

Yardleys School

A Specialist Science, Mathematics & ICT College



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

2013 – 2016

Time to make your preferences.....

Year 8 Options & Progress Evening

Thursday 21st March 2013 (5.00pm – 8.00pm)



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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Students will study all of the core subjects plus three subjects chosen from the Optional Subjects.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS

At Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11) all students have to study these core subjects:

ENGLISH

MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE

ICT or Computing

This ensures that all students have a balanced curriculum with the literacy, numeracy and generic ICT skills required for Further Education and the World of Work.

For Parents or Carers, this is a really important time for your son or daughter. They now need to think carefully about the subjects (options) they might want to study for the next few years. In some subjects, there is a large controlled assessment / coursework element. In others, there are terminal examinations only.

Students who complete a qualification to a good standard by the end of year 10 may be offered a range of opportunities to prepare them for further education including additional GCSE's or advanced study. Some students may conduct an independent research project on a subject and topic of their choice. These options will be discussed with students and parents at the beginning of year 11.

By working together, we can make sure that your son or daughter leaves school with the best possible qualifications.

As Parents or Carers, your support and encouragement will be vital over the next three years.

Information evening about the subjects on offer at Key Stage 4 -

Subject Information Evening for Year 8 Students and Parents/Carers

This will take place on Thursday 21st March 2013 in the Main Hall. Please come along between 5.00pm and 8.00pm. There will be a short presentation at 5.10pm prompt by Mr Pohl and Mr Evans (Deputy Headteachers). Subject staff will be available to discuss progress and give information and advice regarding Key Stage 4.

If you need any further help or information please contact: Mr Pohl on 0121 464 6821

MAKING YOUR PREFERENCES - SOME ADVICE

- Remember - you have to study English, Mathematics, Science and ICT (or Computing).
- You will be able to choose **3** optional subjects to study.
- The subjects that you choose will 'open the doors' to future learning pathways and careers. It is vital that you choose wisely, work hard and that you achieve the best grades possible!

Choose the subjects:

1. THAT YOU LIKE

2. THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN

3. THAT 'OPEN THE DOORS' TO FUTURE PATHWAYS & CAREERS

4. THAT YOU THINK YOU WILL DO WELL IN

- **Do not** choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it - you may not be placed in the same group!

REMEMBER

- The qualifications you achieve at KS4 are yours for life! You can use them at any time in your life to get onto a further education course.
- Every grade at examination level is of value. There are lots of different levels of courses to study from 16 onwards. There are college courses to suit everyone (please feel free to discuss post 16 courses with Mrs Price, our Work Related Learning Coordinator, or representatives from our local Colleges and Universities, who will be in attendance during the Evening).

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

When you are reading the information about the different subjects, think about what will suit you.

- Some subjects have lots of controlled assessment - this helps you to gain marks towards your final grade **BUT** you may have to do extra at various times throughout the course in preparation.
- Some subjects require more reading and writing than others.
- Some subjects are more practical than others.
- Some subjects, like Performing Arts, will require you to work with others in groups and even perform to an audience.
- Some subjects may require special skills, for example PE.

**If you need advice - speak to the teacher who teaches you in Year 8.
Or, speak to the staff below for the following areas -**

Art and Design - **Mr Cook**
Business Studies - **Ms Goshal**
Child Development - **Dr Patel**
Computing - **Ms Chauhan**
English - **Ms Stevens**
French / Spanish - **Ms Cuniappen**
Geography - **Mr Porter**
History - **Ms Deakin**
ICT - **Dr Al Daffae**
Media Studies - **Mr Armstead**
Performing Arts - **Ms Wright**
Product Design - **Mr Evans**
Religious Education - **Ms Nullis**
PE - **Mr Holtom**
Triple Science - **Ms Knowles**
Careers / Post 16 advice - **Ms Price**

Option Subjects

Some of these subjects will be new to you and some are an extension of Key Stage 3. Students will choose 3 optional subjects to study in addition to the core subjects. The timetable allocation to each option subject is 3 hours per week.

These subjects will help you to access the wide range of courses on offer in colleges when you leave school.

