

GCSE

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

BOOKLET 2025

THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

*PRESENTATION
BEGINS AT 4.00PM
IN THE MAIN HALL*

**TUESDAY
8TH APRIL 2025
4.00PM – 5.30PM**

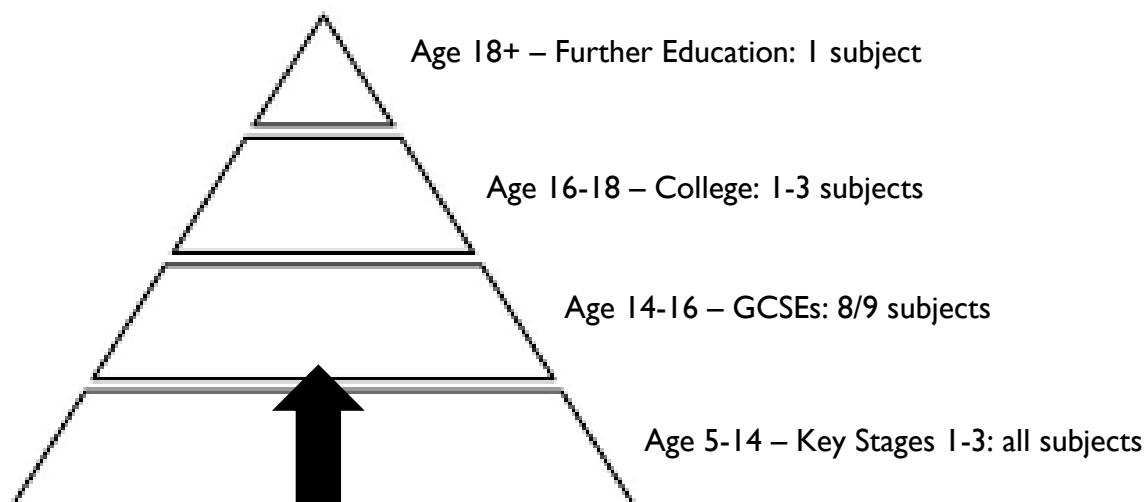


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Overview

As illustrated in the diagram below, in the next few months your child will be embarking on the next stage of their educational journey, as together with yourselves and with support from us at school, they will be making some decisions about what they will be studying at GCSE from September.



The purpose of this booklet is to provide information and support about that process. It will cover information about both core subjects, what students have to study, and option subjects, what they can choose to study. For each subject there is an overview of the course and links to future study and employment. We encourage you and your child to read the information for all the subjects and consider each of them as an option, as: there are subjects that they have not studied before, such as Business Studies, iMedia, Photography and Sports Science; subjects that include coursework, others where assessment is solely exam-based; and subjects with certain pre-requisites, such as a commitment to bring in ingredients for Hospitality and Catering.

Because of the importance, and in recognising the volume of information and amount of choice, we are holding an **Options Evening on Tuesday 8th April from 4pm to 5.30pm** where you and your child can come to learn more by speaking to and asking questions of the leaders of option subjects. There will also be an opportunity to talk with post-16 providers, which may help to inform what subjects you decide upon with your child.

Subjects

Core

At GCSE, certain subjects are compulsory and **all students** must study them. They are:

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science** – most students will study Triple Science here at Yardleys with Biology, Chemistry and Physics separated out into three separate GCSEs. A small number will study Combined Science, which, while involves the study of all three sciences, is two GCSEs (instead of three).

Furthermore, it is also compulsory for **all students** to continue to receive an education in:

- **PE**
- **Personal Development (PD)**

We also pride ourselves at Yardleys on educating the ‘whole child’, which continues with participation in our **Guided Reading (GR)** and **Enrichment** programmes of study for **all students**.

Options

Then, further to the above, your child will study **three from**:

- **Art**
- **Business Studies**
- **Computer Science**
- **Digital Information Technology**
- **Drama**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Hospitality and Catering**
- **iMedia**
- **Music**
- **Photography**
- **Religious Studies**
- **Spanish**
- **Sports Science**
- **Statistics**

All this combines to form a timetable comprising 26 lessons a week:

Subject	Weekly Lesson Allocation
Core	
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	6
PE	2
Enrichment	1
Option	
Option 1	3
Option 2	3
Option 3	3

GR and PD is timetabled during form time.

Options Choosing Process

From the list of option subjects you will be asked to select 3 choices and 2 reserves, 5 choices in total (see page 32 for instructions on how to do so). All choices should be in priority order, i.e. 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice and then 1st Reserve (R) and 2nd Reserve (SR).

- Art*
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Digital Information Technology
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality and Catering
- iMedia
- Music
- Photography*
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sports Science
- Statistics



1st Choice
2nd Choice
3rd Choice

1st Reserve
2nd Reserve

*Because Art and Photography are the same course code, both cannot be chosen.

NB Please note that while every effort is made to ensure each student has their 3 choices, reserves may be used, as in some subjects space is limited with only one or two groups able to run (because of resourcing, i.e. staffing and rooming).

Choices must be made by 9am Friday 11th April

Advice



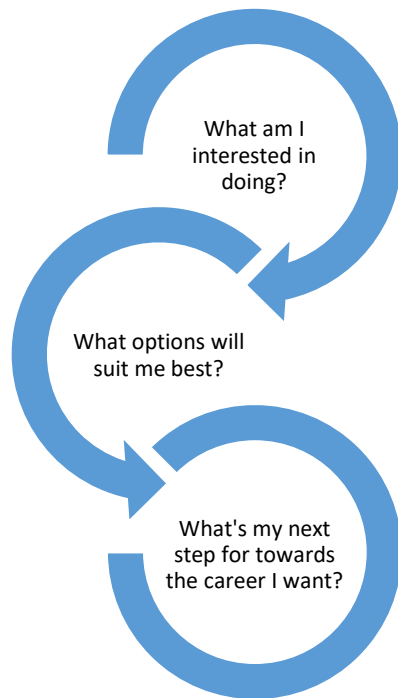
- ✓ Be **engaged and active** in deciding what subjects to choose:
 - Read the information pages for each of the subjects in this booklet.
 - Come to the Options Evening.
 - Speak to and ask questions of parents, older siblings, subject leaders and others at school who have knowledge, experience or a vested interest in the process.
- ✓ **Subject requirements:**
 - Is there a coursework component?
 - Are there practical components or expectations?
 - Level of literacy and numeracy? All subjects have reading and writing, but for some, the demands may be more and higher.
- ✓ What you are **interested in and enjoy**.
- ✓ What you **do well in**.
- ✓ How it may help you in the **future**, in terms of further study and employment.
- ✓ Consider **balance** across your choices. You may want to choose a subject from the Arts, such as Art, Photography, Drama or Music, or a Language, i.e. French or Spanish, to give you a range of knowledge and skills, something that is important and valued in further study and future employment.
- ✓ **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)**: while not a separate qualification, is a recognised combination of subjects deemed of importance. Of your three choices:
 - 1 must be History or Geography.
 - 1 must be French or Spanish.
 - The 3rd choice can be any subject.

Do not choose a subject because:

- ✗ Of friends – it is your education and future, not theirs, and anyway, you may not be in the same class.
- ✗ Of a teacher – you may not have them.
- ✗ You think it will be easy – there are no easy GCSEs.

Careers

Here at Yardleys School each student will receive a careers interview from a highly trained Careers Advisor in Year 9 (to ensure they have any relevant information before their option choices are made) and within their last year at school (to ensure they are prepared and aware of their Post 16 options).



During these interviews the students are encouraged to explore the topics in the highlighted pathway, which then in turn encourages them to set aspirational career goals.

The interviews are delivered at key points along their academic journey to allow students to develop their understanding of possible careers early on and also to revisit the topic once they develop a wider understanding of world around them.

Having these interviews twice also helps to improve their drive and determination to do well, setting them up for a career they feel passionate about.

Furthermore, to help students and parents have meaningful conversations about the wide range of opportunities we have have our online careers platform called Unifrog.

unifrog

Unifrog brings all the available careers information into one single, impartial, user-friendly platform that helps students to make the best choices. The platform allows students to explore their interests, research up to date Labour Market Information and develop the skills needed to be successful in their chosen fields.

Students can log onto Unifrog using their school email address and support on how to do this can be found on the student careers information page on the VLE.

