

GCSE OPTIONS 2018-2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Your son is about to embark on one of the most important and exciting stages of his educational career so far.

The process of choosing subjects to be studied at Level 2 is a very exhilarating time and one that provokes much discussion and debate amongst students. It can also be a time when some students make mistakes by picking subjects for the wrong reasons that they later regret choosing. It is, therefore, essential that your son does not rush to make a decision about the subjects he is committing to study for the next two years. He will receive guidance from Senior Leaders, his Head of Year, his Form Tutor and subject teachers that will help him decide what he would like to do and will do best at. All will be able to discuss whether a mixture of V-CERTS and GCSEs are the best option for him or whether GCSEs alone offer the best chance of a successful outcome. This advice is based on our knowledge of your son as an individual and his academic record to date.

This Year 9 Options Booklet outlines the subjects that form part of the option process. It is important that both students and parents/carers read this booklet carefully.

Some core subjects are compulsory in Year 10 and 11 - these include English Language and English Literature; Mathematics, Science. In addition to this, most students will study at least one modern foreign language (French, German or Spanish) and a 'humanity' subject (Geography or History) at GCSE level.

This combination will qualify your son for the government's "English Baccalaureate" award which recognises a student's achievement of a broad range of traditional subjects and requires students to achieve a grade 5 or above in English, Maths, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and Geography or History. In addition to these subjects, there will be two additional courses available to most students. There are two non-GCSE subjects available, are more practically based than many other GCSE subjects, but are of an equivalent standard.

Students must continue to study Core Physical Education/Games throughout Year 10 and 11. In addition to this, there are two optional subjects.

There are many factors to be considered when choosing courses. Firstly, your son should ask himself what his intended future career might be: there are some combinations that aid career paths better than some others. Students should also recognise, however, that they are highly likely to change their minds in terms of what they would like to do in the future and so choosing a broad spectrum of subjects may actually aid future choices. Your son must also consider why he is choosing a particular subject. There are many good reasons for choosing a subject but there are also some bad reasons.

The good reasons to choose a subject for study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11):	Bad reasons for choosing a subject for study at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11):
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have enjoyed this subject in the past and always feel motivated to work hard.• I believe taking this subject will help me in my chosen career path.• I have always been interested in this subject and I am excited that I can now study it, even if it is a new subject for me.• I would like to extend my knowledge in this particular subject.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I like the teacher that I have for this subject this year.• 'All my friends' have chosen this subject.• I've heard it is really easy.• It's a new subject so it must be better than the old ones.

Occasional comments from students who did not consider their choices properly are:

- "I thought that I would have the same teacher as last year"
- "I thought that it would be just practical work"
- "The subject was not what I thought it would be about"
- "I did not choose that subject because none of my friends were doing it"
- "I thought that this subject would be easy".

It is important to remember that there is no such thing as an 'easy' subject. All subjects require dedication, hard work, homework and some still involve the completion of controlled assessments. Despite this, there may be subjects that students are better at than they are at others, and it is important to consider this when choosing courses.

Key Stage 4 is the next important stage in a student's educational life. Some aspects will be very different, for example, the amount of responsibility students will have to take to organise their own time and meet deadlines. Other aspects will stay the same, for example, students are likely to have the same form tutor and Head of Year.

Some students will have the opportunity to study a V-CERT course at Level 2. These qualifications are equivalent to GCSEs and they enable students to study a different style of qualification that may be better suited to their learning needs. It is important to note that V-CERTs are accepted by sixth forms including Coombe Sixth Form when applying for A' levels or BTEC level 3 as an equivalent to GCSE. Universities, employers and training establishments also accept V-CERTs as GCSE equivalents. Detailed information about these qualifications are found in the subject pages. The two courses on offer this year are in Creative Media; Food and Cookery.

In addition, there will be several opportunities to find out more about all the courses before the deadline where a decision must be made. These include:

- the Year 9 Opportunities and Information evening on **Thursday 11th January 2018**
- a Year 9 Information and Guidance Day on **Friday January 12th 2018** and
- the Year 9 Parent/carer progress evening on **Wednesday January 24th 2018.**
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All Option choices should be completed via SIMS Online (<https://www.sims-options.co.uk>) by Friday 2nd February, 2018. Information on how this can be accessed will be emailed to students and parents/carers.

It may not be possible for every student in the year group to be given all their choices, although we will try our very best to accommodate this. Students are asked, therefore, to also choose two 'reserve' choices as backup.

Coombe students achieve very well at Key Stage 4, this is because they enjoy the subjects they take, and are prepared to work hard to do well. It is this commitment and high levels of motivation that will help your son do well in a good, balanced menu of subjects.

Mrs Velissarides
Deputy Headteacher

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29	French
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29	German
27	History
28	Media Studies
31	Music
33	Physical Education
34	Religious Studies
29	Spanish
35	Vocational Certificate in Food and Cookery
36	BTEC First Award in Media Studies

Important dates for your diaries

Thursday 11th January 2018 – 19:00-20:00	Year 9 Opportunities and Information evening
Friday 12th January 2018	Year 9 IAG day Options Booklet issued
Wednesday 24th January 2018 – 16:00 until 19:00	Year 9 parent and carer (progress) evening
Monday 22nd and 29th January 2018	Assemblies for 'new' subjects - <i>Media Studies, Business Studies; VCERTS</i>
Friday 2nd February 2018	Options completed via Sims Options Online www.sims-options.co.uk
Friday 23rd March 2018	Academic Mentoring Day
Monday 11th – Thursday 14th June 2018	Summer examination week
Wednesday July 18th 2018	Year 9 full reports issued

5 Steps to Success

- ✓ Read this booklet to find out all you can about the courses on offer.
- ✓ Discuss your choices with parents, subject teachers and your form tutor.
- ✓ When filling in your online form, take great care to read the instructions carefully.
- ✓ Get someone to check your form for mistakes before you submit it.
- ✓ Complete options choices by **Friday February 2nd 2018**

The UK Education Structure

Level of Qualification			
5	Higher level qualifications Diplomas and Degrees		<i>Higher level (Level 5 NVQ's): Apprenticeships</i>
4			<i>Level 4 NVQ's: Professional and management</i>
3 – <i>Advanced Level (6th form)</i>	3 A' Levels	<i>B. Tec Extended Diplomas (3 A' Level equivalent)</i>	<i>Level 3 NVQ's: Technicians, supervisors and senior office jobs</i>
2 – Intermediate Level (KS4)	GCSE courses – good passes Grades 9 to 5		VCERTS (Vocational Certificates) – equivalent to GCSE's
1 – <i>Foundation Level</i>	GCSE courses – other passes Grades 4 to 1		Level 1 courses provided by Colleges

Changes to GCSEs

Changes have been introduced to GCSEs in recent years.

