understanding life stages

Students investigate the main changes that occur during each stage of life and how they may affect the care requirements of individuals. They apply the knowledge they have gained to develop appropriate support plans for individuals at different life stages.

R029: Understand the nutrients needed for good health

Students explore the importance of good diet at all life stages. They find out about the key nutrients required for good health from childhood to old age and apply their knowledge in practical situations.

How is this course assessed?

It is made up of 50% written exam and 50% coursework.

What skills and interests do I need?

You need a genuine interest in the Early Years Sector, for example caring for young children. You should be able to organise yourself well. Enjoying finding out about different people and their diverse needs. Ideally you will enjoy task led activities.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

No specific equipment is needed or trips to attend

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

This is a great course to study if you wish to work with young children. This course is suitable for students who may wish to follow a career in midwifery, teaching or a career in childcare.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

It is not essential to study this at Level 2 but it will make life easier at Level 3, as this will build on much of the work covered on this course.

GCSE HISTORY

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr Gray

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Davison

Website: http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867_GCSE2016_L12_History_Web.pdf

Course content? The History course explores a wide range of topics:

1. **Crime & Punishment c1000 to present (Paper 1)** explores the changing natures of crimes / criminal activity, the changing nature of law enforcement / punishment. Special topic- crime and policing in Whitehall & Jack the Ripper.
2. **Superpower Relations & Cold War 1941-1991 / Henry VIII and his Ministers 1509-1540 (Paper 2)** explores USA and USSR relations between 1945-1991 and events which caused friction between the two. The Tudor module addresses the religious and political conflicts during the reign of Henry VIII.
3. **Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941 (Paper 3)** addresses the Tsarist system of government and then examines and evaluates the 1917 Communist revolution and regimes of Lenin and Stalin.

How is this course assessed? The History course is assessed through three exams in Year 11:

1. **Crime & Punishment c1000 to present (Paper 1) = 30% (1 hour 15mins)**
Question types: Describe, evaluate Sources, Comparison, Explain cause, extended essay.
2. **Superpower Relations & Cold War 1941-1991 / Henry VIII and his Ministers 1509-1540 (Paper 2) = 40% (1 hour 45mins)**
Question types: Explain cause and consequence, evaluate importance, extended essay.
3. **Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941 (Paper 3) = 30% (1 hour 20mins)**
Question types: Explain, Infer, evaluate Sources and Interpretations.

What skills and interests do I need?

1. To **succeed** in History you need to be prepared to partake in a great deal of independent study and revision to memorise the facts and details required for the exam. The focus on extended writing makes History an ideal choice for those with skill in writing and literacy.
2. History can help to improve your skills for employment including: persuasive writing, and written and verbal communication skills; research and data analysis skills and understanding key historical issues.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

The annual trip to London focused on the Crime & Punishment and Tudor units is highly recommended.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

History helps you into 6th Form and a wealth of careers. A qualification in History leads onto any career that involves working with and understanding and evaluating the world around us. Some examples include: curating, journalism, politics, research work, Law, advertising, teaching, university lecturing, archaeology, TV or radio presenting, local government officer; management roles and more. The organisational and analytical skills learnt through History GCSE are useful in a diverse number of professions.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

It is strongly advised you study GCSE History, however consideration will be given to high achievers in subjects such as English Literature and Language, Geography or Citizenship.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs A Perks

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs A Perks

Link to the examining board website for full course details:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change
4. Geometry and Measures
5. Statistics and Probability

How is this course assessed?

Three 90-minute papers each 80 marks 2 of these are calculator papers and 1 non calculator at higher or foundation tier

The course is 100% examined without coursework, ISAs and controlled assessment

What skills and interests do I need? This is a compulsory subject which must be taken at KS4, but you will need:

Independence such as in the completion of homework and application of your understanding towards problem solving tasks

Communication and Mathematical reasoning (this includes showing stages to working)

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend? You must have a scientific calculator and a full maths set every lesson

A maths set includes: pen; pencil; ruler; eraser; protractor; pair of compasses and sharpener

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

1. Maths is seen as a clear indicator that you are a logical thinker and it is a required qualification by most employers and higher and further education colleges
2. Post 16 courses which require maths include science, computing, geography, psychology, economics, business and engineering.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16? Yes, to study maths at A and AS level you must achieve a grade 7

A failure to achieve a grade 4 has the requirement that you resit maths post 16, be it at sixth form college or alongside an apprenticeship

SUBJECT: Media Studies

SUBJECT LEADER: Charlie Bray

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/media-studies>

Why choose Media?