CORE SUBJECTS

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science
PE
Personal Development
Enrichment
Guided Reading

PE

Students will continue to have the opportunity to plan and participate in a regular, frequent and balanced programme of PE that, among other things, contributes to, and helps to sustain, a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will be provided with the skills to be competitive in activities such as basketball, rugby, dance, gymnastics, fitness, striking and fielding Games (cricket and rounders) and athletics.

Personal Development

Students in Key Stage 4 will continue the school's Personal Development programme in which they will develop their knowledge in preparation for succeeding in their future life. Yardleys' Personal Development programme has been created to ensure that all students are given a curriculum covering and going beyond the national expectation for PSHE, RE, RSE and Citizenship throughout Key Stage 4. The themes they will look at follow on from the Key Stage 3 knowledge they have developed and are sequenced to ensure topics become more challenging and appropriate for their age. This includes: physical health, mental health, sexual health, relationships, democracy, British values and the law and finally careers. The curriculum is designed to develop an understanding of the ever-changing world in which we live, develop the skills necessary to take an active role in their community and manage their life effectively in the future.

Enrichment

Students also continue participation in the school's Enrichment programme, a weekly lesson where they get the opportunity to explore a wide range of activities from knitting and pottery to coding and chess, from combat sports and badminton to DofE and eco-warriors. There are four blocks – Physical, Mental, Creative and Community – with students following a pathway through each during their five years at Yardleys.

Guided Reading

All students in Key Stage 4 will continue to follow the schools Guided Reading programme, where they start off their morning reading together as a tutor group. The texts they read have been selected both to expose students to a wider vocabulary, but also to widen their experience and provide them with access to unfamiliar ideas and settings. The texts are sequenced to ensure that they become more challenging as a student progress through school, both in the demands of reading, but also the subject matter. The sessions aim to develop both the comprehension and inference skills of students, enabling them to comfortably read and understand any text they are presented with, however, we also want to increase their cultural capital and ensure that all students have been exposed to great works of both fiction and non-fiction.

English Language

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

(please note this is separate to English Literature)

Famous names who studied English

John Legend: the Grammy winning R&B singer and musician first studied English and Creative Writing.

Steven Spielberg: one of the most famous film producers and directors first graduated with a degree in English Language.

English Language and Careers

Publisher: Publishers are responsible for the overall quality of a publication, whether that be a book, newspaper, journal, magazine or website. **UK annual median: £36,122**

Speech and Language Therapist: Speech and language therapists support people who have difficulties communicating vocally, eating, drinking, or swallowing. **UK annual median: £35,932**

Media Researcher: Media researchers look up locations and details, and find interviewees or performers for TV, film, and radio. **UK annual median: £43,402**



Winners of the Young Writers Competition with Mr Warner and Ms Arshad

Enrichment in English

To support the study of English Language, students are encouraged to participate in internal and external writing competitions. Recently, we have run a number of competitions with the Young Writers organisation and have established an in-school debate club.

What students say:

"English is helping me to become a better writer, reader and communicator. We're encouraged to link our work in English to other subjects; my other teachers have even noticed that my grammar is improving and that's definitely because of my English teacher!"

Course Description

Though assessed and awarded separately at GCSE, the English Language and English Literature curriculums are taught alongside one another at Yardleys due the cross over of disciplinary knowledge required to be successful in both GCSEs. In Y10, more time is given over to Literature initially, with Language teaching starting from the Summer Term. However, across the key stage, time for both GCSE courses is equally split.

At KS4, students have four hours of English a week which is supported by a weekly homework task.

In preparation for their English Language examinations, students will examine and create a range of non-fiction texts; compare and contrast a variety of transactional and literary non-fiction texts; and analyse and create their own imaginative fiction texts using their Literature texts and wider reading as inspiration.

To support their learning outside of the classroom, it is of vital importance that students seek opportunities to read and be exposed to good writing; this means reading sophisticated fiction and non-fiction opinion articles, discussing their reading with friends and family and journaling at home to help reflect on what they have read and their ever-developing reactions and opinions to their reading.

Assessment

Students will sit two exam papers in the Summer Term of Y11 and will complete a spoken language endorsement presentation task in class in the Summer Term of Y10.

- **Paper 1 – Fiction and Imaginative Writing (1 hour 45 minutes - 40%).**
This paper is split into two parts with both reading and writing being examined.
 - For the reading element of the paper, students will complete a combination of **short answer** and **extended essay questions** on an unseen 19th century fiction extract. Students will be required to **analyse** and **evaluate** the **language, structure** and **ideas** in the extract.
 - For the writing element, students will be asked to create their own imaginative writing response based on the same theme as the reading extract. **Vocabulary, spelling, punctuation** and **grammar** are assessed in this section of the exam.
- **Paper 2 – Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing (2 hours 5 minutes - 60%)** This paper is split into two parts with both reading and writing being examined.
 - For the reading element of the paper, students will complete a series of **short answer** and **extended essay questions** on two thematically linked, unseen 20th and 21st century non-fiction extracts. Students will be required to **analyse, evaluate** and **compare** the **language, structure** and **ideas** in the texts.
 - For the writing component, students will be asked to create their own transactional writing response based on the same theme as the reading extract. **Vocabulary, spelling, punctuation** and **grammar** are assessed in this section of the exam.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

English is a core subject and therefore compulsory for students to study because of its life-long benefits.

The study of fiction and non-fiction texts in English Language demonstrates effective writing and allows us to delve into a range of themes and issues that are both historically important and extremely relevant to our lives today. Furthermore, by developing students' written and spoken language, we equip students with the transferrable skills needed to be successful in further and higher education and to confidently and accurately express themselves in all aspects of adult life.

English Literature

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

(please note this is separate to English Language)

Famous names who studied English Literature

Emma Watson: As well as starring in the 'Harry Potter' franchise, she graduated with a degree in English Literature from Oxford.

Barack Obama: As well as studying Political Science, the former President also majored in English Literature.

English Literature and Careers

Literary Agent: Literary Agents represent authors by pitching and submitting their books to publishers. **UK annual median: £40,348**

Solicitor: Solicitors advise clients about the law and prepare documents for court cases. In some countries there is no distinction between this and the Barrister role. **UK annual median: £48,580**

Broadcast Journalist: Broadcast journalists research and present documentaries and news shows on TV, radio, and online. **UK annual median: £36,855**



Some of the texts that will be studied

Enrichment in English Literature

To support the study of English Literature, we are constantly exploring opportunities for students to see literature performed and meet with authors to discuss intent.

We have previously run a number of year group visits to see texts like 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Frankenstein' performed.

What students say

"I thoroughly enjoy English Literature as a GCSE as it allows students to be original and preceptive, and promotes individuality and the ability to be critical – all whilst developing an appreciation of Literature."

Course Description

Though assessed and awarded separately at GCSE, the English Language and English Literature curriculums are taught alongside one another at Yardleys due the crossover of disciplinary knowledge required to be successful in both GCSEs. In Y10, more time is given over to Literature initially, with Language teaching starting from the Summer Term. However, across the key stage, time for both GCSE courses is equally split.

At KS4, students have four hours of English a week which is supported by a weekly homework task.

In preparation for their English Literature examinations, students will read and explore four core texts: 'Conflict' Poetry anthology; 'Frankenstein'; 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Animal Farm' and discuss how these texts feed into their prior knowledge of identify, power and conflict from KS3. Alongside the reading and study of these core play, poems and novels, students will be encouraged to engage with satellite texts (both fiction and non-fiction) as they debate the extent to which the lessons we can learn from Literature as still relevant to us today.

To support their learning outside of the classroom, it is of vital importance that students seek opportunities to read and be exposed to good writing; this means reading sophisticated fiction and critical theory, discussing their reading with friends and family and journaling at home to help reflect on what they have read and their ever-developing reactions and opinions to their reading.

Assessment

Students will sit two exam papers in the Summer Term of Y11.