In September 2015 new GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics were introduced. In September 2016 most other subjects introduced their new courses, with just Design & Technology and Business Studies introducing their new courses for year 10 this coming academic year.

It is important to note that the grading system for the new GCSEs has changed to 1-9 (with 9 being high) as opposed to the old system of A* - G grades that you may be more familiar with.

Many subjects no longer have a 'controlled assessment' element to them. There are a few exceptions and these are identified in the subject pages earlier in the booklet.

Full details of these and other changes can be found on the Department for Education website (www.gov.uk) below but the key points of grading are in the diagram below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638308/Grading_new_GCSEs_from_2017.pdf

The New Grading Structure for GCSE's

Ofqual

New GCSE grading structure

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
1	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DfE)
5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
4 and above = bottom of C and above

GCSE, AS and A level reforms in England
New GCSE grading structure

Reformed GCSEs will be introduced gradually over three years from September 2015. They will be graded from 9 to 1, instead of A* to G. Students taking GCSEs over this period will therefore receive a mixture of 9 to 1 and A* to G grades.



Students will not lose out as a result of the changes. We will use a statistical method (known as comparable outcomes) in 2017 so that:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This has been defined as a good pass by the Department for Education.

pinterest.com/ofqual/postcards

VCERTS & BTEC

VCERT and BTEC courses provide experiences and education directly relevant to working life. These courses are assessed mainly through portfolios completed in school but you will also take an external examination at the end of year 11. Most VCERT and BTEC qualifications are awarded at

- 'Pass' (equivalent to a grade 5 at GCSE level),
- 'Merit' (equivalent to a grade 6 at GCSE level),
- 'Distinction' (equivalent to a grade 7 at GCSE level), and
- 'Distinction*' (equivalent to a grade 8 at GCSE level).

Overview of Assessment by Subject

Subject	Assessed by Examination	Assessed by Controlled Assessment or Coursework
GCSE COURSES		
Art and Design	40%	60%
Business Studies	100%	0%
Computer Studies	100%	0%
D&T: Resistant Materials	50%	50%
Drama	40%	60%
English Language	100%	0%
English Literature	100%	0%
Food and Nutrition	50%	50%
French	100%	0%
Geography	100%	0%
German	100%	0%
History	100%	0%
Mathematics	100%	0%
Media Studies	70%	30%
Music	40%	60%
Physical Education	60%	40%
Religious Studies	100%	0%
Science—Double Award	100%	0%
Science—Triple Award	100%	0%
Spanish	100%	0%
VCERT/BTEC COURSES		
Food and Cookery	25%	75%
Media Studies	25%	75%

The “English Baccalaureate” Award

This award is designed to recognise broad academic achievement. It is awarded to students gaining a 9 – 5 in **all** of the following **six** subjects:

1. GCSE English Language **and** English Literature
2. GCSE Mathematics
3. GCSE Sciences (2 Sciences from either ‘Double’ or any **two** from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science)
4. GCSE Geography **or** History
5. GCSE French, German **or** Spanish

When you make your Key Stage 4 option choices, the E.Bacc. may be an important factor for you to consider. Employers and universities are increasingly aware of the significance of this award in terms of providing a breadth of skills for the future.

How many lessons?

The figure in the final column indicate the number of periods to be allocated to each subject in a 50 period fortnight.

CORE SUBJECTS	
GCSE English Language and English Literature	8
GCSE Mathematics	8
GCSE Science – double and triple award	10/12
Core Physical Education	4
OPTIONAL SUBJECTS	
Option 1 (Geography OR History)	5
Option 2 (French, German OR Spanish)	5
Option 3	5
Option 4	5
TOTAL	50

Careers Advice

Choosing your options is difficult. There are very few people who are sure about exactly what they want to take, likewise very few people know what career they wish to pursue. However, even at this stage, it is wise to consider the future.

Deciding what is best for you depends on what subjects you enjoy studying. If you are unsure what subjects to choose, remember that balance and breadth are important. It is also wise to speak to your subject teachers; they will be able to provide you with an insight into the course and help you decide whether that subject is right for you.

Very often students are sure about some subjects, but still have to make a difficult decision between one or two others: Should I take separate sciences? Should I continue with a Modern Languages? Do I choose Geography or History or both?

You will find that most universities, colleges and employers do not mind which GCSEs you take, but are very interested in the grades you achieve. The compulsory subjects of Maths and English are required by universities and employers alike.

It seems strange to be thinking this far ahead but it is important that you do so. There are some Advanced level courses that you cannot study if you do not take them for GCSE first. Make sure you know about these and consider them in your options. For ease, the entry requirements for the Coombe Sixth Form follow. You should note that for many of the courses you need a minimum of a Grade 6 to continue to study them in the Sixth form.

Taking subjects you **enjoy** will make sure you get the best grades, as you will be enthusiastic about them.

Further advice and guidance on making your GCSE subject choices is available from Head of Careers and from speaking to subject staff, your Head of Year and your Form Tutor.

Compulsory (Core) Subjects for 2018-2020

- English Language
 - English Literature
 - Mathematics
 - Science – either as double award (two GCSEs) or three separate science GCSEs
 - A Modern Foreign Language – French, German or Spanish (most students)
 - History or Geography (most students)
 - Physical Education/Games.
- Some students will have study support as part of their core subjects.

Additional Option Subjects

Almost all students will be able to choose **two** optional subjects from the list below:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology – Resistant Materials
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Food and Cookery (V-CERT)
- Media Studies (BTEC)

All students will study a minimum of 8 GCSE or equivalent subjects, with students who choose “triple” Science studying a minimum of 10 subjects.

Choosing triple science will require students attending one twilight session (3-4pm) per week.