Media Studies tests practical and analytical skills, and requires an up-to-date knowledge of how media affects all levels of society in our communication age. From advertising, to movies, to TV dramas, magazines, social networks, media forms shape how we think about and react to the world we live in. It's vital to understand how different media influences our thinking. Increasingly, it's vital to be able to produce our own media texts in order to communicate with others.

Media literacy is key to 21st century success. Even if you don't plan on having a media career, in today's multi-tasking work-environment you will be called on to create videos, marketing copy, promotional images, web pages, and social media posts — and that might just be as part of your search for a job!

How is this course assessed?

Paper 1.

Questions will focus on three areas of the theoretical framework: industries, audiences and representation. There will be a balanced approach to these three areas of the theoretical framework in that Section A will focus on industries and audiences whilst Section B will deal with the representations.

How it's assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 84 marks
- 35% of GCSE

Paper 2.

What's assessed?

Questions will focus on media language and contexts of the media.

Students will be expected to analyse media products both in relation to the theoretical framework and their contexts.

Section A will focus on language and Section B will focus on contexts.

How it's assessed.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

84 marks

35% of GCSE

- 30% of GCSE
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA.

Non-exam assessment: creating a media product

What's assessed?

- Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework.
- Practical skills relating to the media format of their choice.

How it's assessed

A choice of topics related to the over-arching (annually changing) theme

72 marks

30% of GCSE

Assessed by teachers

Moderated by AQA.

What skills and interests do I need?

Media is a contemporary and interactive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, analytical, research, and communication skills, through exploring a range of media forms and perspectives.

It is essential that you have a clear understanding of a wide range of media issues. You will no longer see yourself as just another viewer or listener but begin to question and challenge the way programmes and texts are made. We hope to introduce you to a range of people who have made their career in the industry.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

No

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Journalism, ICT, Sociology, Anthropology, TV and communications, Publishing, Media planner. Multimedia specialist, Programme researcher, broadcasting/film/video, Public relations officer, Runner, broadcasting/film/video, Television/film/video producer.

GCSE Music

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs N Maguire

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs N Maguire

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/gcse/>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

1. You will work on the three areas of listening, performing and composing. Performing and composing is completed as coursework and submitted as recordings which are assessed at the end of the course.

How is this course assessed?

1. One written exam that assess your understanding of the theory of music. (40%)
2. You will have two other units that will require you to compose two pieces of music and perform two pieces of music – one as a solo and one in an ensemble. (60%)

What skills and interests do I need?

1. You need to be able to play an instrument or sing to do this course
2. The ability to be able to work both individually and as part of an ensemble
3. An interest in listening to music
4. An interest in creating your own music.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

1. You will be expected to practice your instrument outside of lesson time and you will have a homework log to check your practise. You will be able to use the school facilities where appropriate. It is advised to have instrumental/vocal lessons however this is not compulsory. You will be encouraged to join one of the extra-curricular groups.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

1. Many students who study GCSE Music progress on to study Music or Music Technology at A Level. You could also study BTEC Music Performance and Music Production.
2. Career wise GCSE Music can lead on to: performing, composing, music education, studio engineering, radio and television, music journalism, music business.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes, a good understanding in music and the ability to play a musical instrument are both important if you wish to study music at post 16. If you are an instrumentalist and have not studied GCSE Music you could still take A Level Music if you are at Grade 5 on your instrument.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr M Perraton

[Link to the examining board website for full course details:](#)

This course does not lead to a qualification. It prepares young people for the personal, social and health issues they may well face in the future.

Course content

The subject covers the following topics: Personal organisation and management, health and safety, personal safety, first aid, sex and relationships education, social awareness, drug abuse, economic literacy and careers guidance.

How is this course assessed?