Student Timetable

All students will have a timetable made up of 25 one hour lessons -

Subject	Weekly Time Allocation (hours)
English	4
Mathematics	4
Core Science	4
ICT or Computing	2
Core PE	2
Option 1	3
Option 2	3
Option 3	3

CORE SUBJECTS

(All students will study these)

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Core Science
- ICT or Computing



English Language and Literature



Science



Maths & Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Double Award**

Examination / Coursework Breakdown

English Language:

Examination: **40%** Controlled Assessment: **60%**

English Literature:

Examination: **75%** Controlled Assessment: **25%**

Course Description

English Language and Literature is a combined GCSE course leading to the award of two GCSE grades. Students have four lessons of English per week.

Students will complete a combination of examinations and controlled assessments staggered over the three year course. Controlled assessments are completed under supervision in school, and have replaced the traditional coursework element of the GCSE. Controlled assessments are not tiered - all students attempt the same task set by the exam board. However, examination entry is tiered: Foundation and Higher papers.

English Literature

Unit 1: 'Understanding Prose' - Examination: 1hr 45 minutes (50%)

Unit 2: 'Understanding Poetry' - Examination: 1hr 45min (25%)

Unit 3: 'Shakespeare and Contemporary Drama' - Controlled Assessment (25%)

English Language

Unit 1: 'English Today' - Controlled Assessment (20%)

Unit 2: 'The Writer's Voice' - Examination: 1hr 45 min (40%)

Unit 3: 'The Spoken Language' - Controlled Assessment (40%)

Benefits

English is a core subject and therefore compulsory for students to study; many college courses require students to achieve a C grade in English Language as standard entry criterion.

Student Voice

"I am so glad I worked hard in Years 9 and 10. I know I need to get a good grade in English to do the course I want at college."

Year 11 student



Mathematics



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award (Double Award for Early Entry Students)**

Examination / Coursework Breakdown

Examination: **100%**

Course Description

All students study *GCSE Mathematics*
Mathematics 1MA0 (Linear)

Examination: 100%

Paper 1 (non-calculator) - 1 hour 45 mins

Paper 2 (calculator) - 1 hour 45 mins

There are 2 levels (tiers) of entry for *Mathematics GCSE*:

Higher - Grades D to A*

Foundation - Grades G to C

Both levels of entries cover the areas of Statistics, Algebra, Geometry and Number.
Each paper assesses the functional elements of mathematics:

- 30-40% on Foundation Tier papers
- 20-30% on Higher Tier papers.

Benefits

- Examination groupings for *GCSE* are based on examination results throughout the year and on Teacher Assessment
- Mathematics at *GCSE* builds on the achievements at KS3
- *GCSE* Mathematics prepares students for A levels and Applied Subjects at College.
- Mathematics *GCSE* is an essential requirement for university entry and most colleges, as well as your career

Student Voice

"Maths is used in all subjects. It's really important!"

"My teachers help me address my weaker areas and how I can improve. 'Mymaths' and 'iamlearning' are really good resources and help me a lot"

Year 11 students



Core Science



Science



Maths & Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Double Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled assessments and examinations in years 1 and 2**

Examination: **75%** Controlled Assessment: **25%**

Course Description

It is expected that all students will gain a minimum of two separate GCSE qualifications in Science.

In year 9 all students will follow a course designed to introduce students to GCSE Science. This course will be used as a solid base for study of GCSE Core Science in year 10 and Additional Science or Additional Applied science in year 11.

In year 10 all students will study Core Science.

In year 11 some students will study *Additional Science* - 75% of the assessment for Additional Science is based on terminal examinations at the end of year 11 along with 25% gained from controlled assessment completed during lesson time.

Some students will study a more vocational course in year 11 and will follow the OCR *Additional Applied Science* specification, where assessment involves 40% terminal examination and 60% coursework or BTEC Applied Science which involves 25% terminal examination and 75% portfolio work.

Students also have the option to study three separate Sciences - Biology, Chemistry and Physics by opting for *Triple Science* as one of their option subjects (see page 25 in this booklet). They will also study an extension course in addition to the Core and Additional Science courses.