- **Paper 1 – Shakespeare and Post 1914 Drama or Fiction** (1 hour 45 minutes - 50%). This paper is split into two parts examining 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Animal Farm'.
 - In assessment of **'Romeo and Juliet'** students will be asked to **answer two questions about the play**. The first will assess their close reading skills of a short extract and the second will draw on students understanding of the play as a whole as well as social and historical contextual influences.
 - In assessment of **'Animal Farm'** students will answer **one question from a choice of two**. This will again draw on students understanding of the play as a whole as well as social and historical contextual influences. **Vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar are assessed in this section of the exam.**
- **Paper 2 – 19th Century Fiction and Poetry** (2 hours 15 minutes - 50%) This paper is split into two parts examining 'Frankenstein' and poetry.
 - In assessment of **'Frankenstein'** students will be asked to **answer two questions about the novel**. The first will assess their close reading skills of a short extract and the second will draw on students understanding of the novel as a whole.
 - In assessment of **poetry**, students will be asked to answer **two comparison questions**. The first will ask them to compare **two poems they have studied** from the anthology and the second will ask them to compare **two unseen poems**.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

English is a core subject and therefore compulsory for students to study because of its life-long benefits. The study of an array of texts (both in form, genre and time period) allows students to consider the tools of effective storytelling allows us to delve into a range of themes and issues that are both historically important and extremely relevant to our lives today. Furthermore, by developing students' skills of critical analysis, we equip students with the transferrable skills needed to be successful in further and higher education and to confidently and accurately express themselves in all aspects of adult life.

Mathematics

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

"I find maths is hard but it challenges me and I find the process of learning to be enjoyable"

"Maths is not only a subject but teaches us how to deal with real life problems"

"Maths is great because I get to use different skills and methods for one question"

Famous names in Maths

Muhammad ibn Musa al-khwarizmi: author of two of history's great mathematical bestsellers.

Sofia Kovalevskaja: she had written three high-quality research articles-a major result about partial differential equations.

Pythagoras: he owes his standing as the most famous name in maths due to a theorem about right-angled triangles

Maths and Careers

Software Engineer: software engineers apply scientific and mathematical principles in order to create computer software and solve problems **The average annual salary for a software engineer is 50,000.**

Game Designers: you'll design systems that are easily maintainable, expandable and comfortable to use, while injecting fun into the user experience. **The average salary for a game designer is £45,000. As a senior game designer, you could earn up to £85,000.**

Machine Learning Engineer: you'll be responsible for creating programmes and algorithms that enable machines to take actions without being directed. **With experience, this can rise to £40,000 to £60,000, and lead machine learning engineers can earn £90,000.**

Course Description

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three exam papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Students are tested in six topic areas in Maths:

1. Numbers
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rate of change
4. Geometry and measure
5. Probability
6. Statistics

The weighting of the topic areas has been prescribed by Ofqual and is common to all exam boards

Topic area	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability and statistics (Combined)	15	15

Assessment

Students will sit three exam papers in the Summer Term of Year 11. The content of any of the papers are from any part of the specification:

Component	Calculator	Time	Marks
Paper 1	Non-calculator	1 hour, 30 min	80 marks
Paper 2	Calculator	1 hour, 30 min	80 marks
Paper 3	Calculator	1 hour, 30 min	80 marks

Assessment objectives: The exam will assess the following AOs in the context of the content set out in the subject content section

AO1: Use and apply standard techniques

AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically

AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts



238 in the world
42 in the UK
2nd in School
459 points

381 in the world
72 in the UK
1st in School
459 points

157 in the world
31 in the UK
1st in School
500 points

Enrichment in Maths

Students in Maths proudly participate in World Maths Day, NSPCC Number Day and UKMT Junior and Intermediate Maths Challenge.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Maths is a universal language, a powerful tool with the same meaning across the globe. It's not only a core subject which is compulsory for students to study but it's essential for many of your daily tasks. You likely use it every day to perform real-life skills.

The study of Maths has a lot of benefits such as: - improves problem-solving skills function, support logical reasoning and analytical thinking, develops flexible thinking and creativity, improve financial literacy, sharpens your memory and teaches perseverance, commitment and determination.

Science: Biology

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

"Biology is taught by great teachers who are always willing to help us reach our goals"
"Biology is relevant to every aspect of life"

Famous names in Biology

Robert Hook refined the design of the compound microscope around 1665 and published a book titled *Micrographia* which illustrated his findings using the instrument.

James Watson and **Francis Crick** worked out the structure of DNA in 1953.

Charles Darwin is often cited as the greatest biologist in history. His most famous work, *On the Origin of Species*, explains the theory of evolution by natural selection.

Biology and Careers

Dermatologist: Dermatologists diagnose, treat, and help prevent diseases or other conditions of the skin. **UK annual median: £68,614**

Scenes of crime officer: Scenes of crime officers (SOCOs) work with police to collect and record evidence from where a crime took place. **UK annual median: £36,369**

Audiologist: Audiologists work with people who suffer from hearing loss, tinnitus, or have problems with balance. **UK annual median: £39,121**



A pupil using a microscope to observe plant cells.

Enrichment in Biology

Pupils will have a range of enrichment opportunities in Biology such as building a model cell in Year 7 to visits to Aston University to experience a campus experience day.

Course Description

Biology is the scientific study of living organisms. The word 'biology' literally means the study of life. Biology is all about understanding life – the building blocks of life and the variety of life-forms and living organisms. Students will learn how advances in biology have helped scientists do things such as develop better medicines and treatments for diseases, understand how a changing environment and the excess use of fertilisers might affect plants and animals, how selective breeding and genetic engineering can increase the amount of food for a growing human population.

The skills students can learn in biology are transferable and can be applied practically to everyday life.

At KS4, students have two hours of Biology a week which is supported by a weekly online homework. Throughout the Biology course pupils will study 9 topics in total see the table below.

Assessment

Biology consists of two externally-examined papers. Each paper lasts one hour and 45 minutes and these are available at foundation tier (**grades 1-5**) and higher tier (**grades 3-9**). Each paper is worth 50% of the overall grade.

Students must complete all assessments in the same tier. The exam papers will have a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

The Biology course also includes **eight mandatory core practicals**. Students must carry out all eight of the mandatory core practicals.

Paper 1	Paper 2
B1 – Key concepts in Biology	B1 – Key concepts in Biology
B2 – Cells and Control	B6 – Plant structures and their functions
B3 – Genetics	B7 – Animal coordination and Homeostasis
B4 – Natural selection and Genetic modification	B8 – Exchange and transport in animals
B5 – Health, Diseases and Development of Medicines	B9 – Ecosystems and Material cycles

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Students will develop **scientific skills** needed to plan, carry out and evaluate practical experiments safely. Students will work in **small groups** and this help you learn how to **collaborate** with other students, **analyse and evaluate results**.

Students will improve **literacy skills** with tips on how to write longer answers, this will equip them with **the transferrable skills** needed to be successful in college and also will give pupils confidence to express themselves in all aspects of adult life.

Quantifying – One of the most valuable skills needed for science study is the ability to measure accurately.

Predicting will allow students to spot patterns in past experiments or existing evidence (i.e., from the natural world).

Critical Thinking Skills will improve students analytical thinking skills, something that is useful when it comes to problem-solving.

Science: Chemistry

Qualification Type: GCSE

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Qualification Level: 2

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in Chemistry

Dmitri Mendeleev (1834-1907) published the first periodic table.

J. J. Thompson (1856-1940) discovered the existence of electrons in an atom, for which he won the Nobel prize.

Amedeo Avogadro (1776-1856) discovered elements existed in the form of molecules and became the pioneer of Avogadro's law.



Pupils at Yardleys safely exploring fire using methane bubbles

Chemistry and Careers

Pharmacist: Pharmacists give advice on how to use and supply medicines and medical appliances. **UK annual median: £44,583**

Biochemist: Biochemists investigate the chemical processes that take place inside all living things, from viruses and bacteria to people. **UK annual median: £43,376**

Pharmacologist: Pharmacologists research the effects of drugs and other chemical substances on cells, animals, humans, and the environment. **UK annual median: £40,822**

Enrichment in Chemistry

Pupils will have the opportunity to have enrichment activities by guest speakers from the Royal Society of Chemistry.

What students say:

"In Chemistry, the practicals are fun and interesting. The teaching is excellent and we learn so much. Chemistry is amazing!"

Course Description

Chemistry helps students gain an understanding of the world around them, from the micro-level of atoms to the macro-level of how atoms interact with each other in chemical reactions. Chemistry encourages students to question and enquire in order to learn more. We want our students to acquire the chemistry knowledge and skills to meet their academic, practical and "real life" challenges of the future.

