COOMBE

preparing you for a world of opportunity

GCSE OPTIONS 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 who 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 BTECs 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.

The Core subjects are compulsory in Year 10 and 11 - these include English Language and English Literature; Mathematics and Science. In addition to this, most students will study at least one modern foreign language (French, German or Spanish) and a humanities (Geography or History**)** at GCSE level. In addition to these examined subjects, your son will also take part in non examined Core Games/P.E. each week throughout year 10 and 11.

This combination will qualify your son for the government's "English Baccalaureate" award which recognises a student's achievement in 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 additional 'free choice' courses available to most students. BTEC courses are also available to all students, they are the equivalent of GCSE courses and have the same value as GCSEs when progressing to sixth form or university. Unlike GCSEs these courses are not solely dependent on performance in the examinations at the end of the two year course. To opt to study one or two of these courses would be beneficial to many students.

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 others. Students should also recognise, however, that they are likely to change their minds in terms of what they would like to do in the future over the next few years and so choosing a broad spectrum of subjects is actively encouraged. Your son must also consider why he is choosing a particular subject. There are many good reasons for choosing a subject but also some bad.

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):**
● 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.	● 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 ones I have studied in the past.

Occasional comments from students who did not consider their choices sufficiently 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 that 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 a student is better at than others, and it is important to consider this when choosing courses.

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

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 16th January 2020**
- a Year 9 Information and Guidance Day on **Thursday 16th January 2020** and
- the Year 9 Parent/carer progress evening on **Wednesday 22nd January 2020.**

All options forms must be returned to school via 'Google Forms' by Friday 7th February 2020.
Your son's preferences expressed on this form will be taken into account but are dependent on the subjects fitting into his timetable and the courses being popular enough to run.

It may not be possible for every student in the year group to be given all his first choices, although we will obviously, do our very best to accommodate this. Students are asked, therefore, to also choose two 'reserve' choices as backup. They must be prepared to study either of these subjects if the situation arises.

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 level of motivation that will help your son to do well in a good, balanced menu of subjects.

Mr D Smith
Headteacher

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Important dates for your diaries

Thursday 16th January 2020	Year 9 IAG Day Options Booklet issued
Thursday 16th January 2020 **19:00 until 20:30**	Year 9 Opportunities and Information Evening
Wednesday 22nd January 2020 **16:00 until 19:00**	Year 9 Parents' (progress) Evening
January 2020	Assemblies for 'new' subjects - *Media Studies, Business Studies*
Friday 7th February 2020	Options form deadline
Friday 27th March 2020	Academic Mentoring Day
Monday 1st – Friday 12th June 2020	Summer examination week
Wednesday 17th July 2019	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/carers, 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 your Google Option Form by **Friday 7th February 2020**

The UK Education Structure

<table>
<tr><td>Level of Qualification</td><td colspan="2"></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">Higher level qualifications
Diplomas and Degrees</td><td>Higher level (Level 5 NVQ's): Apprenticeships</td></tr>
<tr><td>4</td><td>Level 4 NVQ's:
Professional and management</td></tr>
<tr><td>3 – Advanced Level (6th form)</td><td>3 A' Levels</td><td>BTEC Extended Diplomas (3 A' Level equivalent)</td><td>Level 3 NVQ's: Technicians, supervisors and senior office jobs</td></tr>
<tr><td>2 – Intermediate Level (KS4)</td><td colspan="2">GCSE courses – good passes
Grades 9 to 5</td><td>BTEC (Vocational qualification) – equivalent to GCSEs</td></tr>
<tr><td>1 – Foundation Level</td><td colspan="2">GCSE courses – other passes
Grades 4 to 1</td><td>Level 1 courses provided by Colleges</td></tr>
</table>

Changes to GCSEs

Changes have been introduced to GCSEs in recent years.