English Language (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	<p>The new English Language GCSE will encourage you to read a greater range of high quality, challenging literature and non-fiction texts from a range of genres and types (from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries). Reading and writing will be equally weighted in the new English Language GCSE.</p> <p>The English Language GCSE will have a greater focus on making sure that you are able to write clearly and accurately, in good 'Standard English'. There is an increased emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar including the use of vocabulary.</p>
What will I learn on this course?	You will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. You will also have opportunities to develop higher order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine interest into a range of topics and themes.
How is the course structured?	The course is assessed through two 100% examinations at the end of Year 11.
Content of the course	<p>You will study a range of high quality fiction and non-fiction texts, responding to them as critical readers as well as using them as inspiration for your own writing.</p> <p>You will also read a range of texts from 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.</p>
How will I be assessed in this subject?	<p>You will be prepared for two examinations. The first is a response to a previously unseen literature text as well as a creative writing task.</p> <p>The second paper is a non-fiction focused paper where you will be tasked with comparing a non-fiction and literary non-fiction text, as well as a writing task where you will have to present your own viewpoint.</p> <p>The Spoken Language component, whilst compulsory, does not count towards the final grade and you will receive a separate certificate.</p>
How will I study?	In Year 10 you have 8 lessons every 2 weeks. In Year 11, you have 9 lessons every 2 weeks. To facilitate the needs of the year group, you will be set by ability.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	All materials for GCSE English Language are provided.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	GCSE English Language is an essential qualification for all Post-16 courses and pathways including university applications.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	<p>https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/activities</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround</p>

English Literature (Edexcel)

Introduction/background to the subject	<p>The new English Literature GCSE will encourage you to read a wide range of classic literature fluently with the assessment of: a 19th century novel; a Shakespearean play; a selection of poetry since 1789 including representative Romantic poems and British fiction or drama from 1914 onwards.</p> <p>Tiers will be removed from GCSE English Literature. This means that specifications and question papers will have to cover the full range of abilities.</p> <p>There will be increased assessment of unseen texts.</p> <p>The quality of writing in the response to texts will be assessed.</p>
What will I learn on this course?	On this course, you will study a range of exciting, challenging and culturally significant texts.
How is the course structured?	The course is linear, with a 100% examination at the end of Year 11.
Content of the course	You will study a range of high quality fiction texts including Shakespeare, the 19th century novel 'Jekyll and Hyde', 'The Woman in Black' and a collection of poems from the 18th to 20th century entitled 'Time and Place'.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	<p>You will sit two examinations in GCSE English Literature. Paper 1 will require an essay style response to a question on a passage from a play by Shakespeare. You will then answer another on the the rest of the play. As well as this, you will write an essay on a post-1914 novel, currently 'The Woman in Black'.</p> <p>Paper 2 assesses your knowledge of a 19th century novel that you will have studied in class, as well as your knowledge of an anthology of poetry and unseen poems since 1789.</p>
How will I study?	In Year 10 you have 8 lessons over 2 weeks. In Year 11 you have 9 lessons over 2 weeks. Depending on the needs of the cohort, you will be grouped into a combination of express and mixed ability groups.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	Wherever possible, the English department aims to supply all resources that you require. However, on occasion it is necessary for you to purchase your own copy of a novel in order to annotate it in preparation for the examinations. Where possible, we try to buy copies at a cheaper price than you can purchase them outside of school and will give as much notice as possible before of the books need to bought.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	GCSE English Literature is a highly regarded academic qualification for all Post-16 courses and pathways including university applications. Those who enjoy GCSE English Literature often go on to study A' Level English Literature which is a highly respected qualification.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	<p>https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/themes/the-gothic http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education http://poetrysociety.org.uk/young-poets/</p> <p>Classic texts to read: <i>Dracula</i>, <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>, <i>Wuthering Heights</i>, <i>Frankenstein</i>.</p>

Mathematics (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	The history of mathematics is nearly as old as humanity itself. Since antiquity, mathematics has been fundamental to advances in science, engineering, and philosophy. It has evolved from simple counting, measurement and calculation, and the systematic study of the shapes and motions of physical objects, through the application of abstraction, imagination and logic, to the broad, complex and often abstract discipline we know today.
What will I learn on this course?	Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be.
How is the course structured?	You have already begun your GCSE Mathematics as the Coombe Boys' scheme of learning has been designed as a five year GCSE. Please refer to the stages display in the Maths corridor.
Content of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 Number ● 2 Algebra ● 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change ● 4 Geometry and measures ● 5 Probability ● 6 Statistics
How will I be assessed in this subject?	At the end of year 11 you will sit three 90 minute papers (one non calculator). In preparation for the final exam, you will have sat four mock exams (two in year 10 and another two in year 11).
How will I study?	There are a number of activities that you will participate in. Investigations, problem solving, consolidation, debate/discussion, independent, paired, group tasks and diagnostic questions.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	Scientific calculator, compass, protractor
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	Everything - Maths is a core subject and highly regarded by all employers and education centres. A-Level Maths and Further Maths. All A-Level Sciences, Economics, Psychology, Geography Your GCSE Mathematics grade will be taken into consideration by universities.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	<p>Websites: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300 http://corbettmaths.com/ www.vle.mathswatch.com</p> <p>Textbooks: CGP</p>

Science – Combined Science: Trilogy (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	Together with English and mathematics, science is part of the 'core' curriculum that you all will be expected to study. Only through the study of science can we begin to explain how the world and the Universe around us work. In addition, we all make decisions on how to lead our own lives whether this concerns our health, the environment or the technology available to us and science aims to educate young people to enable informed decisions.
What will I learn on this course?	Through this GCSE you will develop scientific knowledge and understanding of science, an understanding of the methods of science, develop practical, enquiry and problem-solving skills and, finally, you will develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through analysis of data.
How is the course structured?	You will receive separate lessons in the three sciences biology, chemistry and physics, each from a specialist teacher. Together the content will be the basis of the two GCSE qualification 'Combined Science Trilogy'.
Content of the course	Biology: Cell biology and organisation of organisms, infection and immunity, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance and evolution and ecology. Chemistry: Atomic structure, chemical bonding, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, the atmosphere and the Earth's resources. Physics: Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, the particle model of matter and atomic structure.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. At least 15% of the total mark will be based on investigative skills and how well students can apply what they know to practical situations after study of a series of required practical work in each of biology, chemistry and physics. All examinations are taken at the end of year 11.
How will I study?	Although some of the topics at GCSE will be completely new to you, many of the topics will be familiar from your key stage 3 science lessons but knowledge is expanded and deepened for GCSE. Key ideas will be re-visited during the course to consolidate and develop new understanding by a combination of individual study, discussion and experimentation.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	All necessary equipment is provided but a calculator would be useful.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	You can study Advanced Level science or progress to level 3 BTEC, both of which can meet the requirements of a wide range of university courses, from architecture to zoology
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv Textbooks: AQA GCSE Biology Third edition ISBN 978-0-19-835937-1 AQA GCSE Chemistry Third edition ISBN 978-0-19-835938-8 AQA GCSE Physics Third edition ISBN 978-0-19-835939-5

Science Triple Award (AQA; single sciences)