Suitability and Benefits

Students need to study science in order to understand the world around them, to be able to use modern scientific applications and technology and to be an informed citizen so they are able to make important decisions about their own health and other scientific issues which affect their everyday lives eg. use of renewable energy sources. Science is required for many careers including hairdressing, electrician, plumber, NHS careers, engineering, construction, food and textiles industries.

Student Voice

"I am really interested in Science and enjoy doing experiments. I want to be an electrician so a good grade in Science at GCSE will get me into college to do this."

Year 10 student



ICT



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **OCR Cambridge National in ICT**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **National Certificate**

Examination / Coursework Breakdown

Exam (One written paper): 25%

Coursework / Portfolio (3 units): 75%

Course Description

This course has been developed to develop learners' skills, knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology functions, environments and operations.

The learners carry out a range of tasks that have been designed to recognize their achievements in a modern, practical way that is relevant to the workplace.

This is a vocational qualification that provides valuable opportunities for students to develop their generic ICT skills.

3 units are center-assessed and externally moderated by OCR. There is a timetabled exam for this qualification. The final qualification and the individual units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*

The National Certificate can lead to a qualification broadly equivalent to 1 GCSE.

Units of work to be completed -

Unit 1	Understanding computer systems	Assessed by one written paper
Unit 2	Using ICT to create business solutions	Internally assessed and externally moderated
Unit 3	Handling data using spreadsheet	Internally assessed and externally moderated
Unit 4	Handling data using database	Internally assessed and externally moderated

Benefits

ICT use is generic and can be applied throughout all areas of life, hence the projects covered within Core ICT will be beneficial to all students.

Student Voice

"I have really enjoyed learning how to use software applications like MS Access and MS Excel. I have learnt how to use them to solve real life problems!"

Year 11 student



Computing



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled assessment in years 9 and 10, a single exam in year 10**

Examination: **40%** Controlled Assessment: **60 %**

Course Description

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. While learners will no doubt already have some knowledge of computers and related areas, the course will give an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on "behind the scenes". As part of this, learners will investigate computer programming. Through this study of computer programming, the course will help learners develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it'll be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

Units of work to be completed -

Unit A451 (40%)	Computer systems and programming
Unit A452 (30%)	Practical investigation
Unit A453 (30%)	Programming project

Suitability and Benefits

Information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If learners want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone.

Learners who have taken a Computing GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject area.

Skills and qualities needed to be successful on this course

- Hard working
- Independent learner
- Good at problem solving
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Mathematical mind

Student Voice

"I really enjoy Computing; it's a great course if you are interested in the technical side of computers. Computing is quite Mathematical so if you enjoy Maths you will certainly enjoy Computing."

Year 10 student

OPTION SUBJECTS

(Three subjects will be studied from this list)

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- French
- Geography
- History
- Media Studies
- Performing Arts
- PE (GCSE)
- Prince's Trust
- Product Design
- Religious Education
- Spanish
- Triple Science



Art and Design



Science



Maths & Computing

Qualification Type: **BTEC Award in Art and Design**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award (broadly equivalent to one GCSE)**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled assessment in years 9/10, externally set exam in years 10/11**

Examination: **25%**

Controlled Assessment and Coursework Portfolio: **75 %**

Course Description

To include -

- Drawing and painting
- Sculpture and 3D work
- Photography
- Printing
- Textile work
- Contextual studies/research into artists and their work.
- The course comprises three units which are marked at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* level
- Enrichment / Extra-curricular opportunities: there are after school art club sessions and students are encouraged to visit art galleries

Suitability and Benefits

- BTEC Art requires you to be able to work independently both at school and at home.
- BTEC art allows and encourages you to work creatively using a range of art materials and techniques. This equips you with a range of artistic skills which transfer to art courses at college.

Student Voice

"Choosing Art as an option is a good idea if you enjoy expressing yourself through colour and imagination. I enjoy using different styles of art to portray my ideas. I enjoy experimenting with materials and techniques."

Year 10 student



Business Studies



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **Applied GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled assessment in years 9/10 and an exam in year 11**

Controlled Assessment: **60%**

Examination: **40%**

Course Description

During the course you will investigate actual businesses and gain an understanding of business finance. It is 'applied' because you use what you learn to understand the businesses you investigate.