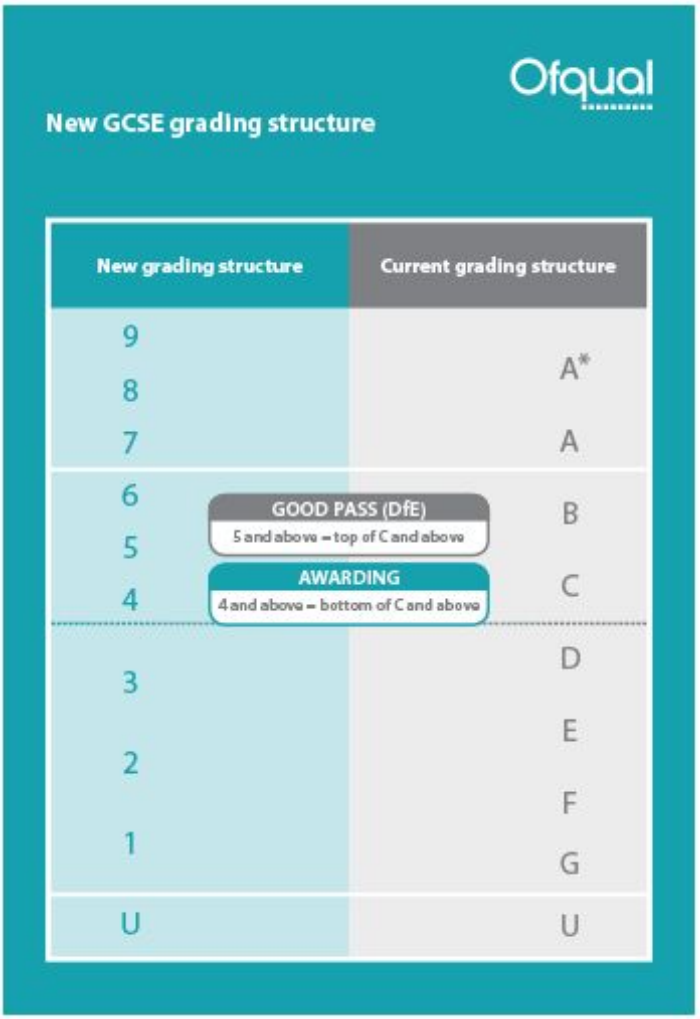
In September 2015 new GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and Mathematics were introduced. In September 2016 most other subjects introduced their new courses, with just Design & Technology and Business Studies introducing their new courses for year 10 in 2017.

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 later 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 following diagram.

The New Grading Structure for GCSEs



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.

9 to 1 GCSE

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

BTEC

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 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%
BTEC COURSES		
Business Studies	40%	60%
Digital Information Technology	40%	60%
Media Studies	25%	75%
Sports Science	50%	50%

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:

- GCSE English Language **and** English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Sciences (2 Sciences from either ‘Double’ or any **two** from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science)
- GCSE Geography **or** History
- 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 figures 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 – combined and triple award	**10/12**
Core Physical Education	**4**
Option 1 (Geography or History)	**5**
Option 2 (French, German or Spanish)	**5**
OPTIONAL SUBJECTS	
Option 3	**5**
Option 4	**5**
TOTAL	**50**

Careers Advice

Choosing your options can be challenging. There are often only a small number of people who are sure about exactly what subjects they want to take or which career they wish to pursue. Regardless of this, 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 who will be able to provide you with an insight into their subject course offer and help you decide whether that subject is right for you.

Often students are sure about some subjects, but still have to make a difficult decision between one or two others: Which Science course should I take? Which Modern Language do I have experience of? Do I choose Geography or History or both? What will my reserve choices be?

You will find that most universities, careers 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 are unable to study if you have not taken them for GCSE first. Make sure you know about these (ask your teachers) and consider them in your options. For ease, the entry requirements for the Coombe Sixth Form are shown below.

Please note that to study many of the Advanced level subjects you will need to have achieved a minimum of a Grade 6 at GCSE level.

Taking subjects you **enjoy** will ensure you have the best chance of achieving good grades as you will be enthusiastic about working for them.

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

Compulsory Core Subjects for 2020-2022

These are:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science – Biology, Chemistry and Physics: either as three separate GCSE sciences ('triple')

or

Double Science, which counts as two GCSEs.