Introduction/background to the subject	Together with English and mathematics, science is part of the 'core' curriculum that you are expected to study. Only through the study of science can we begin to explain how the world and the Universe around us work. In addition, we all make decisions on how to lead our own lives whether this concerns our health, the environment or the technology available to us and science aims to educate young people to enable informed decisions.
What will I learn on this course?	Through this GCSE you will develop scientific knowledge and understanding of science, an understanding of the methods of science, develop practical, enquiry and problem-solving skills and finally you will develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through analysis of data.
How is the course structured?	You will receive separate lessons in the three sciences biology, chemistry and physics, each from a specialist teacher. The content of the courses will be examined separately leading to GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics.
Content of the course	Biology: Cell biology and organisation of organisms, infection and immunity, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance and evolution and ecology. Chemistry: Atomic structure, chemical bonding, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, the atmosphere and the Earth's resources. Physics: Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, the particle model of matter and atomic structure. There is additional content in the topics that extends the knowledge needed for double award science.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	There are nine papers: three biology, three chemistry and three physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. At least 15% of the total mark will be based on investigative skills and how well students can apply what they know to practical situations after study of a series of required practical work in each of biology, chemistry and physics. All examinations are taken at the end of year 11.
How will I study?	Although some of the topics at GCSE will be completely new, many of the topics will be familiar from your key stage 3 science lessons but knowledge is expanded and deepened for GCSE. Key ideas will be re-visited during the course to consolidate and develop new understanding by a combination of individual study, discussion and experimentation.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	All necessary equipment is provided but a calculator would be useful.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	You can study Advanced Level science or progress to level 3 BTEC, both of which can meet the requirements of a wide range of university courses, from architecture to zoology
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zrkw2hv Textbooks: AQA GCSE Biology Third edition ISBN 978-0-19-835937-1 AQA GCSE Chemistry Third edition ISBN 978-0-19-835938-8 AQA GCSE Physics Third edition ISBN 978-0-19-835939-5

Art & Design (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	AQA GCSE Art and Design provides you with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore your interests. You will be able to build creative skills through learning and doing, to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working and develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.
What will I learn on this course?	Through well-structured lessons and project work you will be encouraged to be creative, imaginative, learn research skills and how to investigate and experiment. You will develop ideas from first-hand experience and, where appropriate, secondary source materials. You will also explore techniques such as printing, painting, textiles, photography and construction. There will be opportunities to work with a wide variety of materials.
How is the course structured?	The course is taught over two school years. The personal portfolio is put together during a series of projects and lessons which are set by the art department but are open to personal interpretation and independent research. A mock examination takes place during the autumn term of year 11 and gives you the opportunity to experience the expectations of the full examination, which is usually taken in the summer term. The final examination paper is presented to you in the spring term with time to create preparatory work in lesson time. The final examination takes place over two days in the department (10 hours in total).
Content of the course	There are usually two projects which influence the work during the two years. This year it has been <i>natural forms and/ or groups</i> . The final examination titles are set by AQA.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	60% controlled assessment as a personal portfolio (coursework) 40% externally set assignment (examination)
How will I study?	Lessons are very practical with lots of emphasis on improving drawing and design techniques. You are expected to work independently in and out of school to reach your full potential. Project work is set in lesson time and workshops introduce specific techniques. After school working is expected on a regular basis and you are encouraged to visit galleries and museums in your own time to keep up to date with current exhibitions.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	All basic art materials are provided by the school and bulk purchase items such as canvases are available at low prices through parent pay. You would always benefit from having a standard range of art materials at home but all of these can be accessed in after school sessions.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	Those who wish to continue with art and design after achieving a good GCSE pass go on to do A Level or level 3 Btec qualifications. This enables you to apply for an art foundation course which is the entry requirement for most art based degree courses. Careers that benefit from an art qualification include, graphic design, product design, architecture, film making, animation and illustration.
Useful textbooks, and websites	wwwAQA.org.uk (art and design)

Business Studies (Edexcel 9-1)

<p>Introduction/background to the subject</p>	<p>Everything in life involves Business. Think about the new top you bought last week and then think of what businesses made it possible for you to be wearing it right now? Business is a major part of everyone's life and anybody who has a good idea about how businesses work are at an immediate advantage in the future.</p>
<p>What topics will I cover and learn?</p>	<p>Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business. In this theme, students will be introduced to local and national business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.</p> <p>Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. In this theme, students will be introduced to national and global business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed in this subject</p>	<p>2 examinations.</p>
<p>When will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Both examinations will be taken in the Summer of 2019. Both are worth 50% and are 1 hour 30 minutes.</p> <p>The papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.</p>
<p>What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning assessment?</p>	<p>ICT is an integral part of the course and you will be encouraged to use and develop their ICT skills using a variety of applications. You will be presenting ideas to the class and working in groups to develop team-working skills. You will also apply knowledge to case studies and recommend strategies to improve their performance.</p>
<p>Will I need any special/different equipment?</p>	<p>No special equipment is required</p>

<p>The future: What post 16 opportunities, careers and university courses does this link to?</p>	<p>Business Studies is a varied course and is very popular at both A-Level and BTEC where GCSE Business Studies students will have an advantage.</p> <p>Business Studies remains a very popular choice at University as it is also a course that boasts a very high employment rate.</p>
<p>What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?</p>	<p>Anyone with an interest in business structures, ethics, the economy, finance, marketing, human resources and management will enjoy the course. An interest in the news, 'Dragons Den' and 'The Apprentice' are essential.</p>
<p>Where would I get any further information from?</p>	<p>Useful websites:</p> <p>www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</p> <p>www.tutor2u.com</p> <p>www.pearson.com</p>

Computer Science (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	Computer science is all about problem solving. Analysing and modelling problems, designing solutions and then evaluating them.
What will I learn on this course?	<p>You will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how and why computers work • data and how it is transferred • programming • designing and developing applications • project management techniques. <p>It focuses on using technology to come up with your own creative and practical answers to questions and problems.</p>
How is the course structured?	The course has 9 main areas of content, which are assessed through 2 examinations.
Content of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Fundamentals of algorithms • 2. Programming • 3. Fundamentals of data representation • 4. Computer systems • 5. Fundamentals of computer networks • 6. Fundamentals of cyber security • 7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy • 8. Aspects of software development • 9. Non-exam assessment
How will I be assessed in this subject?	<p>Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving What's assessed Computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing as well as theoretical knowledge of computer science from Subject content 1–4 above</p> <p>How it is assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination set in practically based scenarios: 1.5Hrs • 80 marks • 50% of GCSE <p>Questions A mix of multiple choice, short-answer and longer-answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills</p> <p>Paper 2: Written assessment What's assessed Theoretical knowledge from Subject content 3–7 above</p> <p>How it is assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes • 80 marks • 50% of GCSE <p>Questions A mix of multiple choice, short-answer, longer-answer and extended response questions assessing a student's theoretical knowledge.</p>

