

Orchard Park High School

KS4 Options Booklet

Class of 2023-25



INTEGRITY | EXCELLENCE | COLLABORATION | DRIVE

Proud to be
part of the
GREENSHAW
LEARNING TRUST

Contents

Introduction	2
FAQs	4
Compulsory Examination Subjects	
English Language	7
English Literature	8
Mathematics	9
Combined Science	10
Core subjects (non-GCSE course) PE, Religious Education and PSHE	11
Optional Examination Subjects	
Art	13
Business Studies	14
Computer Science	15
Dance (BTEC)	16
Drama	17
French	18
Geography	19
History	20
Music	21
Photography	22
PE (NCFE)	23
Religious Education	24
Separate Science	25
Sociology	26
Spanish	27

Dear Year 9,

We are delighted to share with you, information regarding the Key Stage 4 options process for 2023. This is an exciting and important time in your life, and we are looking forward to supporting you in making educated and informed choices that will give you the very best chances in life.

We firmly believe that giving students choice in deciding their options will prove motivating and will ultimately help you to be successful. Our option structure is broad and relevant, offering exciting routes to further study at post-16, higher education and into employment.

It's important that when selecting your options, you are fully informed about the choices available and how they will impact your future. As the image below outlines, your GCSE options will lead on to your post 16 choices, which will further lead you to the career you wish to enter. Narrowing your options too soon may leave you unable to progress into a field you later realise you would like to enter. This booklet aims to support you in making a decision that you will be happy with over the next two years, and will support you in the years to come when you look to make post 16 choices about further study and your career.



We believe strongly in offering a broad range of subjects to match your interests and prepare you for future study. **You will take 9 GCSEs in Key Stage 4: six compulsory subjects (five core subjects and a humanity, either History or Geography), plus three options subjects.**

We know that sixth forms and universities look favourably on students who achieve GCSEs in the English Baccalaureate subjects and therefore we encourage you to pursue the rigour of these. This

involves choosing a language in addition to the compulsory subjects. Students will also study three further compulsory subjects which are not assessed but are integral to maintaining a broad and balanced curriculum.

Compulsory Core Subjects	Compulsory Humanities (select one)	Options subjects (select 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •English Language •English Literature •Mathematics •Combined Science (2 GCSEs) •Core PE* •Core Religious Education* •PSHE* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Geography OR •History 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Art •Business Studies •Computer Science •Dance •Drama •French •Geography •History •Photography •PE (NCFE) •Religious Education •Separate Science •Sociology •Spanish

I hope you will find this booklet and the support in place helpful and informative. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Ms L Harper Clements

Associate Assistant Head Teacher
lharper.clements@orchardparkhigh.net

How to choose your subjects:

It's important that when choosing your options subjects, you take your time and consider a range of factors. This decision will have consequences for your future, so you don't want to make a hasty, ill-informed choice.

You must consider:

- Which subjects you enjoy
- Which subjects you are good at
- The advice from your teachers and the Head of Departments
- What possible careers you are interested in and the skills you want to develop for employment
- What post 16 courses you are interested in (find out what the course entry requirements are at 6th form/ college/ apprenticeships)

What not to consider when making your choices:

- What subjects your friends are doing
- Making a decision because you couldn't think of anything else

Will you get your first choice?

We will work towards you to get you first choices and have been very successful with this in the past. However, there are three main reasons why some students may not get their first choice:

1. *The courses chosen are not appropriate for you and professional advice is that it would not provide you with outcomes or options for the future that you yourselves would like.*
2. *Some courses have limits on the number of students that can be enrolled. We will then have to close those classes once the limits have been reached*
3. *Subjects may not run due to low numbers of students choosing them for their options.*

In all cases, a conversation will be had with you in the first instance (and with parent/carer where necessary). The likely outcome is that the next choice which you have put down on your original form will take its place.

Can I take both History and Geography?

Yes! It is compulsory to take at least one of these subjects, but you can pick the other as part of your remaining three choices.

What should I do if I'm not sure what I want to do post 16?