A Modern Foreign Language – French, German or Spanish

History or Geography (most students)

Also in the 'core' is Physical Education/Games (non examined)

Additional Option Subjects (GCSEs)

- Art and Design
- Business Studies (BTEC or GCSE)
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology – Resistant Materials
- Digital Information Technology (BTEC)
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Media Studies (BTEC)
- Modern Foreign Language: French, German, Spanish
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sports Science (BTEC)

All students will study a minimum of 8-9 GCSE or equivalent subjects, with students who choose separate sciences (triple) studying a minimum of 10 subjects.

You will need to choose from the Options Subjects list– two main choices plus two reserve choices.

English Language (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	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. 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.
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	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. You will also read a range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	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. The second paper is a non-fiction focussed 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. The Spoken Language component, whilst compulsory, does not count towards the final grade and you will receive a separate certificate.
How will I study?	In Years 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	https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/activities http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround

English Literature (Edexcel)

Introduction/background to the subject	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. Tiers will be removed from GCSE English Literature. This means that specifications and question papers will have to cover the full range of abilities. There will be increased assessment of unseen texts. The quality of writing in response to texts will be assessed.
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 the 20th century entitled 'Time and Place'.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	You will take 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 rest of the play. As well as this, you will write an essay on a post-1914 novel, currently 'The Woman in Black'. 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.
How will I study?	In Year 10 and 11 you have 8 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 the 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 the books need to be 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	https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/themes/the-gothic http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education http://poetrysociety.org.uk/young-poets/ **Classic texts to read:** *Dracula, The Turn of the Screw, Wuthering Heights, Frankenstein.*

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	● 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, Computer Science. Your GCSE Mathematics grade will be taken into consideration by universities.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	**Websites**: http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300 http://corbettmaths.com/ www.vle.mathswatch.com **Textbooks**: CGP

Science - Combined Science Trilogy: Double Award (AQA)

Introduction/background to the subject	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 investigative skills, enquiry and problem-solving skills. In addition, you will develop your mathematical analytical skills and be able to evaluate claims based on science.
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'.Throughout the course you will conduct a series of Required Practical Investigations, which will focus on developing your practical, analytical and interpretative skills.
Content of the course	You will be taught all three sciences in a 'Spiral Curriculum.' This means that you will be build and consolidate on the material taught in Yr 10 and 11. <u>Biology Topics Taught</u> Cell biology, Organisation of Organisms, Infection and Immunity, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance and Evolution and Ecology. You will will cover 7 Required Practical Investigations within Biology. <u>Chemistry Topics Taught</u> Atomic structure, Chemical bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes and Energy, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, The Atmosphere and the Earth's Resources. You will will cover 6 Required Practical Investigations within Chemistry <u>Physics Topics Taught</u> Forces, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, The Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure. You will will cover 8 Required Practical Investigations within Physics
How will I be assessed in this subject?	There are six papers: - Two biology, (1hr 15 mins each) - Two chemistry (1hr 15 mins each) - Two physics (1hr 15 mins each) 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	Coombe Science Hub Website https://sites.google.com/coombe.org.uk/coombe-science 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; separate sciences)

Introduction/background to the subject	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 investigative skills, enquiry and problem-solving skills. In addition, you will develop your mathematical analytical skills and be able to evaluate claims based on science.
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	<u>Biology Topics Taught</u> Cell biology, Organisation of Organisms, Infection and Immunity, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance and Evolution and Ecology. You will will cover 10 Required Practical Investigations within Biology. <u>Chemistry Topics Taught</u> Atomic structure, Chemical bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes and Energy, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, The Atmosphere and the Earth's Resources. You will will cover 8 Required Practical Investigations within Chemistry <u>Physics Topics Taught</u> Forces, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, The Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure. You will will cover 10 Required Practical Investigations within Physics.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	There are six papers in total: Two biology, (1hr 45 mins each) Two chemistry (1hr 45 mins each) Two physics(1hr 45 mins each) 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. In addition, there is an increase mathematical demand in all science papers. 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. **All students who choose to study separate sciences will be required to attend a weekly twilight lesson (3pm-4pm), usually on a Thursday.**
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	Coombe Science Hub Website https://sites.google.com/coombe.org.uk/coombe-science 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 *Identity and Self* and another of the students' own choice. 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	www. AQA.org.uk (art and design)