	<p>Non-exam assessment</p> <p>Practical Programming Coursework</p> <p>This element of the course has been suspended but may be reintroduced. If so, this will account for 20% of the course.</p>
How will I study?	The course will contain a range of practical programming activities alongside theory lesson. We aim to deliver the course content in as much of a practical way as we can.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	You will need to install PYTHON onto your home computer. This is a free programming language.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	There are many careers in the field of computing. The computing labour market in the UK is a growing market. Appropriate further education might include: A level Computer Science a Degree in Computing or a Degree in Multimedia, Gaming, Computing, IT or related fields. This subject links well to maths and science
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	AQA GCSE (9-1) Computer Science S Robson PM Heathcote Published by PG ONLINE

Design and Technology: (AQA)

<p>Introduction/background to the subject</p>	<p>GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.</p>
<p>Content of the course: What will I learn on this course?</p>	<p>Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.</p>
<p>How is the course structured?</p>	<p>Year 10 – A dedicated weekly CAD/CAM lesson aimed at learning packages such as Solidworks, 2D Design tools and Technical drawing skills. Weekly practical lessons which focus on developing skills and understanding of quantity manufacture and creative designing. Year 11- Designing and making for the Non-exam assessment folio, practical product and exam preparation.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed in this subject?</p>	<p>Exam Paper 1 What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core technical principles • Specialist technical principles • Designing and making principles <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 2 hours • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE <p>Questions</p> <p>Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.</p> <p>Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.</p> <p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) What's assessed</p> <p>Practical application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core technical principles • Specialist technical principles • Designing and making principles <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE <p>Task(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial design and make task

	<p><u>Assessment criteria:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and investigating design possibilities • Producing a design brief and specification • Generating design ideas • Developing design ideas • Realising design ideas • Analysing & evaluating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence • Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA
How will I study?	<p>The majority of the specification will be delivered in year 10 through exciting mini practical tasks which respond to a given context and design brief. CAD/CAM based theory lessons and the homework tasks form a big part of your revision material.</p> <p>In the later stages of Year 10 and Year 11 you will respond to a given Design brief - For this you research, consider 'user' needs, produce creative designs, model ideas, use quantity production techniques such as jigs/formers/templates/CAD and CAM, to plan & make a final product which you test and evaluate.</p>
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	Usual school equipment. Recommended reading to be bought (see below).
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	<p>Our new GCSE is a single qualification. Courses in Carpentry, Mechanics, Design, Electrical and building related. Careers such as - Architecture, Design, Product Design, Engineering, Teaching, Carpentry, Building, Trades, Graphic Design, Set Design, Plumbing, Industrial designer, Exhibition designer, Interior design.</p> <p>At Post-16 there is the option to study A-level Product Design at our federated school Coombe Girls' School.</p>
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	<p>http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552</p> <p>Full reading list available at the following URL: http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology/teach/textbooks</p>

Drama (AQA)

Introduction/ background to the subject	GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will enjoy the course if they want to study a subject that is both practical and creative.
What will I learn on this course?	The course offers you the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form in which ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. You will be introduced to key practitioners, theoretical influences and influential playwrights whilst developing and building your core practical performance skills.
How is the course structured?	The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding drama (written exam) 2. Devising drama (practical and coursework portfolio) 3. Texts in practice (practical) Whilst there is a fundamental emphasis on the practical element in this course, the building up of a lively portfolio full of inspirational ideas, collaboration and experimentation and finally evaluation, is also a central part of the course.
Content of the course	Component 1: Written Examination (40%) Component 1 consists of the written paper – an open book exam of 1¾ hours Section A: multiple choice questions on knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre (4 marks) Section B: four questions on a given extract from the set play (chosen from a choice of six) (46 marks) Section C: one two part question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production (30 marks) Components 2 & 3: Practical Work (60%) Component 2 (40%) consists of creating and performing devised drama. Students will analyse and evaluate your own work with the creation and development of a coursework portfolio (devising log). Component 3 (20%) consists of a performance of two extracts from one play.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	Written Exam (40%) Practical Work (60%) Assessment: AO1: Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance. AO2: Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance. AO3: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed. AO4: Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others.
How will I study?	GCSE Drama involves a substantial amount of group work. You will need to devise drama and explore texts practically through work on two text-based performances.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	Drama offers you the opportunity to explore a range of creative as well as critical thinking skills while engaging and encouraging you to become imaginative and confident performers and designers. It implements and instils key skills applicable to a variety of careers as you learn to present yourself in public with confidence. You will also learn to collaborate, communicate and negotiate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. You will gain the confidence to pursue your own ideas, reflect and refine your efforts. Whatever the future holds, you will emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace. This course is for you if you intend to study A-level Drama, as you will already have become familiar with studying whole set texts for the written papers. You will also have built solid foundations in reviewing a live theatre production and in interpreting key extracts. Drama students go on to pursue careers in Performing Arts, Entertainment Industry, Media, Politics, Teaching, Events Management etc. while Universities view Drama A level in conjunction with other appropriate subjects as acceptable for study in Medicine and Law.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	Blood Brothers (Methuen Modern Play) (Modern Classics) by Willy Russell ; AQA GCSE Drama by Annie Fox

Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on developing a range of practical cooking skills and techniques. The course aims to extend your knowledge and understanding of food, diet and health through theoretical and practical application; enabling you to make informed decisions about diet and food choices.
Content of the course: What will I learn on this course?	This qualification focuses on nurturing your practical skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition and food preparation. The five core topics covered include: Food, nutrition and health Food science Food safety Food choice Food provenance
How is the course structured?	Internal You will complete two tasks: Non-exam task 1 15% Non-exam task 2 35% External You will complete a written paper Written paper 50% 1 hour 45 minutes
How will I be assessed in this subject?	This examination is designed to be taken at the end of two years. To achieve this award you will be expected to complete all assessments by the end of the course. The written examination is 1 hour 45 minutes which completes 50% of the GCSE. The non-exam assessment is made up of two tasks completing the remaining 50% of the GCSE.
How will I study?	The majority of the specification will be delivered through food preparation and making activities. You will also have to make theoretical connections to their practical outcomes by applying your knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition. The range of activities studied will reflect the recommended guidelines for maintaining a healthy balanced diet based on the main food commodity groups.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	You will be provided with the appropriate tools and equipment to complete set practical tasks in the food room.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	Food Preparation and Nutrition is ideal if you are looking for career pathways into Food Science, Sports Coaching and Nutrition, Hospitality and Catering. Students can progress to study the Cambridge International AS and A level Food studies (9336) at our federation Coombe Girls school.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	The school will confirm which text books will be used following their publication in the next few months.