There are no formal assessments or grades given in PSHE. We promote self-assessments at the end of each topic and encourage students to set themselves measurable targets for the future.

What skills and interests do I need?

The ability to listen to and respect the views of others is important, as is showing tolerance and empathy towards others. Students should relate the topics covered to their own lives and the future ahead of them.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

Every October, year eleven take part in the nationwide 'Safe drive, stay alive' event.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

The subject has no real links but prepares students for the future and the issues they may face. Time is spent on careers guidance and preparing students for life after year school.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

PSHE is studied at sixth form level and throughout college regular occurrence on most educational institutions – careers, drugs and sex and relationships.

GCSE Photography

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs N Maguire

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs R Knee

Link to the examining board website for full course details: www.edexcelonline.com

Course content

The Photography GCSE course is aimed at students who enjoy developing their creativity through experimenting with different photographic set ups and exploring ways of communicating their views and ideas through photography. Students are encouraged to take a personalised approach to their studies and should become increasingly independent as photographers over the course. This course is fully digital and all work is completed on Photoshop. Students are taught to:

- **develop** their ideas through investigations of artists work.
- **refine** their work as it progresses.
- **record** their thoughts, views and feelings through skills such as using the camera in manual, using professional studio lighting, creating short gifs or animations.
- **present** finished pieces of work that link to given topics.

How is this course assessed?

The course is taught as units of inter-connected topics that build skills and understanding. The coursework project is started in Year 10 when the candidate must decide what images they will create from a given topic. In Year 11 there is an eight-week examination project that is set by the board (EDEXCEL), with a 10-hour practical exam.

What skills and interests do I need?

Creating and producing imagery in a variety of ways. Completing this for homework.

Investigating and discussing photography.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

Access to a camera, computer and Photoshop are key for completing homework.

We aim to organise a trip to London each year for students to view art in a gallery.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

A level in Photography or Level 3 BTEC in Art and Design.

A whole range of art and design jobs in industry.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

No

GCSE Religious Studies (full course)

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mr M Perraton

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies>

Course content

Some students in year ten and eleven may work towards achieving the GCSE full course in Religious Studies. This is a whole GCSE. Those entered for the full course take the short course exam, as well as studying the issues of: animal rights, euthanasia, abortion, the environment, capital punishment, poverty, social justice and human rights. Those entered for the full course will need to be aware of these issues and the views of Christian and Muslim believers, as well as establishing their own opinions.

How is this course assessed?

Assessment will be in the form of regular exam style questions in lessons to ensure that target grades are achieved. The GCSE exam will be at the end of year 11 which will lead to a GCSE full course in Religious Studies. Those sitting the full course will sit two exams – the short course and full course.

What skills and interests do I need?

The ability to listen to and respect the views of others is vital as lessons tend to be based on discussions. Showing empathy towards the views of others, both religious and non-religious is important. You will need to establish your views on various moral and philosophical issues and relate them to the views of different Christian denominations and Islamic beliefs.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

No. The course may well involve a visit to a local Church and Mosque to reinforce the learning which takes place in the lesson. Members of our religious community will visit lessons as well.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Students may be able to decide to convert their short course to a full course. This course naturally leads on to studying the-Level qualification in Philosophy & Ethics. A qualification in Religious Studies leads onto any career that involves working with and understanding people. It has particular links with Journalism, Teaching, Counselling, Law, the Prison service, Medicine, the services (like the Police force) and of course careers with a religious emphasis and vocation.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

All students work towards a GCSE (short or full) in Religious Studies. Both are accepted to study the A-Level philosophy and ethics course. It would be an advantage if a student also achieved a good grade in English language due to the nature of the course

Separate sciences

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs S Clare

Deputy Director of Learning: Mr B Pope

KS4 Lead: Miss J Nelson

Link to the examining board website for full course details: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Course content. This course is open to Pathway 1 (Selected & invitational). This option will provide you with three separate GCSE grades- one for Biology, a second for Chemistry and a third for Physics.

BIOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell biology• Organisation• Infection and response• Bioenergetics• Homeostasis and response• Inheritance, variation and evolution• Ecology

CHEMISTRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure and the periodic table• Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter• Quantitative chemistry• Chemical changes• Energy changes• The rate and extent of chemical change• Organic chemistry• Chemical analysis• Chemistry of the atmosphere

PHYSICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Electricity• Particle model of matter• Atomic structure• Forces• Waves• Magnetism and electromagnetism• Space science (physics only)

How is this course assessed?

- Written examinations. All combined science students will sit 6 exam papers of 1hr 45mins each. Biology 1 and 2, Chemistry 1 and 2 and Physics 1 and 2.
- Students must also provide evidence for the completion of a number of required practical activities.

What skills do I need?

- Ability to pose scientific questions and define scientific problems.
- Plan and carry out investigative activities, including appropriate risk management, in a range of contexts.
- Collect, select, process, analyse and interpret both primary and secondary data to provide evidence

Will there be any specific equipment I will need?

- Scientific calculator

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Science opens doors like no other subject. The possibilities are endless! From Astronaut to Zoologist!

For more information on possible careers

<http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-engineering-careers>

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes. This Science course will give a firm foundation to go on to study A-level Science subjects.

SPANISH

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Ms V Lopez

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms V Lopez

Link to the examining board website for full course details:
<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

How is this course assessed?

Writing exam 25%

Speaking exam 25%

Listening exam 25%

Reading exam 25%

All exams are sat in May of year 11 and are entered at either Foundation or Higher Tier.

What skills and interests do I need?

Skills you will need to demonstrate: being organised, determined, resilient, hardworking.

If you are interested in communication, other people, cultures and countries this will help!

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

A bilingual dictionary and headphones are both very useful.

Exchange participation is strongly recommended.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

Access to careers involving communication, travel, and working with people will be enhanced with a languages qualification.

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes, you will need to achieve at least a grade 5 at Higher Tier at GCSE to be successful at A level.

OCR Cambridge National Sports Science

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs Bodman

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Bodman

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j802-j812/>

Course content

The subject covers the following topics:

- Sports Injuries
- Principles of Training
- The body's Response to Physical Activity
- Sports Nutrition

How is this course assessed?

1. 3 internal assessments- coursework based assignments each assessment worth 25% of final grade
2. 1 external assessment- Exam: Sports Injuries 1 hour long worth 25% of final grade

What skills and interests do I need?

The first important aspect of deciding whether this is the course for you is the understanding that **there will be a considerable amount of written work required; it is not just about playing sport!** There needs to be a willingness to take part in a wide range of practical sports also. Therefore, strong organisational skills are required to ensure you have the necessary clothing and equipment. Skills you will develop are Independent research, ICT skills, sport science skills, problem solving, decision making, data interpretation, communication skills, data collection and interpretation. Due to the nature of the course being heavily coursework based, you will need to be able to keep to tight time frames and regularly meet coursework deadlines.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

1. Full PE Kit
2. Practical and Theory based lessons with additional catch up sessions

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

1. Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as Cambridge Technicals, BTEC's or A Levels
2. Sport Science is useful in many ways, as a good preparation for the world of work, for A Levels and University, or simply as an enjoyable and interesting subject. Many jobs require the transferable skills and knowledge learnt through Sport Science. It can also be combined with a whole range of other subjects. Examples of areas of further study and employment are:- Fitness instructor, Personal trainer, Sports coach, PE teacher, Sports therapist, Physiotherapy, Sports development officer, Journalist, Leisure facility manager, Events organiser, Sport psychologist, Sports scientist, Youth development worker to name a few,

Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

1. Desirable but not essential

TEXTILES

FACULTY DIRECTOR OF LEARNING: Mrs N Maguire

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Knee

Link to the examining board website for full course details:

www.edexcelonline.com

Course content

The Textiles GCSE course is aimed at students who enjoy developing their creativity through experimenting with different fabrics and materials and exploring ways of communicating their views and ideas through Textiles. Students are encouraged to take a personalised approach to their studies and should become increasingly independent as artists over the course. Students are taught to:

- **develop** their ideas through investigations of artists and designers work.
- **refine** their work as it progresses.
- **record** their thoughts, views and feelings through fabric dyeing, embroidery, fabric manipulation and fashion design.
- **present** finished pieces of work that have been planned and show their understanding of a topic.