Business Studies (Edexcel 9-1)

Introduction/ background to the subject	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.
What topics will I cover and learn?	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. 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.
How will I be assessed in this subject	2 examinations.
When will I be assessed?	Both examinations will be taken in the Summer of 2019. Both are worth 50% and are 1 hour 30 minutes. The papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.
What activities can I expect to do in this subject as part of the learning assessment?	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.
Will I need any special/ different equipment?	No special equipment is required
The future: What post 16 opportunities, careers and university courses does this link to?	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. Business Studies remains a very popular choice at University as it is also a course that boasts a very high employment rate.
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	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.
Where would I get any further information from?	Useful websites: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize www.tutor2u.com www.pearson.com

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?	You will learn about: • how and why computers work • data and how it is transferred • programming • designing and developing applications • project management techniques. It focuses on using technology to come up with your own creative and practical answers to questions and problems.
How is the course structured?	The course has 9 main areas of content, which are assessed through 2 examinations.
Content of the course	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-examination assessment
How will I be assessed in this subject?	**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 **How it is assessed** Written examination set in practically based scenarios: 1 hour 30 minutes ● 80 marks ● 50% of GCSE **Questions** A mix of multiple choice, short-answer and longer-answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills **Paper 2: Written assessment** **What's assessed** Theoretical knowledge from Subject content 3–7 above **How it is assessed** ● Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes ● 80 marks ● 50% of GCSE

	Questions A mix of multiple choice, short-answer, longer-answer and extended response questions assessing a student's theoretical knowledge. **Practical Programming Assignment** This element of the course is not assessed however all students have to undertake an extended programming assignment which takes place at the end of year 10
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 not need and special equipment. We use do all our coding in the cloud and so this will be accessible as long as you have an internet connection.
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, IT, cyber security, engineering 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)

Introduction/background to the subject	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.
Content of the course: What will I learn on this course?	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.
How is the course structured?	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.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	**Exam Paper 1** **What's assessed** • Core technical principles • Specialist technical principles • Designing and making principles **How it's assessed** • Written exam: 2 hours • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE **Questions** **Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)** A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding. **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. **Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)** A mixture of short answer and extended response questions. **Non-exam assessment (NEA)** **What's assessed** Practical application of: • Core technical principles • Specialist technical principles • Designing and making principles **How it's assessed** • Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx • 100 marks • 50% of GCSE

	Task(s) • Substantial design and make task <u>Assessment criteria:</u> • Identifying and investigating design possibilities • Producing a design brief and specification • Generating design ideas • Developing design ideas • Realising design ideas • Analysing & evaluating • Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence • Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA
How will I study?	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. 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.
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?	Our GCSE is a single qualification. Those who wish to continue with design and technology after achieving a good GCSE pass go on to do A Level in product design. Careers that benefit from a design and technology qualification include architecture, design, product design, engineering, teaching, Carpentry, certified trades, graphic design, set design, industrial designer, exhibition design, interior design.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552 Full reading list available at the following URL: http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology/teach/textbooks

Digital Information Technology (Pearson BTEC Level 2)

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?	The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Around 1.46 million people work in digital companies and there are around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.You will learn a range of digital skills and how computers and technology is used in business.
How is the course structured?	The course has 3 main areas of content, which are assessed through 2 assignments and one exam assessment
Content of the course	In this qualification you will develop important technical skills in data interpretation, data presentation and data protection. You will cover aspects of user interface (UI) design and development, and learn how to develop a project plan for your own UI designs. Cybercrime is an increasing threat – understanding the different types of threats and how to mitigate against them is vital to any business that uses and retains sensitive data. You will develop an understanding of what cyber security is and the importance of legal and ethical considerations when using modern technologies. Organisations often implement technological improvements by rolling out change projects, so understanding how projects are structured is of vital importance. This qualification will enable you to use project-planning tools, models and techniques within a digital context. Digital projects today often involve working with diverse teams across different locations. You will develop an understanding of what a virtual work environment is and how cloud technologies allow remote teams to work together more effectively.
How will I be assessed in this subject?	The qualification has three components. In Components 1 and 2 you will carry out tasks or assignments that your teacher will mark. The internal grading and quality assurance of these two components will give you a clear idea of how well you are progressing in your qualification. Component 3 is externally assessed by Pearson and assesses the knowledge and skills you have developed across all three components. The external assessment will test your ability to recall the knowledge you have gained and allow you to demonstrate that you can apply that knowledge in realistic scenarios and situations.
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 not need and special equipment. We use do all our work in the cloud and so this will be accessible as long as you have an internet connection.