Geography (AQA)

<p>Introduction/ background to the subject</p>	<p>GCSE Geography gives you the opportunity to understand more about your world, the challenges it faces and our place within it. By choosing Geography you enable yourself to understand why things happen today and how they can be shaped for the future. You will learn about physical environments such as rivers and coasts. Human habitats such as major world cities and the interaction between both people and landscape throughout the globe. You will also learn investigative skills and embark on two field trips. Geography aims to help you become a forward looking global citizen. It is the best subject on Earth.</p>
<p>What will I learn on this course?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical Geography: Tectonic and Weather Hazards, Coasts, Rivers, and The Living World ● Human Geography: Urban Environments, Global Development, Resource management ● Synoptic Geography- Two fieldwork trips (one based on a physical environment(rivers) one bases on human environment (urban area)) and Geographic Skills
<p>How is the course structured?</p>	<p>There will be 3 examinations in Year 11</p> <p>Paper 1: The Physical Environment 37.5%</p> <p>Paper 2: The Human Environment 37.5%</p> <p>Paper 3: Geographical Skills 25%</p>
<p>What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?</p>	<p>Geography is a subject which fits with pretty much everything. Many people who study geography go into law and business, the army, police, government and any international relations or research organisations. This is because they love the practical research skills and wide knowledge that geographers develop.</p> <p>If you chose A Levels, Geography fits well with a wide variety of subjects. If Science is your chosen path it's a great way to help with Ecosystems side of Biology. Maths is also useful when it comes to the statistics.</p> <p>If you are more Humanistic Geography fits well with anything from Economics, English, Sociology through to History</p> <p>There are some Geography specific jobs such as town or transport planning, tourism or even tornado chasing but most people use their skills in a wider range of everyday professions.</p>
<p>Useful textbooks, and websites for this course</p>	<p>You already have access to an online text book via your kerboodle account. Information regarding the course can be found on the AQA website. Just search "AQA Geography GCSE 1-9"</p> <p>There are many other useful GCSE geography websites. These include</p> <p>http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography</p> <p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography</p> <p>But, more importantly, If you want to know more, talk to Mr Hughes.</p>

History (Edexcel)

Introduction/background to the subject	History is quite simply a fascinating subject. We feel strongly the study of history is essential in today's complex world. Undoubtedly through the study of history you gain the opportunity to better understand the past and its impact on the world around us. GCSE history encompasses a wide range of themes, historical events and eras. Although taxing and literacy heavy, we feel that this subject and the topics we study here at Coombe suit our pupils and have designed a GCSE course based on what we feel are our collective.	
What will I learn on this course?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crime and punishment in Britain c1000 to present. This includes a study of Whitechapel c 1870-1900 looking at crime, policing and the inner city ● Superpower relations and the cold war, 1941-91 ● Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 ● Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39 	
How is the course structured?	<p>There will be 3 examinations in GCSE History</p> <p>Paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes (30%) Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes (40%) Paper 3 – 1 hour 20 minutes (30%)</p>	
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	<p>History is a highly rated, academic subject. By studying history you develop analytical skills such as critical thinking, the capacity for solving problems and research. the subject proves you have the ability to form well constructed arguments and carry out independent enquiries.</p> <p>Careers for people with History qualifications include-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lecturer ● Journalist ● Politician ● Researcher(TV etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Librarian ● Office manager ● Public services ● TV presenter ● Writer ● Teacher ● Solicitor ● Barrister
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	<p>Information regarding the course such as past papers, mark schemes etc. can be found at</p> <p>http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/history/b/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Other useful websites</p> <p>http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/ http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebiteize/history/ http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/ http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/</p>	

Media Studies* (WJEC/EDUQAS)

Introduction/ background to the subject	We are constantly surrounded and influenced by the ever growing media industry. Therefore it is more important than ever to be able to accurately read and interpret the messages we receive every day. Media Studies is a dynamic and exciting subject that allows you to develop your critical thinking, alongside your creative and technical skills. By developing an understanding of a wide range of media texts, you will be challenged to produce industry standard work, showcasing your creative and analytical skills.	
What will I learn on this course?	The topics we currently deliver are Advertising, Film, Newspapers, Video Gaming and Magazines . Students will have the opportunity to produce their own music video or website during the NEA. The exams are based social, historical, industry and audience contexts.	
How is the course structured?	Learners study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences. The following forms are studied in depth through applying all areas of the framework: newspapers, television, music video and online, social and participatory media. Advertising and marketing, film, video games, radio and magazines are studied in relation to selected areas of the framework. Areas of the framework are studied in the following way across the three components.	
Content of the course	<p>Component 1 - Exam: Exploring the Media This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements.</p> <p>Component 2 - Exam: Understanding Media Forms and Products This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music.</p> <p>Component 3 - NEA (Non Exam Assessment): Creating Media Products An individual media production for an intended audience in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC, applying knowledge and understanding of media language and representation.</p>	
How will I be assessed in this subject?	Internal	External
	30 %	70%
How will I study?	The Media Studies course is made up a wide range of activities including discussions, filming, photographing and editing exercises as well as analysing a range of media products and using media language in discursive essays.	
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	All Media Studies students need a USB stick at the start of the course. They also need access to the internet. If you have your own camera you will be able to use it during the course. However the department has a wide range of equipment available to all students.	
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	The Media offers an extraordinarily wide range of career and further study opportunities. In addition to A Level and BTEC Level 3 Media Studies courses, there is a wide range of university level courses and apprenticeships available. Media Studies is a good preparation for careers in production, direction, journalism, camera operation...the list goes on and on.	
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	Eduqas Website: http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse BBC Bitesize: Media Studies	