We recommend you keep your options open and take Ebacc subjects. The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors. It includes English language and literature, maths, the sciences, geography or history, a language.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

How the courses run:

1. *Most courses run a linear learning model where all assessment (examinations) are sat at the end of the course*
2. *Some courses (such as BTEC) have high level controlled assessments*
3. *If you do not achieve a pass grade (grade 4) or higher in English or Maths you are required to continue to study for these GCSEs in Key Stage 5 until you secure a pass grade.*

How do I submit my preferences?

A form will be emailed to you at your school account. You must log in through your school email and electronically submit the form. Please note, you can only submit the form once, so make sure you have considered everything fully before doing so.

Key dates:

Tuesday 28th March	Students receive the options booklet and attend the options assembly. Over the half term, students should read the information and prepare questions in advance of the options fair for the teachers of subjects they are interested in.
Wednesday 26th April	Options Fair <i>Options form to be completed by following a link emailed to students.</i> <i>NB: This google form link can only be accessed by the students, by using their school log-in.</i>
Friday 5th May	Deadline for student to submit options
Friday 14th July	A letter will be sent home confirming students options confirmed

KS4 Compulsory Subjects

Compulsory Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

- *Core PE**
- *Core Religious Education**
- *PSHE**

English Language

Exam board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Johnson
Summary of key content	In English Language, students will develop into critical readers and masterful writers. They will read journals, short stories, newspaper articles, letters and so on from across the 19th-21st century. There is a strong focus on analysis of language and structure, as well as the skill of evaluation and comparison. Writing lessons will focus on creativity and writing for specific purposes, for instance writing mature, thoughtful letters to their local MP. The development of their vocabulary is a key focus.
Assessment methods	2 exams English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing English Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
Careers	English Language is a cornerstone subject and success in the subject will open all kinds of doors for young people in the future. Diverse careers such as those in finance, tech, publishing, law, media, nursing or medicine rely on people with a great English Language GCSE.
Course specification link	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700&ved=2ahUKEwjwXhpMn9AhXFmFwKHZwQAAYQFnoECAoQAQ&usg=AOvVaw23lcbK_Hw7OinFH3q775Aj

English Literature

Exam board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Johnson
Summary of key content	In Literature, students will encounter plays, poems and novels written by some of Britain's most famous writers. They will study three canonical texts: A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls and Romeo and Juliet, and a collection of poetry on the theme of power and conflict. Writing is essay based where students will be asked a single question and expected to explore in detail, across several pages, how the writer constructs the text.
Assessment methods	2 exams Paper 1 - A Christmas Carol and Romeo and Juliet Paper 2 - An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry, Unseen Poetry
Careers	English Literature is a cornerstone subject that enables students to enter a wide range of careers, from journalism to law, finance to government. English Literature will make you an articulate, well read individual, desirable to any employer.
Course specification link	http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8702-SP-2015.PDF

Mathematics

Exam board	Edexcel
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Mr Shah
Summary of key content	<p>The mathematical content tested at GCSE, which students have been developing knowledge of throughout their time at Orchard Park, breaks down into 6 strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number - the fundamentals of mathematics 2. Algebra - working with unknown numbers 3. Ratio and proportion - the relationships between variables 4. Geometry - shapes and space 5. Statistics - data handling 6. Probability - calculating likelihoods
Assessment methods	<p>3 exams, each lasting 90 minutes and worth 80 marks. Any of the above topics could appear in each exam.</p> <p>Paper 1 - non-calculator Paper 2 - calculator Paper 3 - calculator</p>
Careers	<p>A fluent understanding of the universal language that is mathematics is of benefit to any career. Below is a list of some of the many careers where a strong GCSE qualification in maths is a requirement for entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Software engineer • Sports analyst • Investment banker • Video game designer • Robotics engineer • National security analyst • Astronaut • Data scientist • Architect • Chartered accountant • Jet fighter pilot
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf

Combined Science

Exam board	Edexcel
Qualification	GCSE Combined Science
Head of Department	Mr Ramnarain
Summary of key content	<p>Combined science will be compulsory for students who have not chosen Separate science. Combined science will cover all of the three sciences (biology, chemistry and physics) but with less content coverage. Students will be doing 18 core practical's in Combined science whilst Separate science students will be covering 24 core practical's.</p> <p><i>NB: if students select separate science as an option, they will sit the separate science exams rather than combined.</i></p>
Assessment methods	<p>Students will sit 6 exams as follows:</p> <p><i>Biology paper 1</i> (60 marks, 1h10 minutes written paper) <i>Biology paper 2</i>(60 marks, 1h10 minutes written paper) <i>Chemistry paper 1</i>(60 marks, 1h10 minutes written paper) <i>Chemistry paper 2</i>(60 marks, 1h10 minutes written paper) <i>Physics paper 1</i>(60 marks, 1h10 minutes written paper) <i>Physics paper 2</i>(60 marks, 1h10 minutes written paper)</p>
Careers	<p>There is a vast array of science, engineering, medical and pharmaceutical jobs on offer and they could see you working in diverse settings such as hospitals, factories, laboratories, offices or within the community. You could work in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug formulation and development • Chemical or forensic analysis • Toxicology
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/GCSE_CombinedScience_Spec.pdf

Core, non-assessed subjects

Whilst education at KS4 is largely in preparation for a set of assessments at the end of two years of study, there are a few subjects that are considered important for a broad and balanced education, which the government considers integral to being a well-rounded citizen. As such, they are compulsory to continue to study right through to the end of KS4, however, they are not assessed and take up less curriculum time than the 9 assessed subjects taken.

Number of lessons a fortnight	Two (1 lesson per week)
Summary of curriculum	Physical Education lessons remain compulsory for all students in KS4, this is in addition to those students who have opted for an examination PE course. During this time all students will develop the sporting skills introduced in years 7 to 9, understand the impact of physical activity to live a healthy lifestyle and build an interest of lifelong participation in sport. Students will have the opportunity to participate in additional activities, for example, handball, football, volleyball and participate through the roles of a leader or official.

Religious Education

Number of lessons a fortnight	Two
Summary of curriculum	Religious Education continues to be compulsory at KS4 for all students. In addition to continuing our studies from KS3 of the Dharmic and Abrahamic faiths, students also turn towards looking at philosophical and ethical approaches to the religions they have studied, religious belief and atheism and humanism. They look at how thought and meaning has been constructed by many across time and the impact of this on their own world view.

PSHE

Number of lessons a fortnight	One
Summary of curriculum	Personal, social, health and economic education helps students to develop the skills they will require to thrive in the future, helping them to deal with critical issues they face such as friendships, emotional wellbeing and change, giving them a solid foundation for whatever challenging opportunities that lie ahead. Topics such as sex and relationships, wellbeing and finance are covered to support students to face the world with hope and confidence.

Options Subjects

Compulsory Humanities (select one)	Options subjects (select 3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Geography* OR•History*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Art•Business Studies•Computer Science•Dance•Drama•French•Gepgraphy•History•Photography•PE (NCFE)•Religious Education•Separate Science•Sociology•Spanish

**Please note, you must select to study at least one humanity, but if you would like to study both, then you are more than welcome to as part of your other three options.*

Art

Exam board	EDUQAS
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Ongley
Summary of key content	In Art students will learn to understand, research, experiment and put into practice all their learned technical abilities to create unique pieces of Artwork. As a coursework-based subject, students will be expected to work independently to explore and develop their own ideas. Students will work with a variety of media (including paint, graphite, charcoal, collage and clay) to record different sources and respond to Artists and their work. Students will also be required to research and know the work of artists through research pages and using styles in their own work. Students will then need to refine and build upon prior work in order to develop a strong, unique and creative response.
Assessment methods	<p>2 Assessed Components</p> <p>Unit 1: Reflections Students will respond to the theme Reflections by gathering sources, researching Artists and experimenting with techniques to create their own unique responses.</p> <p>Unit 2: Externally Set Assessment Students choose a theme from a set list given by the exam board; students will repeat the same steps as in Unit 1 that will culminate in a 10 hour exam to produce a Final Response.</p>
Careers	Artist, Teacher, Designer, Architect, Illustrator, Fashion, Museums, Animation, Graphic design, Product design, Game design, Props and Set design for Film and TV.
Course specification link	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Business Studies

Exam board	Pearson (Edexcel)
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Mrs Baatjies
Summary of key content	Business studies introduces students to business concepts and skills needed to start and run a new business. Students are then further extended to understand how business decisions are used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. In business we learn how external factors, for example inflation and interest rate, impact a business.
Assessment methods	2 exams (1 hour 45 mins each)
Careers	Investment banking, Accounting, Law, Recruitment, Sales, Procurement, Logistics, Marketing, Government, Economist, Teacher, Entrepreneur.
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Business/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-business-spec-2017.pdf