What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Around 1.46 million people work in digital companies and there are around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'Digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce. The modern world expects digital skills to be as important as English and Maths. Having both technical skills and business understanding is the key to success.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology.html

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: 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 knowledge and understanding of Nutrition and Food preparation. The course aims to extend your knowledge and understanding through theoretical and practical application; enabling you to make informed decisions about your health,diet and food choices.
Content of the course: What will I learn on this course?	This qualification focuses on developing a strong understanding of the nutritional value of foods and the study of food properties and characteristics at the molecular level. 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 non- examination assessments by the end of the course. The written examination is 1 hour 45 minutes which completes 50% of the GCSE. The non-examination assessment is made up of two tasks, completing the remaining 50% of the GCSE.
How will I study?	In Year 10, the majority of the specification will be delivered using IT applications, developing knowledge of course content, researching skills, investigating properties and characteristics of foods and small practical food testings. In Year 11, the main focus will be completing the two non-examination assessment (NEA) tasks and consolidation of course content for written examination.
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	Appropriate cooking equipment will be provided and recommended reading to be purchased. (See below).
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, Nutritionist, or 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	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (Grade 9-1) The Revision Guide AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, Hodder Education, ISBN 9781471863646

Geography (AQA)

Introduction/ background to the subject	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.
What will I learn on this course?	• 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
How is the course structured?	There will be 3 examinations in Year 11 Paper 1: The Physical Environment 37.5% Paper 2: The Human Environment 37.5% Paper 3: Geographical Skills 25%
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	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. 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. If you are more Humanistic Geography fits well with anything from Economics, English, Sociology through to History 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.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	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" There are many other useful GCSE geography websites. These include http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/geography http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography But, more importantly, If you want to know more, talk to Mr Hughes.

History (Edexcel)

<table>
<tr><td>Introduction/background to the subject</td><td colspan="2">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.</td></tr>
<tr><td>What will I learn on this course?</td><td colspan="2">● 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</td></tr>
<tr><td>How is the course structured?</td><td colspan="2">There will be 3 examinations in GCSE History

Paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes (30%)
Paper 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)
Paper 3 – 1 hour 20 minutes (30%)</td></tr>
<tr><td>What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?</td><td>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.</td><td>Careers for people with History qualifications include-
● Lecturer
● Journalist
● Politician
● Researcher(TV etc)
● Librarian
● Office manager
● Public services
● TV presenter
● Writer
● Teacher
● Solicitor
● Barrister</td></tr>
<tr><td>Useful textbooks, and websites for this course</td><td colspan="2">Information regarding the course such as past papers, mark schemes etc. can be found at
http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/history/b/Pages/default.aspx
Other useful websites
http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history/
http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/
http://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/</td></tr>
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Media Studies BTEC Level 2 Tech Award

Introduction/ background to the subject	The creative media sector is a dynamic, growing and rewarding sector to work in, with new opportunities arising continually. The UK's creative industries as a whole are now worth over £84 billion per year to the UK economy. 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 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, showcasing your creative and analytical skills.	
What will I learn on this course?	The topics we currently deliver are **Advertising, Audio Visual, Interactive media, Publishing and video games.** Students will have the opportunity to produce their own audio visual or interactive product. There are no exams on the course however one unit of work will be graded externally.	
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. 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	**Component 1: Exploring Media Products** Learners will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences. Learners will examine existing products and explore media production techniques. **Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills** Learners will develop skills and techniques in media production processes by reworking media products from one, or all, of the following sectors: audio/moving image, publishing, interactive design **Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief** Learners will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief.	
How will I be assessed in this subject?	Internally graded coursework	Externally graded coursework
	70%	30%
How will I study?	The Media Studies course is made up 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 extended and analytical essays.	
Any specialist equipment needed for this course	It is crucial that students have access to the internet and Google Classroom at home. A lot of the coursework is completed as continuous homework. 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	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/creative-media-production.html 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?	The course is assessed by 100% final examination. GCSE French/German/Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–4) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. What is assessed? **Listening:** Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier) 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 **Speaking:** 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time 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)