Modern Foreign Language: French, German or Spanish (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	MFL – French, German or Spanish. You will be encouraged to develop your ability and ambition to communicate and understand another language. The study of French/German/Spanish will also broaden your horizons, encourage you to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world.
What will I learn on this course?	Theme 1: Identity and culture Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest Theme 3: Current and future study and employment
How is the course structured?	25% Listening 25% Reading 25% Speaking 25% Writing
Content of the course	You will study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based. Theme 1: Identity and culture Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest Theme 3: Current and future study and employment
How will I be assessed in this subject?	<p>The course is assessed by 100% final examination. GCSE French/German/Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.</p> <p>What is assessed?</p> <p>Listening: Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally Section B – questions in French/German/Spanish, to be answered in French/German/Spanish or non-verbally</p> <p>Speaking: 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too: Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier) Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier) General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)</p>

How will I be assessed in this subject?	<p>Reading:</p> <p>Written examination: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</p> <p>Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally</p> <p>Section B – questions in French/German/Spanish, to be answered in French/German/Spanish or non-verbally</p> <p>Section C – translation from French/German/Spanish into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)</p> <p>Writing:</p> <p>Written examination: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)</p> <p>Foundation Tier</p> <p>Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo)</p> <p>Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total)</p> <p>Question 3 – translation from English into French/German/Spanish (minimum 35 words)</p> <p>Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions</p> <p>Higher Tier</p> <p>Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions</p> <p>Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions</p> <p>Question 3 – translation from English into French/German/Spanish (minimum 50 words)</p>
How will I study?	You will work on all 4 skills during lessons and independent study time.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	A French/German/Spanish dictionary
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	<p>GCSE French/German/Spanish can lead to further study of the language or another language of your choice. A modern language is also a good combination with other subjects such as Law, History or Geography.</p> <p>Many universities look favourably on candidates with a GCSE in a language.</p>
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	<p>www.linguascope.com</p> <p>www.kerboodle.com</p> <p>www.languagesonline.org.uk</p> <p>www.vocabexpress.com</p> <p>CGP GCSE AQA Revision guide 9-1</p> <p>OUP AQA GCSE textbook</p>

Music (Edexcel)

Introduction/ background to the subject	GCSE music gives you an opportunity to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.
What will I learn on this course?	You will develop your musical knowledge, understanding and skills. You will engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.
How is the course structured?	<p>Component 1 Performing 30% 2 performances: Solo - minimum 1 piece - minimum 1 minute Ensemble - minimum 1 piece - minimum 1 minute Together total minimum of 4 minutes across the solo and ensemble pieces</p> <p>2 pieces 30 marks each Total of 60 marks</p> <p>Component 2 Composing 30% 2 compositions 1 to set brief – minimum 1 minute 1 free composition – minimum 1 minute Together total minimum of 3 minutes</p> <p>2 pieces 30 marks each Total of 60 marks</p> <p>Component 3 Listening & Appraising 40% Exam Four Areas of Study with 2 Set Works each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental Music 1700–1820 • Vocal Music • Music for Stage and Screen • Fusions <p>Examination 1hr 45mins Total of 80 marks</p>
Content of the course	<p>The course is divided into 4 Areas of Study which you will study through 8 Set Works</p> <p>1. Instrumental Music 1700–1820 J.S. Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major L. van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'</p> <p>2. Vocal Music H. Purcell: Music for a While Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')</p> <p>3. Music for Stage and Screen S. Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked) J. Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)</p> <p>4. Fusions Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release') Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')</p>

How will I be assessed in this subject?	<p>Performing is worth 30% and you need to perform at least two pieces, one of which must be part of an ensemble, and the minimum time for both pieces must be at least 4 minutes.</p> <p>Composing is worth 30% and you will need to compose at least two pieces, one must be in response to a brief set by the exam board and one must be a piece of free composition, the minimum time for both pieces must be at least 3 minutes.</p> <p>Appraising is worth 40% and content has been given in terms of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. Students must study at least four Areas of Study, one based in Western Classical Music (WCM) composed between 1650 and 1910, and one that is not based in WCM. There is a requirement for students to read and write staff notation and respond to unfamiliar music in the exam.</p>
How will I study?	The activities of performing and composing will be integrated alongside appraisal of the study of eight set works.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	You will be required to bring your instrument where appropriate to your lessons and there is an anthology book of music and textbook which accompany the course.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	This course is a good preparation for 'A' Level Music, Music Technology and BTEC Performing Arts courses.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	EdExcel Anthology of Music and Textbook - Pearson http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/music

Physical Education GCSE (Edexcel)

Introduction/background to the subject	GCSE Physical Education is for those students who are keen to develop a comprehensive insight into sport and sport science through the development of a detailed understanding of how the mind and body work in relation to performance in physical activity.
What will I learn on this course?	You will be encouraged to engage in developing knowledge through practical application. From Anatomy & Physiology, Sports Psychology and Performance.
How is the course structured?	60% Theory 40 % Practical
Content of the course	1.Fitness & Body Systems (36%) 2.Health and Performance (24%) 3.Practical Performance (30%) 4.Personal Exercise Program (10%)
How will I be assessed in this subject?	Written Examination 1: 1 h 45 Written Examination 2: 1h 15 Practical : 3 sports Non examined assessment : 6 week training programme
How will I study?	There is a real pressure to deliver in both examinations. You will have lessons both in the classroom and sports hall, helping you understand and apply the links between theory and practical.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	Your Full PE kit for practical lessons. (no excuses)
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	A level Physical Education is a fantastic gateway to sport sciences at degree level, from there the opportunities are endless, coaching, psychology, sports analysis, teaching and the fitness industry.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	EDEXCEL GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION by Maarit Edy & Matthew Hunter Published by OXFORD. ISBN 978-0-837021-5

Religious Studies (Edexcel B)

<p>Introduction/background to the subject</p>	<p>GCSE RS is the subject that allows you to debate, analyse and evaluate key issues that arise in our world today. Not only will you develop a valuable understanding of two of the most popular religions in the world today, you will be able to evaluate viewpoints of challenging ethical topics such as whether war is correct, whether people should be able to end their own life, or whether women and men should have different roles in society. GCSE RS is for anyone that wants to challenge themselves and their viewpoints, develop important analytical skills and gain a deeper understanding on our world as it is today.</p>
<p>What will I learn on this course?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christian Beliefs and Practises ● Marriage and the Family (Marriage, Relationships, gender discrimination) ● Matters of Life and Death (Abortion, Euthanasia, Evidence for the existence of the afterlife) ● Islamic Beliefs and Practises ● Crime and Punishment (Justice, aims of punishment, capital punishment) ● Peace and Conflict (How can we make peace, When is a war just, Weapons of mass destruction).
<p>How is the course structured?</p>	<p>There will be 2 examinations in GCSE Religious Studies</p> <p>Paper 1- Religion and Ethics through Christianity (1 hr 45 mins) 50%</p> <p>Paper 2- Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam (1hr 45 mins) 50%</p>
<p>What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?</p>	<p>Students who enjoy Religious Studies GCSE may choose to study Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics A level which is a highly regarded academic subject. In addition, Religious Studies GCSE provides you with important transferable skills that are useful for all post-16, post-18 and career opportunities.</p>
<p>Useful textbooks, and websites for this course</p>	<p>Information regarding the course such as past papers, mark schemes etc. can be found at https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-b-2016.html</p> <p>Textbooks for the course can be purchased through Amazon and revision guides are available on Parent Pay for students choosing to study the GCSE course.</p> <p>Other useful websites http://request.org.uk/ http://www.reonline.org.uk/ https://www.truetube.co.uk/</p>