You will:

- learn about and understand the world of business
- develop skills in the financial aspects of business
- carry out research, both within and away from the classroom about real businesses
- learn how to work in a team with other members of the class to simulate real life business situations

Unit 1: Investigating How Businesses Work - This unit is an investigation into what business enterprise is all about, including how businesses are organised and how people are involved. It also looks at new issues such as 'ethical' business. You will focus on one local and one national real life business.

Unit 2: Financial Records - This unit focuses on how businesses record financial transactions, make payments and keep records of how they are doing. You will learn about balance sheets, profit and loss accounts and how to use these to understand business performance in a practical context.

Suitability and Benefits

Students will actively engage in the study of business and this will develop them into effective and independent learners. It will allow students to develop and apply their business knowledge and understanding. Students will acquire knowledge to help them become a manager, business owner or a highly trained professional like an accountant or a solicitor. Studying on this course will help learners progress to level 3 qualifications (A levels or equivalents).

Student Voice

"I enjoyed learning about the different parts of a business and understanding the different parts of a website. I also enjoyed doing my own research to find my answers"

Year 10 student



Child Development



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled assessment and coursework in year 9. Exam in year 10/11**

Examination: **40%** Controlled Assessment: **30%** Coursework / Portfolio: **30%**

Course Description

Unit B011: *Child Development Short Tasks* are internally assessed and externally moderated. Students submit **three** short tasks and these form 30% of the total GCSE marks.

Unit B012: *Child Study Task* is internally assessed and externally moderated. Students submit **one** task and this forms 30% of the total GCSE marks. The child to be studied must be aged 0-5 years.

Unit B013: *Principles of Child Development* is externally assessed. This forms 40% of the total of GCSE marks. Questions will cover all aspects of the specification content:

- Family and parenting
- Preparation for pregnancy and birth
- Physical development
- Nutrition and health
- Intellectual, social and emotional development
- Community support

Students must be able to access a child between a new born and 5 years old for their study (perhaps a younger brother or sister, cousin, family friend with a young child etc.). The child must be accessible on a regular basis as you need to carry out a series of observations.

Suitability and Benefits

This subject is suitable for students who wish to work with young children in a variety of early years settings, such as playgroups, nurseries, infant schools, child minding, social workers and paediatric nursing.

Student Voice

"I really enjoy Child Development. I picked as an option because I am hoping to work with young children. The subject is very interesting and opens up to lots of class discussion with my peers and the teacher. I am enjoying carrying out my child studies portfolio. I am studying my little sister, and I feel what I have learnt in the classroom helps me understand my little sister much better."

Year 11 student



French



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled Assessments for Speaking and Writing over years 9, 10 and 11**
Exams in Reading and Listening in the summer of year 11

Examination: **40 %** Controlled Assessment: **60%**

Course Description

French *GCSE* develops upon content studied at Key Stage 3, delving into topical teenage issues.

Content will be covered in an engaging manner, enabling pupils to not only develop a life-long love of language learning, but also progressing linguistic skills and an understanding of grammatical structures.

Students who study a Modern Foreign Language at *GCSE* will grow in confidence and gain a greater understanding of other cultures and of the multi-cultural society in which we live.

Students who have previously taken French *GCSE* have had the opportunity to experience an authentic French restaurant, encountering French cuisine and culture. Students have also had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the culture and language of another country through school organised trips to Paris.

Suitability and Benefits

Students taking a Modern Foreign Language must be hardworking, independent learners who can show resilience and dedication. We recommend that this option will be suitable for you if you are on track to be working at a high level 4 by the end of year 8.

French *GCSE* is regarded as a highly academic subject which is greatly valued by reputable colleges and universities. It would suit and support any career path offering opportunities to work abroad or with foreign companies.

By taking French *GCSE*, you will be working towards the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate demonstrates to colleges and universities that you have studied a variety of challenging academic subjects at KS4.