How will I be assessed in this subject?	**Reading:** Written examination**:** 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier) 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 Section C – translation from French/German/Spanish into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier) **Writing:** Written examination: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier) Foundation Tier Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) Question 3 – translation from English into French/German/Spanish (minimum 35 words) 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 Higher Tier 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 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 Question 3 – translation from English into French/German/Spanish (minimum 50 words)
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?	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. Many universities look favourably on candidates with a GCSE in a language.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	www.bbc.com/bitesize www.kerboodle.com www.languagesonline.org.uk www.senecalearning.com CGP GCSE AQA Revision guide 9-1 OUP AQA GCSE textbook

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?	**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 2 pieces 30 marks each Total of 60 marks **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 2 pieces 30 marks each Total of 60 marks **Component 3 Listening & Appraising 40% Exam** Four Areas of Study with 2 Set Works each: • Instrumental Music 1700–1820 • Vocal Music • Music for Stage and Screen • Fusions Examination 1hr 45mins Total of 80 marks
Content of the course	The course is divided into four Areas of Study which you will study through 8 Set Works **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' **2. Vocal Music** H. Purcell: Music for a While Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack') **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) **4. Fusions** Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2:Release') Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

How will I be assessed in this subject?	**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. The performances have to be recorded in the year of submission, year 11. These performances are submitted as coursework. **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. These compositions are submitted as coursework. **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.
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 EdExcel GCSE Music Revision Guide - Rhinegold 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 - You will need to perform one team/one individual/one your choice Non examined assessment : 6 week training programme
How will I study?	There is a real pressure to deliver in both examinations. You will need to have a good understanding of human biology. 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 The PE department will provide you with the relevant GCSE revision guide. The PE department has its own internal site to support you with this qualification. Seneca learning.

Religious Studies (Edexcel B)

Introduction/background to the subject	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.
What will I learn on this course?	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).
How is the course structured?	There will be 2 examinations in GCSE Religious Studies Paper 1- Religion and Ethics through Christianity (1 hr 45 mins) 50% Paper 2- Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam (1hr 45 mins) 50%
What Post-16 opportunities, careers and/or university courses link well with this subject?	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.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	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 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. Other useful websites http://request.org.uk/ http://www.reonline.org.uk/ https://www.truetube.co.uk/

Sports Studies Level 2 (OCR National Certificate)

Introduction/background to the subject	This new Sports Studies course takes a more sector-based approach, while also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes.
What will I learn on this course?	You will be encouraged to engage in developing knowledge through practical application. From anatomy & physiology, skill development, sports leadership and their own practical performance.
How is the course structured?	60% Theory 40 % Practical
Content of the course	Mandatory units 1. Issues in sport 2. Developing sports skills Optional units - we will choose two 1. Sports leadership 2. Sports & the media 3. Working in the sports industry 4. Developing knowledge and skills in outdoor activities
How will I be assessed in this subject?	Written Examination - Unit 1 Coursework and internal assessments that are standardised by OCR This course is better suited to students who can offer a good performance in one sport but could develop the role of teacher/coach/ referee as well.
How will I study?	You will have lessons both in the classroom and sports hall, helping you understand and apply the links between theory and practical. You will need to have proficient IT skills. An ability to meet and keep to deadlines will be very important.
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?	Level 3 vocational qualifications and A level PE. This is a fantastic gateway to working in the industry. Sport sciences at degree level, from there the opportunities are endless, coaching, sports psychology, sports analysis, teaching.
Useful textbooks, and websites for this course	The PE department will provide you with the relevant GCSE support. The PE department has its own internal site to support you with this qualification.

The deadline for online options choices submission is:

Friday 7th February 2020