Food and Cookery (V-Cert) (NCFE)

Introduction/background to the subject	The V Cert qualification is designed for learners with an interest in food and cookery.
What will I learn on this course (Content of the course)?	This qualification will show you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how to prepare yourself and the environment for cooking • the factors affecting food choice and selection • the importance of a balanced diet is and reference intake • how to adapt recipes to make you healthier • how to plan and produce dishes for a purpose.
How is the course structured?	There are 4 units delivered over 2 years: Preparing to Cook Understanding Food Exploring Balanced Diets Plan and Produce Dishes in Response to a Brief
How will I be assessed in this subject?	A grade will be awarded as one of the following: Pass (equivalent to a C/5 grade) Merit (equivalent to a B/6 grade) Distinction (equivalent to an A/7 grade)
How will I study?	Internal assessment of portfolio units. External Assessment examination paper (2hours).
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	All use of equipment will be provided by the school.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	It will provide you with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable you to use these for further education or apprenticeships. It gives you a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in with food.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	Recommended reading: Practical Cookery for the level 1 diploma by David Fossett, Hodder Education, ISBN-13: 978-1444187496

Media Studies (BTEC First Award Pearson)

<p>Introduction/background to the subject</p>	<p>We are constantly surrounded and influenced by an ever-growing media industry. Therefore, it is more important than ever to be able to accurately read and interpret the messages we receive every day. Media Studies is a dynamic and exciting subject that allows you to develop your critical thinking, alongside with your creative and technical skills. By developing an understanding of a wide range of media texts, you will be challenged to produce industry standard work, highlighting your creative and analytical skills.</p>
<p>What will I learn on this course (Content of the course)?</p>	<p>Unlike the GCSE option, the BTEC is vocational and offers students the opportunity to practice vocational skills. The topics we currently deliver are Media Audience & Sectors, Digital Moving image & Audio Production.</p>
<p>How is the course structured?</p>	<p>This qualification has been developed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of media. It includes two core units and a selection of five optional specialist units, from which a further two units are chosen. Unit 1 of the core units is a broad unit that underpins the fundamental knowledge and understanding of media principles looking at all five key sectors (Digital Moving Image, Digital Audio Production, Digital Publishing, Website Production and Digital Games Production) and the different types of audiences. Unit 2 must be taken alongside the optional units and focuses on communication techniques.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed in this subject?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>25%: External Examination</u></p> <p>UNIT 1 EXAM: <i>Digital Media Sectors and Audiences</i> – You will explore the digital media industry and all five key sectors that fall under it (Digital Moving Image, Digital Audio Production, Digital Publishing, Website Production and Digital Games Production). You will also explore the different types of audiences and how audiences can engage with each sector.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>75%: Internal Moderation</u></p> <p>UNIT 2: <i>Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product</i> – You will use your verbal, written and visual communication skills to enable them to formulate, develop and pitch ideas of a product that they then plan to produce.</p> <p>UNIT 3: <i>Digital Moving Image Production</i> – You will investigate key features of digital moving image productions, including structures, generic conventions and audience address, in preparation for the making of a film or video</p> <p>UNIT 4: <i>Digital Audio Production</i> – You will explore techniques and procedures for recording digital audio in different locations and under different conditions. You will then record audio for a particular digital media product, edit it and review the work.</p>
<p>How will I study?</p>	<p>The Media Studies course comprises of a wide range of activities including discussions, filming, photographing and editing exercises as well as analysing a range of media products and using media language in discursive essays.</p>
<p>Any specialist equipment needed for this course</p>	<p>All Media Studies students need a USB stick at the start of the course. They also need access to the internet. If you have your own camera, you will be able to use it during the course. However, the department has a wide range of equipment available to all students.</p>

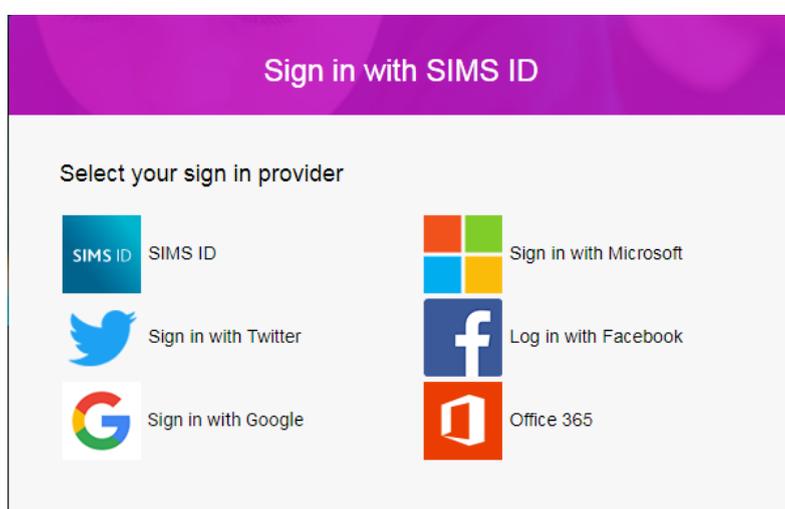
<p>What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?</p>	<p>The Media offers an extraordinarily wide range of career and further study opportunities. In addition to A Level and BTEC Level 3 Media Studies courses, there is a wide range of university level courses and apprenticeships available. Media Studies is a good preparation for careers in production, direction, journalism, camera operation...the list goes on and on.</p>
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How do I submit my option choices?

Parents and students will receive an email with a link to the options portal. Clicking on the link will take you to the portal and you will need to use one of the online IDs below to access the portal (all CBS students have a google ID which can be used for this purpose).

If you experience difficulties completing the form there will be a number of staff available to assist you at parents evening on the 24th January or you can email enquiries@coombeboysschool.org F.A.O. Karen Batten.

How to log onto www.sims-options.co.uk



Log in with any of the above then complete your choices

This is an example