Computer Science

Exam board	OCR
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Mr Spero
Summary of key content	<p>Students will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.</p> <p>Also to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs</p>
Assessment methods	<p>Paper1 = Theory (1 hour 30m)</p> <p>Paper2 = Programming (1 hour 30m)</p>
Careers	<p>Software Developer, Web Developer, Mobile App Developer, IT Project Manager, AI Engineer, Applications developer, Cyber security analyst, Data analyst, Forensic computer analyst, Game designer, Games developer, Machine learning engineer, Penetration tester</p>
Course specification link	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf

Dance

Exam board	Pearson
Qualification	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)
Head of Department	Ms Ongley
Summary of key content	<p>This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical dance learning environment.</p> <p>You will also develop key skills, such as creating performance for a real vocational scenario.</p>
Assessment methods	<p>3 Assessed components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exploring the Performing Arts Developing an understanding of the performing arts including practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance. 2. Developing Skills and Techniques Development of dance skills and techniques through the reproduction of dance repertoire as performers or designers. 3. Responding to a Brief Contributing to a workshop performance as either a performer or designer in response to a given brief and stimulus.
Careers	<p>The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK, growing at over five times the rate of the wider UK economy, contributing £111 billion a year to the UK economy. There were over 9,000 enterprises in the performing arts industry in 2018, and more than 82,000 people working in a wide range of roles from performers, to designers and directors.</p>
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts-2022.html

Drama

Exam board	Pearson
Qualification	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Acting)
Head of Department	Ms Ongley
Summary of key content	<p>This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical acting learning environment.</p> <p>You will also develop key skills, such as creating an acting performance for a real vocational scenario.</p>
Assessment methods	<p>3 Assessed components:</p> <p>Exploring the Performing Arts Developing an understanding of the performing arts including practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.</p> <p>Developing Skills and Techniques Development of dance skills and techniques through the reproduction of dance repertoire as performers or designers.</p> <p>Responding to a Brief Contributing to a workshop performance as either a performer or designer in response to a given brief and stimulus.</p>
Careers	<p>The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK, growing at over five times the rate of the wider UK economy, contributing £111 billion a year to the UK economy. There were over 9,000 enterprises in the performing arts industry in 2018, and more than 82,000 people working in a wide range of roles from performers, to designers and directors.</p>
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts-2022.html

French

Exam board	Edexcel
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Mr Facey
Summary of key content	<p>Over the course of the GCSE you will learn how to discuss a wide range of topics, including but not limited to relationships, school, cultural differences and future ambitions. Your knowledge will be developed whilst improving your skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking French.</p> <p>You will learn how to give and justify opinions, as well as how to have conversations with peers and others around you.</p>
Assessment methods	The 4 skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking will be assessed through 4 separate exams.
Careers	<p>Learning a foreign language is highly regarded by both educational institutions and employers. It shows you are able to communicate, listen to others, develop your ideas, and it shows a level of commitment and determination.</p> <p>Careers: Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations, Content Writing, Journalism, Interpreting, Translation, Diplomacy, Hospitality, Tourism, Tutoring</p>
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/French/2024/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-french-specification-2024-draft-1.pdf

Geography

Exam board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Miss Coupland
Summary of key content	<p>Geography GCSE students study a range of human geography and physical geography topics including natural hazards, physical landscapes in the UK and urban issues and challenges. Students explore key concepts using case-studies in the United Kingdom as well as around the world.</p> <p>There is a mathematical aspect to the course as students are expected to develop and demonstrate numerical and graphical skills across the 3 geography papers. Students will be using and analysing different types of statistical data.</p> <p>Geography GCSE homework will be set every week. The weekly homework will involve both case-study fact quizzes and practice exam questions.</p>
Assessment methods	<p>The examination involves three papers. For Paper 3, two occasions of geographical fieldwork must be completed by students in physical and human landscapes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 (35%) <i>Living with the physical environment</i> - Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks • Paper 2 (35%) <i>Challenges in the human environment</i> - Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks • Paper 3 (30%) <i>Geographical applications</i> - Written paper, 1 hour 15 minutes, 76 marks <p>All three papers contain a range of different questions from 2-mark questions to 12 mark essay-style questions. 10% of students' final grade is assessed through skills-type questions such as maps, graphs and mathematical skills.</p>
Careers	<p>In our ever-changing world the knowledge and skills employers are looking for are found in Geography. It is vital to understand the challenges our planet faces and how we can manage the future.</p> <p>Potential career pathways include: Urban or Transport Planning; Environmental/Sustainability Consultancy; Hazard/Emergency Management; Community Development; International Aid; Climatologist; Teaching; Architecture; Geographical Information Systems (GIS); Data Analysis; Social Research;</p>
Course specification link	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification-at-a-glance