We want our students to love Chemistry and become Chemistry experts:

- Build and remember a rich body of fundamental chemistry knowledge.
- Connect this rich body of chemistry knowledge and link it to everyday experiences in the world around them.
- Gain an understanding of chemistry investigations and methodologies and how this has developed our understanding over time.
- Explore the world around them by using this disciplinary knowledge.

Assessment

Chemistry consists of two externally-examined papers. Each paper lasts one hour and 45 minutes and these are available at foundation tier (**grades 1-5**) and higher tier (**grades 3-9**). Each paper is worth 50% of the overall grade.

Students must complete all assessments in the same tier. The exam papers will have a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

Each paper examines the following chemistry topics:

Paper 1	Paper 2
C0 – Formulas and Equations	C0 – Formulas and Equations
C1 – Key Concepts of Chemistry	C1 – Key Concepts of Chemistry
C2 – Matters and Mixtures	C6 – Groups in the Periodic Table
C3 – Chemical Changes	C7 – Rates and Energy Changes
C4 – Extracting Metals and Equilibria	C8 – Fuels and Earth Science
C5 – Triple Chemistry 1	C9 – Triple Chemistry 2

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Teamwork and Collaborative Skills

Working in groups helps you learn how to collaborate with other students, and by so doing, you're more likely to produce accurate results, ready to analyse and evaluate.

Critical Thinking Skills

Thinking critically improves your analytical thinking skills, something that is useful when it comes to problem-solving.

Communication Skills

Sharing and listening to other people's observations and opinions can help with arriving at a conclusion. This will also develop your listening skills.

Attention to Detail

Attention to detail strengths offers you the ability to be more effective and minimize any risk of errors.

Numeracy Skills

There is a mathematical side of Chemistry. An essential skill that can be of great use in future, if well mastered.

Practical Skills

You will carry out risk assessments and carry out practical work safely.

Science: Physics

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in Physics

Isaac Newton developed the theory of gravity and the three laws of motion.

Marie Curie the first woman to win a Nobel prize for early work on radioactivity.

Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen) studied light and is often referred to as the father of modern optics.

Albert Einstein, whose name is often used to mean a clever person. Developed complex ideas around quantum theory and relativity.

Physics and Careers

Medical Physicist: Using physics within a hospital to help diagnose and treat patients. **UK annual median: £41,417**

Electrical Engineer: Plan and oversee the installation of electrical systems, as well as studying new developments in the field. **UK annual median: £50,487**

Meteorologist: Collect information from satellites, radar and other sources to make predictions about the weather. **UK annual median: £43,257**

What students say:

"Physics is useful to explain how the world works, like it makes complicated things seem pretty simple."

Course Description

Physics is the study of matter ('stuff') and how it is affected by forces and energy. It explains how the world works, and why physical things happen, from the very large scale of galaxies and the universe, down to the very small scale of the inside of atoms.

Not only does Physics allow students to explain why many things happen, it also has applications on the cutting-edge of technology - with many of the innovations and inventions of the modern world coming from work done in Physics.

Physics at GCSE is broken down into the following topics:

Paper 1	Paper 2
P1 & P2 - Forces and Motion	P8 - Energy - Forces Doing Work
P3 - Conservation of Energy	P9 - Forces and Their Effects
P4 - Waves	P10 - Current Electricity
P5 - Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum	P11 - Static Electricity
P6 - Radioactivity	P12 - Magnetism and the Motor Effect
P7 - Astronomy	P13 - Electromagnetic Induction
	P14 - Particle Model
	P15 - Forces and Matter

Assessment

Physics consists of two externally-examined papers. Each paper lasts one hour and 45 minutes and these are available at foundation tier (**Grades 1-5**) and higher tier (**Grades 3-9**). Each paper is worth 50% of the overall grade.

Students must complete all assessments in the same tier. The exam papers will have a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

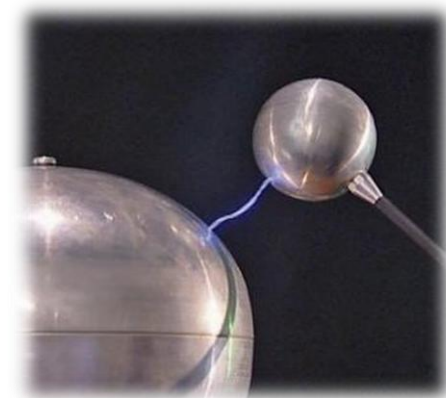
The physics course also includes **eight mandatory core practicals**, Students must carry out all eight of the mandatory core practicals.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Physics is a science dedicated to explaining how the world works, and students benefit from a deeper understanding of the world around them, and the skills gained can be used practically in many environments.

In particular, students will pick up the following skills:

- Critical thinking - being able to think critically through a problem and come up with a solution using logical steps.
- Team work - while doing group tasks and completing practical work.
- Numeracy - considering the numbers around a problem and using maths to help come up with a solution.



Enrichment in Physics

Pupils will have a range of enrichment opportunities in physics. Science club is offered as an enrichment option and some students are visiting the University of Birmingham for a masterclass.

OPTION SUBJECTS

Art
Business Studies
Computer Science
Digital Information Technology
Drama
French
Geography
History
Hospitality and Catering
iMedia
Music
Photography
Religious Studies
Spanish
Sports Science
Statistics

Art

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in Art

- David Hockney
- Frida Kahlo
- Picasso
- Van Gogh
- Gustav Klimt

Careers in Art

Animator: add life to 2D images to produce animation sequences. You'll work in animated films, TV, adverts, games, websites, or music videos, using hand-drawn, traditional, computer-generated imagery (CGI), stop-frame, stop-motion or model animation techniques. **UK annual median: £35,450**

Architect: design new buildings and the spaces around them or working on the restoration and conservation of existing buildings. You'll create designs for clients and you'll oversee building projects from start to finish. **UK annual median: £43,486**

Art Therapist: help people express difficult thoughts and feelings through creative activities. You'll encourage clients to experiment with art techniques and materials like paint, paper and clay. **UK annual median: £29,008**



Enrichment in Art

- Art Therapy
- Learning practical skills

What students say:

"Art is fun and kind of freeing. You can present it in a way that is unique to you and you can find a type of art that you like. I enjoyed working in the style of 'Mark Powell' because it improved my shading in biro."

Course Description

Throughout the GCSE course students will have exposure to different artists and different artistic styles including units on:

- **'Portraiture'** – Here students will learn how to draw accurate portraits, experimenting with a range of media such as pencil, colour pencil, watercolour, acrylic paint and Photoshop.
- **'Macro Fauna'** – Printing techniques are introduced such as mono printing, lino printing and etching. 'Macro Fauna' is continued into the summer term with photography skills and techniques.
- **'Identity'** - This allows students to explore their own identity, characteristics, hobbies, interests and individuality; all of these factors are expressed through the student's artwork.
- **Final Exam Piece** - The final piece is created within a 10-hour period over two days and is based on one of seven titles as identified from the exam board.

Assessment

Each student must select and present a portfolio representative of their course of study. The portfolio must include:

Component 1 – a 'sustained project'/coursework (60%) is developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief with an idea to the realisation of intentions. This will give students the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across their course of study.

Component 2 – final externally set assignment (40%). AQA will provide a separate externally set assignment for each title, each with seven different starting points. Students must select and respond to one starting point from their chosen title.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

- Creativity and imagination
- Drawing, design and modelling skills
- Communication and presentation skills
- IT skills
- A methodical, logical approach
- Analytical skills

Business

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in Business

Deborah Meaden: ran a multimillion-pound family holiday business.

Sara Davies: founder and owner of Crafter's companion.

Emma Grede: founded and CEO of Indendent Talent Brand, also in business with the Kardashians.

Richard Branson: owner of the Virgin group.

Alan Sugar: set up Amstrad.

Bill Gates: co-founder of Microsoft.

Business and Careers

Business Analyst: give strategies to clients and organisations on how to run their business. **Median salary £50,214**

Business development manager: help companies to expand through strategic planning. **Median salary £55,200**

Human resources manager (directors): plan staff policies, advise on company benefits and support the management of employees. **Median salary £52,937**

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the business world, empowering you to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals.

You will be expected to draw on your knowledge and understanding of the subject content to:

- Use business terminology to identify and explain business activity
- Apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- Develop problem solving and decision-making skills relevant to business
- Investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- Make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data

Units studied:

- Business activity
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human Resources

Assessment

GCSE (9–1) Business is assessed across two written examinations.