How is this course assessed?

The course is taught as units of inter-connected topics that build skills and understanding. The coursework project is started in Year 10 when the candidate must decide what form of textiles they will create from a given topic. In Year 11 there is an eight-week examination project that is set by the board (EDEXCEL), with a 10-hour practical exam.

What skills and interests do I need?

- Creating and producing textiles work. Completing this for homework.
- Investigating and discussing textiles art and design.

Will there be any specific equipment I will need or trips/visits I will need to attend?

Your own sketching, colouring pencils and paintbrushes.

We aim to organise a trip to London each year for students to view art textiles in a gallery.

What course and career pathways will there be with this qualification?

A level in textiles or Level 3 BTEC in Art and Design.

A whole range of art and design jobs in industry.

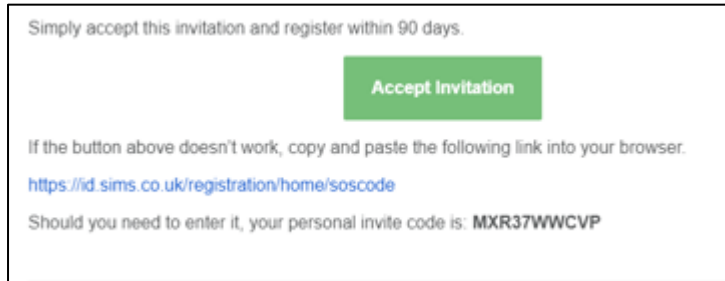
Do I need to study this course at GCSE to study it at Post 16?

Yes

Completing your KS4 Options on-line

Registering /Signing in – Follow these 5 steps to sign in.

Step 1: An email will be sent to you from noreply@sims.co.uk. It will look similar to the one below.



Click on **ACCEPT INVITATION**, or copy the URL provided into a web browser.

Step 2: Enter your school email address. The personal invite code will have been pre-populated for you.

You will be asked to your date of birth and to create a password.

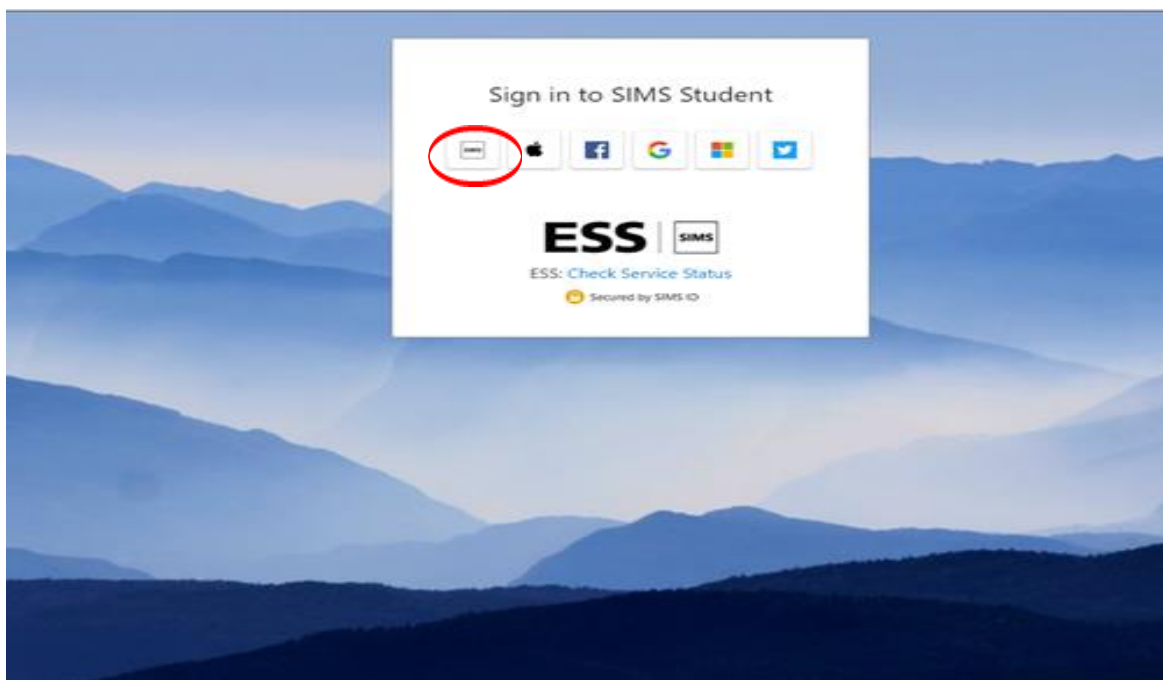
Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.
Please answer the following question.