History

Exam board	Pearson/Edexcel
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Mr Samsoondar
Summary of key content	<p>GCSE History involves the study of fascinating and challenging topics across a wide breadth of British and world history. We start by studying the formation of a united England in the 9th century and end by examining the intense Cold War rivalry between the United States and the USSR in the second half of the 20th century.</p> <p>There are four units of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migrants in Britain, c800-Present and Notting Hill, 1948-70 • Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 • Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 • Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1943-1991
Assessment methods	<p>Three exams:</p> <p>Paper 1 - 1hr 15 minutes</p> <p>Paper 2 - 1hr 45 minutes</p> <p>Paper 3 - 1hr 20 minutes</p> <p>Each paper contains questions that include up to 2 essay length responses that assess you on your historical knowledge as well as your ability to analyse complex contemporary sources and historical interpretations.</p>
Careers	Legal professions, research, journalism, politics, historian, teaching and lecturing
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/gcse-9-1-history-specification.pdf

Music

Exam board	Pearson
Qualification	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice
Head of Department	Ms Ongley
Summary of key content	This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop key skills, ranging from rehearsing to experimenting with technology, equipment and instruments. You will also develop an understanding of the music industry.
Assessment methods	<p>3 Assessed Components:</p> <p>Exploring Music Products and Styles: Exploration of the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigation of the key features of different musical styles and genres.</p> <p>Music Skills Development: Development of two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.</p> <p>Responding to a Music Brief: Developing and presenting music in response to a given music brief.</p>
Careers	The music industry is a vibrant, exciting and highly competitive industry that contributed £5.2 billion to the UK economy in 2019 and generated a further £2.7 billion in export revenue. The music industry is constantly evolving and offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. In 2019, the music industry supported more than 190,935 full-time jobs in the UK, 139,352 of which were in the music creators' sector.
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html

Photography

Exam board	EDUQAS
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Ongley
Summary of key content	In Photography students will learn to understand, research, experiment and put into practice all of their learned technical abilities to create unique pieces of Artwork. As a coursework based subject the students will be expected to work teacher led and then independently to follow their own ideas. Students will work with a variety of tools (including cameras, lighting, props, photoshop and physical editing) to record different sources and respond to Photographers and their work. Students will also be required to research and know the work of photographers through research pages and using styles in their own work. Students will then need to refine and build upon prior work in order to develop a strong, unique and creative response.
Assessment methods	<p>2 Assessed Components</p> <p>Unit 1: Reflections Students will respond to the theme Reflections by gathering sources, researching Photographers and experimenting with techniques to create their own unique responses.</p> <p>Unit 2: Externally Set Assessment Students choose a theme from a set list given by the exam board, students will repeat the same steps as in Unit 1 that will culminate in a 10-hour exam to produce a Final Response.</p>
Careers	Photographer, Teacher, Designer, Graphic design, Filmmaking, TV, Fashion, Product photographer.
Course specification link	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

PE (NCFE)

Exam board	NCFE
Qualification	Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness
Head of Department	Ms Hansford
Summary of key content	The study of health and fitness involves understanding the structure & functions of the body systems, understanding the principles of training, knowing how the body reacts in the short and long-term to fitness activities, how to create and apply lifestyle analysis tools and how to create a fitness programme for a person with specific goals.
Assessment methods	Exam (worth 40% of the final grade) Synoptic Project (worth 60% of the final grade)
Careers	Health and Fitness is a course that could lead into careers such as physical education teaching, sports coaching, physiotherapy, leisure administrator and personal trainer just to name a few.
Course specification link	https://www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-level-12-technical-award-in-health-and-fitness-5159