Component 01 (62.5%)	Business Dynamics 2 hours 100 marks A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all the specification content
Component 02 (37.5%)	Business Considerations 1 hour 30 minutes 60 marks Data response questions covering all the specification content

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

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

Skills and qualities needed to be successful on this course:

- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Independent learner
- Logical approach to problem solving
- Decision making
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Project management skills
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand
- Mathematical mind (percentages, averages, revenue, costs, profit, cash flow forecasts, interpreting graphs, profitability ratios, financial data, marketing data, changes in costs and changes in prices) this totals at least **10%** of the overall marks.

Careers that may be of interest are: Finance, Marketing, Human Resources and Business Management.

Computer Science

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in Computer Science

Mark Zuckerberg: co-founder of Facebook

Bill Gates: co-founder of Microsoft

Tim Berners-Lee: inventor of WWW

Alan Turing: developed the first modern computer

Ada Lovelace: first ever computer programmer

Grace Hopper: invented the first computer compiler

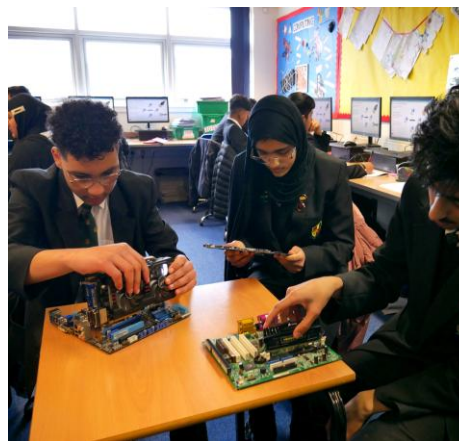
Computer Science and Careers

Computer Games Developer:

Computer games developers design and create games for PCs, consoles, and mobile phones. **Median salary: £45,508**

Cyber Security Analyst: The role of a cyber security analyst is to protect a company's network and systems from cyber-attack. **Median salary: £45,593**

App Developer: App developers design and create apps for phones, computers, or other platforms. **Median salary: £38,732**



Enrichment in Computer Science

- BEBRAS Competition
- Coding competition
- Tech Girls
- AWS GetIT

What students say:

"I really enjoy Computer Science because it is a fun yet challenging subject that included lots of problem solving, logic and digital skills. It also gives me awareness of how technology is changing over time. I recommend this subject because it opens the door to a wide range of opportunities, like both degrees and apprenticeships"

Course Description

Computer Science is relevant to the modern, changing world of computing. It's designed to boost essential computing skills for the 21st century. While students 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".

Units studied:

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural, environmental impacts of digital technology
- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and IDE

Assessment

GCSE (9–1) Computer Science is assessed through two written examinations. Each exam is worth 50%.

Component 01 (50%)	Computer Systems
Component 02 (50%)	Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

Practical programming is a core skill which continues to be a focal point of the GCSE. Students are required to develop programming skills as part of the GCSE. These skills reinforce and support access to the content in the GCSE written examinations.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Students who have taken Computer Science GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at AS Level and A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject area. The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Skills and qualities needed to be successful on this course:

- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Excellent IT skills
- Independent learner
- Logical approach to problem solving
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Mathematical mind
- Project management skills
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand

Digital Information Technology

Qualification Type: BTEC

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

"I really enjoy IT; it is a great course to pick if you like to have control of your learning as this subject allows you to be both independent and creative. We also understand how IT projects are completed in the real world which is very interesting and there is a lot more to IT than people may think."

Famous names in IT

Steve Jobs: co-founder of Apple

Tim Berners-Lee: inventor of WWW

Bill Gates: co-founder of Microsoft

Elon Musk: CEO of Tesla

Ada Lovelace: first ever computer programmer

IT and Careers

IT Systems Architect: IT systems architects help plan, design and build IT systems for clients. **Median salary: £50,396**

IT Project Manager: IT project managers oversee the development and installation of computer hardware and software systems. **Median salary: £48,940**

Information Scientist: Information scientists manage an organisation's information resources and make sure it's all readily available. **Median salary: £46,967**

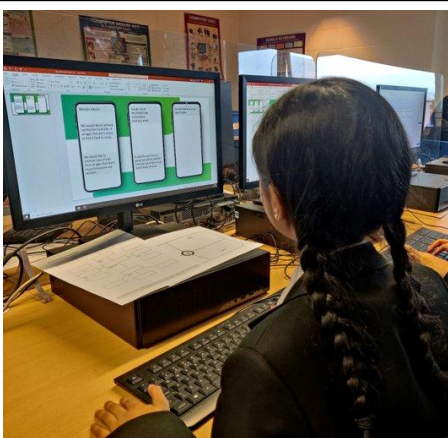
Course Description

The Award gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

1. Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data.
2. Processes that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.
3. Attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication.
4. Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

Assessment

Component	Component Title	Weighting	Assessment
1	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	30%	Controlled assessment
2	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	30%	Controlled assessment
3	Effective Digital Working Practices	40%	90 minute exam



Enrichment in IT

- Bebras Competition
- AWS GetIT program
- GirlsTech
- Coding competitions

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Students who generally achieve at Level 2 might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects.
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships.
- Higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.
- T-Levels.

Skills and qualities needed to be successful on this course:

- Ability to understand complex information and explain it to others.
- Independent learner.
- High level of accuracy and attention to detail.
- Good at problem solving.
- Sticking to deadlines.
- Good written skills.
- Software skills.
- Ability to write down solutions to problem.

Drama

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification Weighting: Single

What students say:

"GCSE Drama is a practical subject in which I can express my thoughts, views feelings and opinions. It allows me to be creative whilst developing so many different skills which has really boosted my confidence"

Famous names in Drama

Ashley Walters: Star of Top Boy and Bulletproof.

Hannah Khalique Brown: starring in the latest Barbie film and ITV Drama's.

Course Description

Our GCSE in Drama provides opportunities for students to understand and create drama as a practical art form. They develop a range of theatrical skills and work collaboratively to generate and communicating ideas and meanings through informed artistic choices.

Assessment

The qualification is made up of three components.

There are two non-exam assessments **(60%)**. These are the practical units.

1. **30% Devised Practical/Written portfolio.** In this piece of work students will use stimuli sources to develop a practical piece for performance. Alongside this they will also provide a written piece of coursework that acts as a log for the process of creating and performing.
2. **30% Presenting and performing text.** Students will select a play text from a number of options, they will then choose two sections of this and perform both to a visiting examiner.

There is one examined assessment **(40%)**. This is the written exam.

3.1 Section A: Performance and response, Set text study, Missing Dan Nolan.

3.2 Section B: Performance and response, Live theatre analysis. Students will analyse a piece of live theatre that they have seen commenting on style and giving their opinions

Theory and practical work will be integrated throughout the course and all texts studied should be explored practically.

Drama and Careers

Marketing: if you work in marketing, communications, or advertising, you'll be using creative ways to sell something or boost the reputation of a brand. That might mean coming up with a social media campaign, writing a press release to share something newsworthy, or filming an advertisement. **UK annual median: £31,262**

Social Media Manager: social media managers monitor and update an organisation's social media channels. **UK annual median: £46,488**

Drama therapist: you'll help clients use their imagination and creativity to increase their confidence and self-esteem. **UK annual median: £34,448**

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

As a subject, Drama provides some of the most transferable skills that you will use in your adult life:

Drama teaches you to work as part of a team. Here you will learn to balance ideas, work with and listen to others, evaluate your work and develop your organisational skills. In adult life, there will be many occasions where you will need to work as part of a team and studying Drama will equip you with these skills.

Drama gives you the confidence to perform and present in front of others. When you go for job, college or university interviews, or lead a presentation at work, studying Drama will provide you with the required skills to communicate and deliver confidently in front of others.

In Drama you will need to improvise on a number of occasions. This allows you to think on your feet and develop your initiative. This will hold you in good stead when it comes to taking initiative and adapting in your future workplaces.



Enrichment in Drama

Drama Club (Monday Lunch time).