Student Voice

"French is an amazing subject to pick. It is fun, interesting and very interactive! The lessons are creative and you can learn new things each time. French is a useful subject to have; you can use it whilst travelling and even for jobs. I think French is the best subject I am studying, it's different. You can explore the culture, try out French foods, listen to French music and try out new things."

Year 10 student



Geography



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR Geography B**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **1 Controlled assessment at the start of year 11, 2 exams at the end of year 11**

Examination: **75%** Controlled Assessment: **25%**

Course Description

There are 4 Key Themes in *GCSE Geography* -

1. Population and Settlement

Where people live, why they live there, environmental and social issues and what the future holds.

2. Natural Hazards

The different and dramatic ways the Earth can kill, what happens, why it happens and what, if anything, we can do about it.

3. Rivers and Coasts

A scientific study of the natural world, how our planet works and how people are affecting it for better or for worse.

4. Economic Development

Using material seen earlier in the course, students will complete a **Sustainable Decision Making** exam (25%). They will make real world decisions on how people/countries make their money, how they can affect the human or natural world and who wins or loses out.

Students will also complete 1 controlled assessment, the **Fieldwork Focus** - A practical, fieldwork task based on one of the 4 key themes (25%).

Over the two years there is a minimum of **four fieldtrips**, including a trip to central Birmingham to look at how our city is changing and a day at Middleton Lakes investigating the physical world and the science behind nature.

Suitability and Benefits

Take this subject if:

- You want to know about the world you live in and how it is changing
- You want to go to college - as an academic subject and a part of the E-BAC, both colleges and universities like to see *Geography*
- You want to give your opinions on real world problems and suggest solutions, justifying what you think and why - an important skill!
- This is a practical subject giving many relevant skills including computer and *GIS* skills, data analysis and practical scientific investigation
- You want a career in business management, the financial, environmental or media sectors - the main career routes of *Geography* graduates. This subject provides many transferable skills and abilities that employers are looking for. In 2012 it was the most employable of all degree subjects with 95% of all graduates employed within a year of completion (UCAS)

Student Voice

"I think that choosing *Geography* at *GCSE* is a really good idea because I have experienced a lot of fun so far; learning new things and enjoying what *Geography* is all about. *Geography* is more scientific than I thought so if you enjoy *Science* you will also enjoy *Geography*. Also *Geography* helps you in your other subjects as it improves your ability to enquire, understand, absorb and interpret information with a lot of detail and enjoyment, there are some trips too."

Year 11 student



History



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled assessment to be completed at the start of year 10. 2 exams to be taken at the end of year 11**

Examination: **75%** Controlled Assessment: **25%**

Course Description

In History, students study:

International Relations: This examines how, after the end of the First World War, people were unable to stop the Second World War from happening. Students will learn about The Peace Treaties, The League of Nations and how the Second World War started.

Germany 1918-45: This examines and investigates Hitler's rise to power and what it was like to live in Nazi Germany.

How far did British society change 1939-1975? This examines what life was like for people in Britain, looking at groups like children, women and people who moved to Britain.

How equal was the USA between 1939 and 1970? Looking at the Civil Rights movement as well as Hispanic Americans, women and Native Americans.

Possible trips under consideration for 2013 are: Imperial War Museum (London) and Berlin

Suitability and Benefits

History is a good choice for anyone interested in law, media, medicine, business, sociology or economics.

Student Voice

"History is a highly academic subject in which you learn about things like the struggle for Civil Rights in Twentieth Century America; it never really loses your interest"

"You get to learn about many interesting things such as Germany, which is very engaging. History is one of the well-known subjects and if you put the effort in you will like it a lot."

Year 11 students



Media Studies



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Double Award** (2 GCSE's awarded)

Assessment

Year 9: Introduction to media studies/'Building skills' assignments/Assignment 1 for unit 2 double award GCSE (magazine project).

Year 10: Assignment 2 and 3 (media cross promotion and horror trailer) & Unit 1 exam.

Year 11: Assignment 4 (Fully realised media campaign) and Unit 3 exam.

Examination: **40%**

Coursework / Portfolio: **60%**

Course Description

You will have the opportunity to look at various types of media and how these affect different audiences, studying a range of media including film, TV, radio, magazines, CD's, computer games and the internet.