Religious Studies

Exam board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Harper Clements
Summary of key content	Students study the core beliefs and practices of Christians and Muslims around the world and in Britain, comparing and contrasting the founding of the religions to the modern day and looking at significant changes in the religions in the modern and postmodern era. Students will also look through themes of religion and life, human rights, crime and punishment and relationships. We'll examine different approaches to these themes in 21st century Britain through a religious and non-religious lens.
Assessment methods	Two exams Component 1: Christianity and Islam Component 2: Thematic Studies: Religion and Life, Relationships and Families, Religion, crime and punishment, Religion, human rights and social justice
Careers	Social Work, Government, Civil Service, Diplomacy, Counselling, Media and Journalism,
Course specification link	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062/specification-at-a-glance

Separate Sciences

Exam board	Edexcel
Qualification	GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry GCSE Physics
Head of Department	Mr Ramnarain
Summary of key content	<p>Separate science is worth 3 GCSE's. Students on this course will be doing additional units of work when compared with Combined science students. Some of the content is more challenging than the content in Combined science.</p> <p>The course has 24 compulsory core practicals that must be completed within the two year period of the course. Each of the three sciences test students' knowledge of key mathematical skills.</p> <p><i>NB: entrance into the separate science course will be determined by KS3 progress. The science department can advise if this course is suitable for you.</i></p>
Assessment methods	<p>Students will sit 6 exams as follows:</p> <p><i>Biology paper 1</i> (100 marks, 1h45 minutes written paper) <i>Biology paper 2</i>(100 marks, 1h45 minutes written paper) <i>Chemistry paper 1</i>(100 marks, 1h45 minutes written paper) <i>Chemistry paper 2</i>(100 marks, 1h45 minutes written paper) <i>Physics paper 1</i>(100 marks, 1h45 minutes written paper) <i>Physics paper 2</i>(100 marks, 1h45 minutes written paper)</p>
Careers	Graduates may pursue careers in accounting, insurance, education, biostatistics, medical research, cryptology, computing, banking and finance or professional studies in health science, law and engineering.
Course specification link	<p>Biology link: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/GCSE_Biology_Spec.pdf</p> <p>Chemistry link: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/GCSE_Chemistry_Spec.pdf</p> <p>Physics link: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Science/2016/Specification/GCSE_Physics_Spec.pdf</p>

Sociology

Exam board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Harper Clements
Summary of key content	Sociology is social science, meaning it is the study of how society functions. Particularly, the purpose of the family and the many different types of families that exist, the purpose and structure of education, the field of crime and deviance and how people are stratified across a society. It seeks to understand the structures of society, how they function and their benefits and consequences of each.
Assessment methods	2 exams (1 hour 45 mins each)
Careers	As a social science, there are links to fields such as: geography, journalism, psychology, the law, teaching, policing, government, research, public relations and marketing.
Course specification link	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192/specification-at-a-glance

Spanish

Exam board	Edexcel
Qualification	GCSE
Head of Department	Ms Kuratomi
Summary of key content	<p>Through exposure to a wide range of vocabulary, students will be able to express themselves in a variety of ways in the Spanish language. The GCSE course covers a wide range of topics including relationships, the environment, and hobbies, among others.</p> <p>Tense is a key aspect of the course and students will learn and consolidate how to communicate in different time frames using grammatical manipulation.</p>
Assessment methods	<p>Written exam (1h - 1h20) Reading exam (1h) Listening exam (40 minutes) Speaking exam (20 minutes)</p> <p>Students will be split into 2 tiers (Foundation and Higher) depending on how they perform throughout the course.</p>
Careers	<p>Learning a foreign language is highly regarded by both educational institutions and employers. It shows you are able to communicate, listen to others, develop your ideas, and it shows a level of commitment and determination.</p> <p>Careers: Interpreting, Translation, Diplomacy, Hospitality, Tourism, Tutoring, Advertising, Marketing and Public Relations, Content Writing, Journalism, Civil Service</p>
Course specification link	https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Spanish/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-Pearson-Edexcel-Level-1-Level-2-GCSE-9-1-Spanish.pdf