Geography

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names who have studied Geography

Prince William: The Prince of Wales

Theresa May: former UK prime minister

Michael Jordan: Greatest NBNA Basketball player of all time

Geography and Careers

Climate Scientist: study changes in the Earth's climate over time and how they might affect the planet in the future. **Earn up to £55,000 per year.**

Environmental Consultant: advise on sustainability, including waste management, recycling, flood risk and the effects of climate change. **Earn up to £43,000 per year.**

Landscape Architect - plan, design and manage the landscapes we live and work in. **Earn up to £43,000 per year.**



Enrichment in Geography

- Human Geography Fieldwork to Curzon Street
- Physical Geography fieldwork to Carding Mill Valley
- Environmental Geography fieldwork to Birmingham Botanical Gardens

What students say:

"Choosing Geography as a GCSE subjects allows you to learn the problems of the world and the solutions people are working on to solve them. Geography is an interesting subject as some of the problems might affect you and you can get a good job helping to solve them"

Course Description

Over the course students will cover lots of interesting topics in three main areas:

Living with the physical environment (Physical Geography)

Discover more about the challenge of natural hazards and the living world, physical landscapes of the United Kingdom and human interaction with them. This unit develops an understanding of the different processes and features in different environments (the science of planet Earth). It provides students with the knowledge about the need for different ways to manage our planet for the future and different ways humans have changed our planet in both positive and negative ways. Students will also look at the challenges of climate change.

Challenges in the human environment (Human Geography)

This unit is all about human processes and how these change across time and place. Students will develop an understanding of the factors that produce a wide variety of human environments; the constantly changing nature of the places where people live and how to safely manage those places for our and our children's future.

Geographical enquiry (Fieldwork skills)

Students are guaranteed a minimum of 3 days of fieldwork to prepare you for the skills exam. These trips include a day in central Birmingham to look at how our city is changing, a day at Carding Mill Valley investigating the physical world and the science behind nature and a day at Birmingham Botanical Gardens – the closest we can get to a tropical rainforest and a hot desert. We also run optional residential trips to different rural areas and are looking at the possibility of field trips abroad.

Assessment

100% exam at the end of Year 11:

- **Paper 1** – 35% (Living with the Physical Environment)
- **Paper 2** – 35% (Challenges in the Human Environment)
- **Paper 3** – 30% (Geographical Enquiry)

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

You have been studying Geography for three years so you already have a solid basis to build your GCSE studies from. We take similar topic areas from KS3 (sustainability, process, development and enquiry) and build on them to deepen and broaden your understanding of the wider world.

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!

You want a career in business management, law, 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 2022 it was the most employable of all degree subjects with 95% of all graduates employed within a year of completion (UCAS).

History

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names who studied History

Joe Biden: American president

Diane Abbott: MP

Salman Rushdie: Author

Shakira: Singer/songwriter

History and Careers

Solicitors advise clients about the law and prepare documents for court cases. Historical skills are a good foundation for a career in law – **up to £68,000 per year.**

Civil service officers manage teams within government departments. You will use the communication skills we develop in history – **up to £68,670 per year.**

Journalists research and write stories or articles for local, regional, and national newspapers – **£43,545 per year.**



Enrichment in History

- Visit to Kenilworth Castle

What students say:

“History is an interesting and fun subject to learn as it gives you a greater understanding as to how History has shaped the world we live in today.”

Course Description

The History GCSE is broken down into 5 topic areas across three papers:

Paper 1 – British History

Migrants in Britain c.1250 – present

Students study the history of migration to Britain, from the medieval period to the present day.

The Elizabethans, 1580-1603

Students look at how Queen Elizabeth I managed to lead a country through a war, challenges to her power and religious threats, as well as the daily life of people in early modern England.

Paper 2 – History Around Us

Kenilworth Castle

Students study the history of Kenilworth Castle, its importance locally and nationally, and how its remains are used today.

Paper 3 – World History

The Mughal Empire, 1526-1707

Students will understand the rise and fall of the different Muslim Mughal Emperors and the successes and failures of their vast empire.

Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945

We look at life under Hitler and the Nazis, how they controlled people's lives, attempts at opposition and what life was like during and after the Second World War.

Assessment

The breakdown and timings of the papers are as follows:

- Paper 1 – 40% – 105 minutes
- Paper 2 – 20% – 60 minutes
- Paper 3 – 40% – 105 minutes

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

You have already studied world history at Yardleys for three years before your start your GCSEs, so you are in a perfect position to study in greater depth on certain historical topics.

This course will allow you to:

- Find out more about the past and how it links into the present and future.
- Enter college (especially if you are interested in completing A-Levels).
- Develop your skills of communication, enquiry, research, and argument. These all look good on your CV and to future employers and colleges.
- Start a career path towards law, media, medicine, business, sociology or economics.

Hospitality and Catering

Qualification Type: WJEC Level 1/2

Vocational Award

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: WJEC/EDUQAS

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in Hospitality and Catering

Jamie Oliver: owner of multi restaurants around Britain and nutrition in school's campaigner

Nadiya Hussain: winner of the Great British bake-off and now a tv personality,

Gordon Ramsay: a multi-Michelin starred chef and star of the small screen, who has opened a string of successful restaurants across the globe.

Hospitality and Catering Careers

Catering manager/ Hotel staff Chef/ Cook: you could work in hotels, restaurants, private households, pubs, schools, colleges, cruise ships, the NHS or the armed forces. **Median salary £26K**

Food Scientist: Food scientists and technologists research and experiment with new food-making methods and products, and test food for its safety and quality. **Median salary £37k**

Nutritionist: Nutritionists use their scientific knowledge of food to give information and advice about the effects of diet and nutrition on health and wellbeing. **Median salary £42k**



Enrichment in Catering and Hospitality

We hope to broaden the experience of the subject by taking students on trips to see great courses and also to invite further education providers in to show the huge number of career paths available to students.

What students say:

"There is lots of fun and experimental practical's which allows new learning skills and Techniques in making a variety of foods. The course allows development in understanding nutrition and gives a high knowledge of Catering. I recommend this subject because it opens the doors to lots of jobs in industry and also gives you life skills which will always be used in the future."

Course Description

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Hospitality and Catering equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages students to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. Pupils will also experience an understanding of how the hospitality and catering industry works.

Assessment

Component 1 (40%): enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry, including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes. Externally moderated.

Component 2 (60%): enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively. Internally assessed. Assessment 1: 9 hours. Assessment 2: 3 hours

- **Assessment 1 (9 hours): The Hospitality and Catering industry.** An in depth understanding of the hospitality industry, knowledge on food storage types of staff, menus, types of establishments, star ratings, staff skills and the overall job roles in food industry.
- **Assessment 2 (2-3 hours): Hospitality and Catering in action.** Analyse an assignment brief and recommend one dish for each customer. Assess how the dish meets the nutritional needs of the customer. Explain the impact of cooking methods on the nutritional value of chosen dishes. Analyse and evaluate information, making reasoned judgements and presenting conclusions. Food safety practices. Learners should know, understand and be able to demonstrate how to work safely, follow correct personal and food safety and hygiene practices and procedures in relation to the preparation and cooking of food and use of equipment and facilities should be taught in each practical session.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

By studying Hospitality and Catering students will:

- Be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.
- Understand the job roles and career paths in the hospitality and catering industry.

iMedia

Qualification Type: BTECH

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Pearson

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

"I loved making my own poster and learning about different photographic techniques."

"Media Studies is great because you get to experience what it's like to work in the media."

Famous names in Media

Shahed Ali (former student): owns and runs his own videography/photography company and regularly shoots music videos.

Umer and Zubair Ahmed (former students): are both freelance script writers and have worked on the BBC's 'Man Like Mobeen' show.

iMedia and Careers

Graphic Designer: Designing visuals for various branding and marketing needs. **UK annual median: £31,440.**

Video Editor: Video editors combine sound and images to create film, TV, and online video content. **UK annual median: £25,075**

Camera Operator (TV or film): Camera operators record images for film, television, commercials and online. **UK annual median: £25,075**



Enrichment in iMedia

To support the delivery of the iMedia course and prepare students for their examination, coursework and further education students will be taken to visit Media colleges. Students will also have opportunities to listen to and speak with media professionals via in-school visits and video calls.

Course Description

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

The students sit:

- ONE mandatory CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT EXAM unit in Year 11 (in Exam conditions).
- TWO mandatory CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT units (an essay and a practical project)

All controlled assessments are assessed through a practical task-based assessment within a set Pearson brief.