Students are required to demonstrate a competent range of media skills including pre-production and planning (storyboarding, poster design, scripting etc.) and production skills (moving image, sound editing and finished print productions).

Students will also develop enquiry, critical thinking and decision making skills through consideration of issues that are important, real and relevant to them and to the world they live in.

As part of your coursework portfolio, you will construct your own media productions such as designing a magazine cover (on the subject or interest of your choice), creating your own website and poster design for a TV show and also have the chance to produce your own horror film trailer!

Suitability and Benefits

This subject is suitable for those of you who possess good English and ICT skills, but there are opportunities to incorporate elements of Drama, Photography, English and of course, IT. Media Studies offers you the chance to be imaginative and creative and good ideas will always be rewarded with high marks!

Media Studies is relevant for a wide range of careers as the mass media plays an increasingly important part in everyone's lives. It would benefit you if you are thinking of entering careers such as Business and Marketing, Advertising, Research, Film, TV, Radio, Newspaper/Magazine publishing, Website or Game designing to name just a few.

Student Voice

"The whole class stood and clapped after Sir showed them my horror trailer"

Year 10 student

" Media Studies is great because you can do so many different things"

Year 9 student



Performing Arts

(DANCE, DRAMA or MUSIC)



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **BTEC**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **EDEXCEL**

Qualification Weighting: **Award (broadly equivalent to 1 GCSE)**

Assessment

Schedule: **3 Units – 2 mandatory Performing Arts units and 1 specialist (Dance, Drama or Music) unit**

Examination: **N/A** Controlled Assessment: **25%** Coursework / Portfolio: **75%**

Course Description

Unit 1 Individual Showcase - Externally assessed

- Students learn how to create a letter of application, explore a process and present an audition piece.

Unit 2 Preparation performance and production - Internally assessed

- Students take part in the preparations for a live performance; they will also demonstrate performance or production skills and techniques in a performance

Specialist Unit (Dance, Drama or Music) - Internally assessed

- Students will explore and develop their skills within the specialist area and review own practice
- Students will use these skills within rehearsal and performance

Assessment criteria

Students will be assessed on their ability to participate and demonstrate understanding through vocational work. They can achieve a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Enrichment / Extra-curricular opportunities

Through this course students will have the opportunity to visit backstage areas of some of Birmingham's theatres and attend a variety of Performing Arts shows.

They will also have the opportunity to produce their own show, work with professional performers and deliver workshops to Primary School students.

Suitability and Benefits

Skills and Qualities students needed to be successful on this course

- To enjoy working as a team and to be able to work independently
- To be willing to perform and participate in rehearsals at lunchtime and after school
- To think creatively and imaginatively
- To be organised and manage time effectively

Educational and Career benefits

- The performing part of this course will develop confidence in all areas of life
- Students have to produce and organise a show which will help to develop planning, time management, communication and organisational skills
- If students are thinking of a career in the performing arts, this course is a must!

Student Voice

"Performing Arts has definitely been the highlight of my KS4, giving me a new sense of confidence. It allows me to express myself through Drama, Dance and Music. We are encouraged to work independently as if we were at work. We are given different responsibilities according to our ability to self-manage. I was fortunate enough to be the director of one of our shows that we performed to primary schools. It was fabulous because it gave me the skills of time management, organisation and the difficult job of managing my peers and sometimes managing my teachers! The teachers are amazing and support you all the way through. We also have been able to visit the Hippodrome Theatre in Birmingham and go and see different shows. It is an option that would be highly recommended by our entire Performing Arts Group."

Year 11 student



Physical Education



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE PE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Years 10/11: **60% Practical (4 activities) 40% Theory Exam**

Year 9: Foundation year giving an introduction to the topics of GCSE PE. Unit assessments (Exam) and Practical assessments (AQA GCSE mark scheme)

Course Description

During year 9, students will complete a foundation year comprising of an introduction to theory topics relevant to GCSE PE. They will also take part in practical sessions guiding them towards assessment of their practical ability in relation to GCSE PE mark scheme.