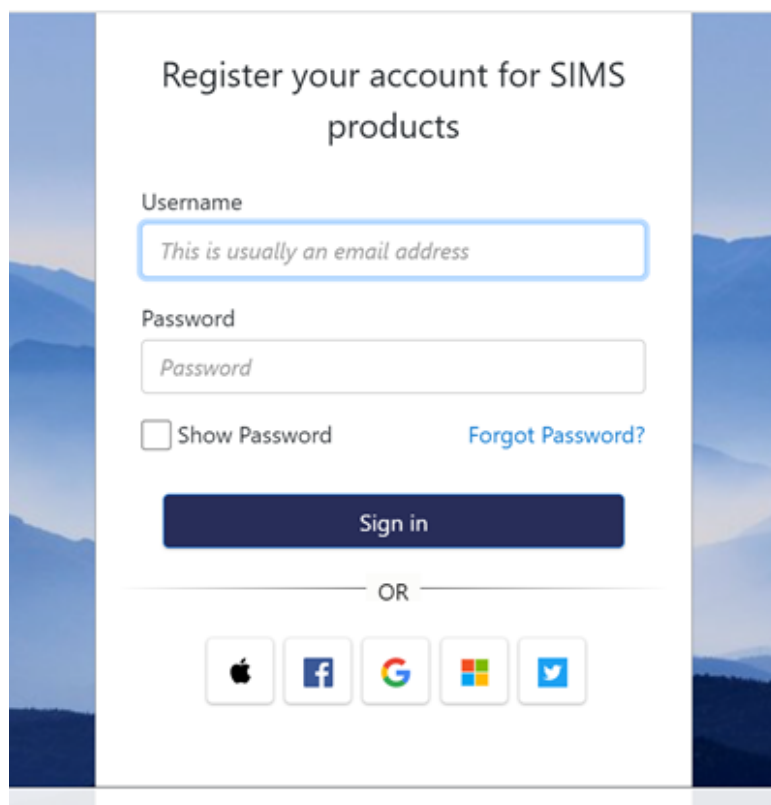
What is your date of birth? (dd/mm/yyyy)

Verify

Step 3: Click on 'Log in' and choose the 'SIMS' icon.