Assessment

Year 10: Component Exploring media products (essay) / Component 2 Creating a media product for a brief (preparation).

Year 11: Component 2 Creating a media product for a brief / Component 3 Creating a media product for a brief (exam conditions).

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

This subject is suitable for those who possess good English and ICT skills. There are opportunities to incorporate elements of Drama, Photography, English and of course, IT. Media Studies offers the chance to be imaginative and creative and good ideas and inquisitive thinking 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.

MFL – French or Spanish

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names in MFL

One Direction: learnt 20 words of the language before visiting the country on tour.

Tom Daley: Olympic medal winner is fluent in Spanish.

JK Rowling: uses French links in her stories.

MFL and Careers

Human Resources Manager (Also called: HR manager, personnel manager, HR director): managers plan staff policies, advise on company benefits, and support the management of employees. **Median salary: £46,967**

Sociologists: study human society and behaviour. **Median salary: £34,418**

Immigration Officers: make decisions on whether people have the right to visit or stay in the country. **Median salary: £36,369**

Translators: transfer writing from one language into another, making sure the meaning stays the same. **Median salary: £30,076**



Enrichment in MFL

Annual residential visit abroad – see above picture – Barcelona Feb 2023, and Paris 2024.

Teaching MFL at local primary schools.

What students say:

"We also gain an understanding of a different culture which I love and find very interesting. Learning a new language is challenging but Spanish is one of the easiest to learn and comprehend."

Year 10 Student

"One of the things I enjoy the most is the amount of discussions and shared learning involved within learning a language."

Year 11 Student

Course Description

French and Spanish GCSE develops upon content studied at Key Stage 3, delving into topical issues. The three themes are:

Theme 1 – Identity and culture: talking about your family and relationships, technology, cinema and free time.

Theme 2 – Local, national, international and global areas of interest: talking about the area you live in and the environment, homelessness and unemployment, and holidays.

Theme 3 – Current and future study and employment: talking about your school, subjects and teachers, and your plans for the future including what job you want and your opinion on university.

Content will be covered in an engaging manner, enabling students to not only develop a life-long love of language learning, but also developing 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 taking a Modern Foreign Language must be hardworking, independent learners who can show resilience and dedication. It 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. It is also one of the subjects included on the EBacc.

Assessment

100% Examination based. There are four exams and each exam will cover all content covered throughout the GCSE course.

- **Paper 1** – Listening (25%)
- **Paper 2** – Speaking (25%)
- **Paper 3** – Reading (25%)
- **Paper 4** – Writing (25%)

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

This course will enable you to develop the following skills:

- Excellent communication skills (Reading comprehension, active listening, writing and speaking with confidence).
- Management and leadership skills.
- Accuracy and attention to detail.
- Good organisation skills and the ability to prioritise.
- The ability to relate to people of all backgrounds and cultures.
- The ability to adapt to different styles and cultures.
- Excellent grammar knowledge in English.

Music

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

"Music gives me confidence to express my ideas and tell the stories I want to tell"
"I like learning about the different cultures that inspired different styles of music"

Famous names in Music

Sir Anthony Hopkins: Not only a great actor, but a composer as well.

John McEnroe: as well as winning Grand Slams, 'Mac' plays guitar!

Music and Careers

Foley Artist: Foley artists are responsible for creating sound effects for film, television and video games. They work with great directors and designers to bring real life or fantastical sounds to the screen. **Median salary: £45,500**

Artist and Repertoire: these creative agents seek out new musical talent to sign up to record labels or publishing deals. They have to be aware of new trends in the industry and what will do well on streaming sites or services. **Median salary: £30,443**

YouTube Music Channel Manager: manage, upload and curate music focussed channels on YouTube to build awareness of your featured artists and styles. **Median salary: £56,298**

Course Description

Music is the universal language that unlocks our emotions and is a central part of world culture.

By studying Music, students will learn the key concepts and ideas that allow composers to manipulate our emotions and give meaning to abstract concepts of melody and rhythm. Students will become performing musicians, understanding their instrument or voice at a deeper level. They will also learn to compose, putting their ideas and themes into original pieces. Music is more than just studying dots on a page: we take an in-depth look at historical and cultural context, developing strong analytical skills that can be applied to a wide range of disciplines.

Assessment

Component 1: Performing 30% - Students will perform two or more pieces lasting for a combined 4-6 minutes on their instrument / voice. in a solo and ensemble performance, recorded in Year 11. The standard level for performance is Grade 3. However, students can perform pieces above or below this level with an accompanying mark boost / cap.

Component 2: Composing 30% - Students will compose two pieces of music, lasting a combined 3-4 minutes, one to a brief set by Eduqas and one to a free brief of their choice. Students will compose their free choice composition in Year 10 and the Eduqas brief composition in Year 11. Compositions will either be composed using Garage band, Logic or Sibelius.

Component 3: Appraising 40% - Students will complete a listening examination based on the four areas of study and the two set works. 8 questions test theoretical understanding, 6 are based on unfamiliar listening.



Enrichment in Music

To support your study of music there are many extra-curricular groups to join including Yardleys Instrumental Scholars, Keyboard Clubs, and Guitar and Ukulele club.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

Music is a subject which requires students to have practical and theoretical skills.

Essential:

- Students should be actively playing an instrument or singing, as this is a required component of the course.
- Students should also have an interest in composing or creating their own music, writing chord sequences or lyrics.
- Students should have an open mind about listening to all sorts of different genres and styles of music.

Desirable:

- Students should have an understanding of staff notation systems, however this will be intensively covered at the start of the course.

Photography

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

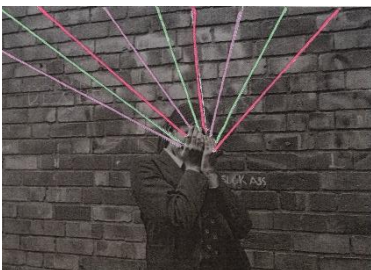
Famous names in Photography

- David Bailey
- Zhang Jingna
- Steve Mcurry
- Slinkachu
- Vivian Maier

Photography and Careers

Photographer: you'll usually specialise in one area like fashion, portrait, wedding, or e-commerce photography. You could take still or moving images. You may work for companies or individual clients, on a freelance or employed basis. You may also create and sell your own images. **Salary – UK annual median: £25,075**

Visual Effects Artist: depending on the project, you could be working in 2D or 3D design to create anything from mythological creatures, to dystopian landscapes, to entire planets or solar systems. Though your day-to-day duties might change, you'll be creating and designing concepts and special effects, creating high quality visuals to a budget and deadline, using cutting edge software and technology to create the most effective images, working from a brief, collaborating with supervisors, producers, directors, and other artists to achieve the best possible results. **Salary – UK annual median: £35,450**



Enrichment in Photography

- Exploring outdoors
- Learning new technical skills

Course Description

During the Photography GCSE course, students will learn photographic techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, such as:

- Lighting
- Viewpoint
- Aperture
- Depth of field
- Shutter speed and movement
- Use of enlarger
- Chemical and/or digital processes

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below:

- Portraiture
- Location photography
- Studio photography
- Experimental imagery
- Installation
- Documentary photography
- Photo-journalism
- Moving image: film, video and animation
- Fashion photography

Assessment

Each student must select and present a portfolio representative of their course of study. The portfolio must include:

Component 1 – a 'sustained project'/coursework (60%) is developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief with an idea to the realisation of intentions. This will give students the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across their course of study.

Component 2 – final externally set assignment (40%). AQA will provide a separate externally set assignment for each title, each with seven different starting points. Students must select and respond to one starting point from their chosen title.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

- Creativity and imagination
- IT skills
- A methodical, logical approach
- Analytical skills
- Artistic skill
- The ability to take on feedback constructively
- Creative problem-solving skills
- Attention to detail

Religious Studies

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

Famous names who studied Religious Studies

Bill Clinton: Former US President

David Cameron: Former UK Prime Minister

Martin Luther King Jr.: Civil Rights Leader

Matt Groening: Creator of *The Simpsons*

Yvette Cooper: Former Shadow Home Secretary

Religious Studies and Careers

Charity director: Plan ways to develop a charity's services. **UK annual median: £67,072**

Member of Parliament: Representing the political beliefs of those who live in their area. **UK annual median: £78,678 (this is for senior MPs)**

Psychotherapist: Help people to discuss their problems. **UK annual median: £35,661**

Arts administrator: Organize exhibitions in museums. **UK annual median: £50,828**

What students say:

"RE helps you develop your opinions and we do lots of activities with our partner which I like. You also understand the importance of treating others with respect, even though they might be different to you."