In year 10 students will begin the full GCSE PE course and will complete this in year 11.

Assessment criteria

Students will be assessed in 4 practical areas (including coaching/Officiating) 60% and a theory examination 40%.

Enrichment / Extra-curricular opportunities

- Investigating sporting facilities in the local area
- Visiting primary schools to take sporting workshops and organise tournaments
- Organising inter-house sporting competitions & visiting other sporting events

Suitability and Benefits

Skills and Qualities students needed to be successful on this course

- Keen interest in Physical Education and Sport
- To enjoy working as a team and to be able to work independently
- To be willing to perform and participate in practices at lunchtime & after school
- To think creatively and imaginatively
- To be organised and manage time effectively

Educational and Career benefits

- The performing/leadership part of this course will develop confidence in all areas of life
- Students have to produce and organise a show which will help to develop planning, time management, communication and organisational skills
- If students are thinking of a career as a Physiotherapist, PE teacher, sports journalist, coach, sports official or gym instructor, this is the course is a must!

Student Voice

"I like the fact that my sporting abilities can help me to achieve in this subject. I enjoy the theory lessons as they are to do with sport and current things that are happening such as racism or drugs. I got the chance to meet Premier league Referee Andre Mariner when he came into school. I am also going to Yorkshire with my class to learn rock climbing which will be part of my final grade. This is by far my favourite subject!"

Year 10 student



Prince's Trust

(Certificate in Personal Development and Teamwork)



Science



Maths & Computing

Qualification Type: **QCF**

Qualification Level: **1/2**

Awarding Organisation: **The Prince's Trust**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Coursework/projects based, scheduled throughout the course (see below)**

Coursework/projects: **100%**

Course Description

The course is designed to enable young people to develop their personal skills and qualities such as confidence, leadership and problem solving. These are taught through a series of projects and challenges, with an emphasis on teamwork within the school and local community. Pupils will receive guidance on job application procedures such as writing a letter or CV, completing forms and practising interview skills. It is also an opportunity for pupils to try a range of new experiences and skills, all of which can enhance their CV.

Course Content:

The main topics studies include: -

- Developing interpersonal skills
- Cooking and healthy eating
- Preparation for work
- Improving skills for study & revision
- Teamwork skills
- Enterprise project

Suitability and Benefits

This course is suitable for pupils who want or need to develop a range of practical life skills alongside more academic qualifications.

Student Voice

"I have really enjoyed the different activities that we have done on this course."

"This course is very good at helping you learn new skills such as how to apply for jobs or college."

Year 11 students



Product Design



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **WJEC**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Skills building in years 9/10. Examination and Controlled Assessment in year 11**

Examination: **40%** Controlled Assessment: **60%**

Course Description

A course in Product Design allows students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. Product design involves combining skills, knowledge and understanding in order to be able to make good quality products.

The units covered include projects which:-

- Developing planning and communicating ideas
- Product analysis
- Sustainability
- Professional designers
- Manufactured processes
- Materials and components
- Tools equipment and making
- ICT, CAD, CAM
- Evaluation

The exam in year 2 complements the coursework which involves a 30 hour design and making controlled assessment project.

Suitability and Benefits

- This course is suitable for any student who enjoys designing and making using woods, metals and plastics. The specification builds on the Programme of Study for Design and Technology at Key stage 3.
- Students could consider further developing these skills to study Product Design to A/S or A level at a college of further education.
- Careers leading from this subject include Engineering, Architecture and Product Design.

Student Voice

"The course allows you to build loads of skills in designing and making. I not only developed my use of various hand tools, but I also learnt how to use the new CAD/CAM equipment."

Year 10 student



Religious Education



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **4 x 1 hour exams at the end of year 11**

Examination: **100%**

Course Description

We are a high-achieving department. The Religious Education (R.E.) GCSE is interesting, challenging and fun!

Throughout KS4, students will primarily study the two religions of Islam and Christianity. The Islam units will focus on Islamic beliefs, whereas Christianity will explore a philosophical and ethical approach towards important life issues.

During the course there will be the opportunity to visit a Mosque, as well as have Q&A sessions with people from local faith communities and organisations.