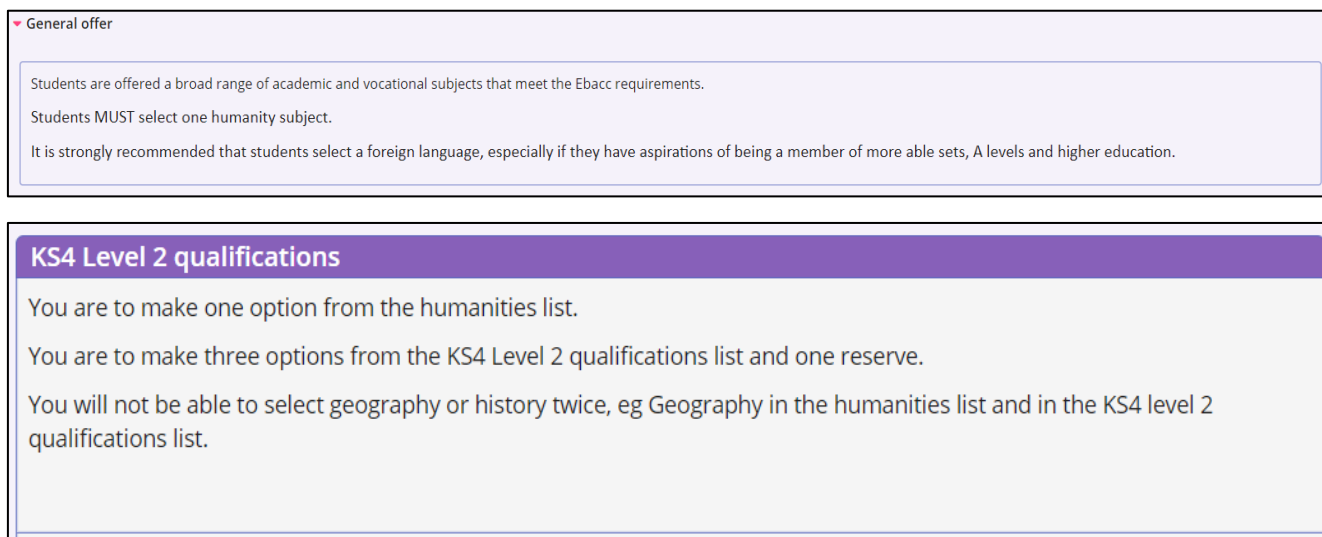


Step 4: Register your account by entering your username (school email address) and password that you have just created.



The image shows a registration form titled "Register your account for SIMS products". It features a "Username" field with a placeholder "This is usually an email address", a "Password" field with a placeholder "Password", and a "Show Password" checkbox. A "Forgot Password?" link is also present. Below these fields is a dark blue "Sign in" button. Underneath the button is an "OR" separator, followed by five social media login icons: Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and Twitter. The form is set against a background of a blue sky and mountains.

Step 5: It is important to read any 'notes' added as this will explain how and what options you can select.



The image shows two sections of a document. The top section is titled "General offer" and contains three lines of text: "Students are offered a broad range of academic and vocational subjects that meet the Ebacc requirements.", "Students MUST select one humanity subject.", and "It is strongly recommended that students select a foreign language, especially if they have aspirations of being a member of more able sets, A levels and higher education." The bottom section is titled "KS4 Level 2 qualifications" and contains three lines of text: "You are to make one option from the humanities list.", "You are to make three options from the KS4 Level 2 qualifications list and one reserve.", and "You will not be able to select geography or history twice, eg Geography in the humanities list and in the KS4 level 2 qualifications list."

Choosing Your Subjects

Now that you have signed in, you can select your options.

- **You may choose ONLY ONE from geography OR history from the HUMANITY LIST (scroll down to the bottom of the page).** You can select the other subject, if you wish from the KS4 Level 2 qualifications list.

Humanities

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list

Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in KS4 Level 2 qualifications</small>	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in KS4 Level 2 qualifications</small>
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- **ONLY THREE SUBJECTS can be chosen and TWO RESERVES (back up) from the KS4 LEVEL 2 QUALIFICATIONS LIST.**

KS4 Level 2 qualifications

You have chosen 3 of 3 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Photography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Textiles GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Astronomy GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Bus.Studs. GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Child Care Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve
Citizenship GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	ComputerSc GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Drama GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Engineering BTEC Award Level 1 & 2	Reserve
Design & Technology GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Food/Nut GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve	Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>You have selected this course in Humanities</small>	Reserve
History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course <small>This course is also available in Humanities</small>	Reserve	Health S C Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve
iMeda Cambridge Nationals Certificate Level 1 & 2	Reserve	Media GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve
Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course	Reserve		

Make your PREFERRED options by:

- clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you would like to do. Subjects you've chosen will be displayed to the right of the screen.

Make your 2 RESERVE options by:

- clicking **ON THE 'Reserve' TAB** to the right of the titled subject tab. Again, your selection will be displayed to the right of the screen.

You can change your mind and change subjects by:

- clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you DON'T want to study
- then clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you wish it to replace

Priority Choices (Total Choices: 1)

Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.

- Geography**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course Humanities

My Choices (Total Choices: 3)

To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- French**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course KS4 Level 2 qualifications
- History**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course KS4 Level 2 qualifications
- Engineering**
BTEC Award Level 1 & 2 KS4 Level 2 qualifications

My Reserves (Total Reserves: 1)

To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.