"RE benefits you to think outside of the box. It also helps make sense of the chronology of religion and I have a better understanding of historical events from studying RE."

Course Description

Religious Studies with a focus on Islam and Christianity will allow for a better understanding of diversity of beliefs and practices. Discussions within the subject develops critical thinking, independence of mind and the exploration of philosophical questions. Students will also explore the significance of non-religious notions in response to key religious ideas. Ethical study will allow for comparisons to be made between Islam and Christianity and spark a curiosity for political and social matters, including war, crime and punishment.

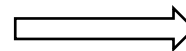
Students will start their GCSE by looking at Christian Beliefs and Practices, then Islamic Beliefs and Practices. They will then move on to ethics, consisting of four areas of study.

Assessment

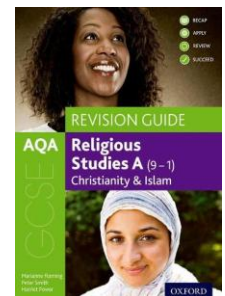
Two papers each worth 50% of the overall grade.

- Paper 1** – Christian Beliefs and Practices and Islam Beliefs and Practices.
- Paper 2** – Ethics:
Topic A: Religion and Relationships
Topic B: Religion and Life
Topic D: Religion, Peace and War
Topic E: Religion, Crime and Punishment.

This revision guide is excellent.



Topics C and F are **not completed** on the exam paper.



Results

	# Entered	4+%	5+%	7+%
2024	81	88%	79%	41%



Enrichment and Religious Studies

Opportunities for trips such as Moseley's Anglican church. We have also had guest speakers including a local councillor.



What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

When you sign into Unifrog, you will read about a range of skills gained in Religious Studies that are valued by employers in different sectors.

These include:

- Teaching and leadership
- Public speaking skills
- Attention to detail
- Open-mindedness

Further benefits include:

- Increased sensitivity
- An appreciation of diversity
- Improved teamwork and communication skills
- Attention to detail

Sports Science

Qualification Type: Cambridge National

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

“Sports science is a really enjoyable subject. It is a challenging course but one that is relevant to practical settings. There are lots of ties to science as we look at the functions and components within the body, such as the respiratory system. It is also useful to me because I now know how to create a diet plan and a training programme!” Year 11

Famous names who have studied Sport Science

- Sir Dave Brailsford
- Sir Mo Farah
- Marcus Rashford

Sport Science and Careers

- Sports scientist
- PE teacher
- Physiotherapist
- Professional sportsperson
- Sports coach
- Sports policy at local and national level
- Diet and fitness instructor
- Personal trainer

Course Description

in Sport Science you will understand and appreciate how sport science underpins sport at all levels. They learn about anatomy, physiology, injury prevention, improving personal fitness through appropriate training and diet,

Units studied:

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions.
- Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance.
- The body’s response to physical activity and how technology informs this.
- Nutrition and sports performance.

Assessment

- Two coursework units worth 60%
- An externally-assessed exam worth 40%



Enrichment in Sport

Our students go on multiple ‘Have a Go: Sport taster’ trips to different universities to see how the skills in the subject can be utilised post-16.

What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

- Throughout the course you will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Sport Science.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector and more widely.
- Prepare participants for physical activity in ways which keeps them safe as well as learning how to react should injuries happen and how to recognise common medical conditions.
- Learn how to conduct fitness tests, including interpreting and feeding back on the data you get from these as well as how to design, implement and evaluate fitness training programmes.
- Develop knowledge of either how the body responds to exercise and understand how.
- technology helps inform us of these changes, or a delve into the world of sports nutrition to understand how what we eat can impact our performance in sport.
- Develop the skills of team working, research and planning and understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical movements of the human body.

Statistics

Qualification Type: GCSE

Qualification Level: 2

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification Weighting: Single Award

What students say:

"GCSE Stats really helped me with my actual Maths GCSE. It really gave me a boost in the areas that came up in both subjects."

Famous names in the world of Statistics

Florence Nightingale: A world famous nurse who pioneered the development of statistical graphics (The Polar Area Diagram).

Careers and Statistics

GCSE Statistics is a gateway to many career paths, including:

Market Researcher: Market researchers conduct interviews or surveys to get people's opinions on products or ideas, with a **median salary of £32,000 per year**.

Accounting: This is the collection and tracking of financial data for an organisation or individual, with a **median salary of £42,500/year**.

Risk Analyst: Analyse credit data and financial statements of individuals or firms to determine the degree of risk involved in extending credit or lending money, with a **median salary of £40,600**.

Course Description

GCSE Statistics is made up of five key elements:

1. Understand the importance of the careful planning of a clear strategy for collecting, recording and processing data in order to address an identified question or hypothesis.
2. Recognise the opportunities, constraints and implications for subsequent mathematical analysis involved in obtaining appropriate data through careful design of primary data collection techniques or through the use of reference sources for secondary data to ensure unbiased research.
3. Generate data visualisations and understand the mathematics required to derive these visualisations.
4. Calculate statistical measures to compare data
5. Use visualisation and calculation to interpret results with reference to the context of the problem, and to evaluate the validity and reliability of statistical findings.

Assessment

There will be two exams at the end of Year 11. These will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1 – Demonstrate knowledge and understanding, using appropriate terminology and notation, of standard statistical techniques used to: Collect and represent data, calculate summary statistics and probabilities. (55% of the exam)
- AO2 - Interpret statistical information and results in context and reason statistically to draw conclusions. (25% of the exam)
- AO3 – Assess the appropriateness of statistical methodologies and the conclusions drawn through the application of the statistical enquiry cycle. (20% of the exam)



What skills will I need and what are the benefits?

There is an overlap of skills between GCSE Statistics and Maths, so studying GCSE Statistics will help your GCSE Maths whilst providing a deeper understanding of Statistics.

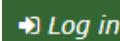
Understanding what Statistics are telling you, how they are communicated, particularly the use and potential misuse, is also a vital life skill.

An invaluable GCSE, especially if you are thinking of studying Maths at A' Level!

Choosing your Subject Preferences (2025)

This needs to be completed on-line by **9am Friday 11th April 2025**.

1) Login to the School VLE at www.yardleys-vle.com

 Log in



2) Select 'Links Menu' from at top left of the homepage

3) Select 'Options 2025 (Year 9)' from the 'Student Quick Links' area

Options 2025 (Year 9)

4) Follow the link on the page

 **CLICK HERE TO SELECT YOUR OPTIONS**

T.O.O.L.S
TimeTable Options On-Line System

Collecting Student Choices On-line

Please enter your details:

Username:
Password:

5) Login to the T.O.O.L.S. system. Your username is your 4 digit VLE username and your password is your date of birth in 8 digit format (for example, the 3rd April 2011 would be 03042011)

5) Confirm that your name appears on the next screen and make your choices – you need to choose 5 subjects in order of preference and will study 3 (sometimes, it may not be possible to study your top 3 choices).

Check your choices carefully and then press 'Submit'. You must do this before 9am Friday 11th April.

T.O.O.L.S
TimeTable Options On-Line System

Yardleys School 2025 Blocks 1-3

Choices for: [Home](#) Default

Extra information: [Click here for an example.](#) [Click here for course information.](#)

Step 1 of 2

[Start](#) > Free choice (with reserves) > Confirmation

Please enter your 3 choices by entering 1, 2, 3 in the box by your chosen subjects.
To mark your Reserve choice, put 'R' by that subject.
To mark your Second reserve choice, put 'S' by that subject.

Subject	Choice
Art (Ar)	
Business Studies (Bust)	2
Comp Science (Cp)	1
Drama (Dr)	
Food Technology (Fd)	
French (Fr)	
Geography (Gg)	
History (Hs)	3
Info Technology (IT)	
Media (Ms)	
Music (Mu)	
Photography (Pg)	R
Religious Ed (RE)	S
Spanish (Sp)	
Sports Science (SS)	
Statistics (St)	

This will send a confirmation of your Choices to the email address you enter:

Email address:

6) You will be offered the facility to receive email confirmation of your subject choices, but you will need to supply a valid email address for this.