Course Content:

Islam - Basic Beliefs; Special Days; Divisions; Worship; Family Life and Holy Scriptures
Christianity - Responsibility for the Planet; War, Peace and Human Rights; Prejudice and Equality; Human Relationships; Medical Ethics, Poverty and Wealth

Suitability and Benefits

R.E. is a great qualification for any job that involves working with people i.e. doctor, teacher, shop worker or solicitor. R.E. helps learners understand people and allows them to formulate their own beliefs, opinions and to discuss them in an open environment.

R.E. GCSE equips students in essay writing, research, explanation and justification skills. It is especially suitable for anyone who has their own opinion since half of the marks in the exam are awarded for this alone.

If one is prepared to work hard, enjoys expressing his/herself in extended writing and is interested in religion, a GCSE in R.E. is a must for you!

Student Voice

"R.E. is one of my favourite subjects. I get to learn about different religions and ways of life. I have also been on trips. I love R.E.!"

"R.E. is a great option as you get to spend your lessons discussing really important issues. Lessons are fun and you also get to learn lots."

Year 11 students



Spanish



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Controlled Assessments for Speaking and Writing over years 9, 10 and 11**
Exams in Reading and Listening in the summer of year 11

Examination: **40 %** Controlled Assessment: **60%**

Course Description

Spanish *GCSE* develops upon content studied at Key Stage 3, delving into topical teenage issues.

Content will be covered in an engaging manner, enabling students to not only develop a life-long love of language learning, but also progressing linguistic skills and an understanding of grammatical structures.

Students who study a Modern Foreign Language at *GCSE* will grow in confidence and gain a greater understanding of other cultures and of the multi-cultural society in which we live.

Suitability and Benefits

Students taking a Modern Foreign Language must be hardworking, independent learners who can show resilience and dedication. We recommend that this option will be suitable for you if you will be working at a high level 4 by the end of year 8.

Spanish *GCSE* is regarded as a highly academic subject, which is greatly valued by reputable colleges and universities. It would suit and support any career path offering opportunities to work abroad or with foreign companies.

By taking Spanish *GCSE*, you will be working towards the English Baccalaureate. The English Baccalaureate demonstrates to colleges and universities that you have studied a variety of challenging academic subjects at KS4.

Student Voice

"Everyone says that knowing another language is fun and useful. It's true! You get the chance to talk about your hobbies and what you did on the weekend in a whole new language. By choosing this option, I guarantee it will help with your other lessons. You acquire English skills, become more confident and get the opportunity to look at the world from a whole new perspective."

Year 11 student



Triple Science



Science



Maths &
Computing

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Triple Award (3 separate GCSE grades)**

Assessment

Schedule: **Examinations and controlled assessments at the end of each year**

Examination: **75%** Controlled Assessment: **25%**

Course Description

Triple science leads to three separate GCSE awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students who choose this option will study science for seven periods per week in years 9 and 10 and eight periods in year 11.

Students will study Core Science, Additional Science and Extension Units as shown in the table below:

Core Science	Additional Science	Extension Units	
Unit B1	Unit B2	Unit B3	GCSE Biology
Unit C1	Unit C2	Unit C1	GCSE Chemistry
Unit P1	Unit P2	Unit P3	GCSE Physics

Triple scientists will have the opportunity to undergo some field work and visit the University of Birmingham and the Physics Factory during the course.

Suitability and Benefits

This option is particularly suitable for those students who know that they want to study two or three Science subjects at Advanced Level.

Students interested in careers such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Engineering, Research Science and many other scientific careers will benefit from following the Triple Science course.

Student Voice

"I think that choosing Triple Science in your options is very good because it is really interesting to learn about our world and ourselves. It can also open a lot of doors for you in your future career such as medicine, research and engineering. Sometimes the lessons are hard but they are really easy to understand once you have got your head around it and at other times the lessons are really fun and enjoyable with experiments and learning new, interesting things."

Year 10 student

Preferences Form

(2013)

The option form can be downloaded from this link -

<http://www.yardleys-vle.com/mod/resource/view.php?id=1265>

(Please copy and paste in to your browser)