- Media**
GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course KS4 Level 2 qualifications

The order of preference can be changed by:

- clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you prefer more (including the reserve)
- then clicking **ON THE TITLE** of the subject you wish it to replace
- The system will automatically move the other subjects down a level of preference by default.

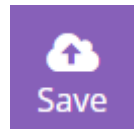
Parental consent is not required as it is expected that parents/carers will have discussed choices with their child and every student will have a personalised interview with a member of the senior leadership team.

Comments MUST be added in the Student Comments field at the bottom of the page, explaining your reasons for selecting your subjects. These should be based around your affinity for the subjects, your ability and your ideas around what you think might be your future study and career pathways, although these are never certain in Yr9.

Student Comments

Add any comments here

When all selections have been made, the choices should be saved by **clicking the 'save' icon** to the top left and then sign out of Options Online.

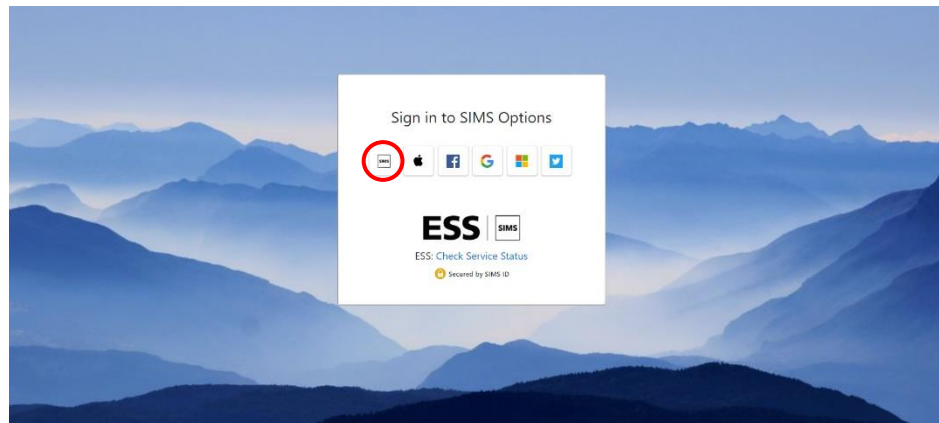


You DO NOT have to send your options they automatically transfer to us when you click save.

Options can be altered up until the deadline date when access will be locked.

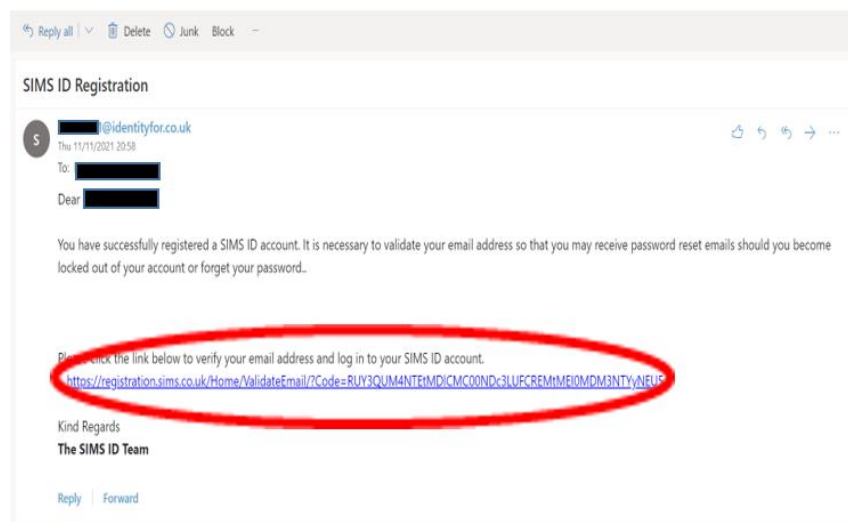
To log back either type in the following into your URL box or search engine box:

Sims-options.co.uk



or use the link sent to you in the 'SIMS ID Registration' email or right click on the following link

**Sign in with
using the
username
email address)
password you
when you
registered.**



**'SIMS'
student
(school
and
created**

Make the alterations you wish to make
REMEMBER TO SAVE after you have made any alterations!

