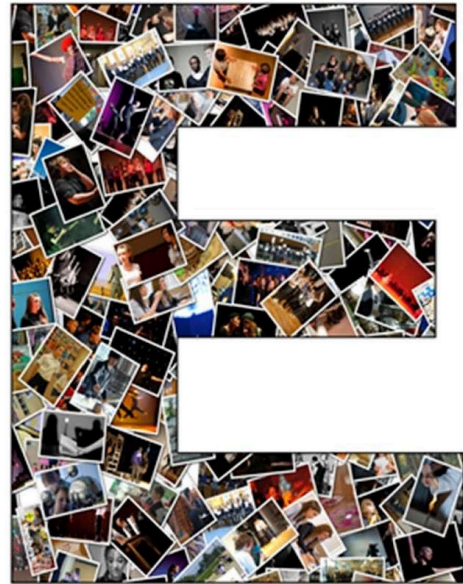


KEY STAGE 4 PREFERENCES 2024



DEBDEN
PARK HIGH SCHOOL



OUTSTANDING
INSPIRED
HEARD
INVOLVED
CHALLENGED

INDEPENDENT
DRIVEN
SAFE
PROUD
SUCCESSFUL

Be your own future

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Be your own future

Preferences 2024

Welcome to your Key Stage 4 preferences booklet. The next two school years are a crucial part of your education. This booklet is designed to help you make the right choices and to achieve the best possible results in all of your subjects by the end of Year 11.

For many of you, the journey will continue here at Debden after Year 11 in the Sixth form, so you need to ensure you are studying the right subjects now, so that you can be successful in your exams which will pave the way into further education and onto University.

During this process you will be able to choose some of your subjects and we encourage you to consider selecting subjects you enjoy and even new subjects you might find interesting and potentially beneficial in the future. However, some of your choices are mandatory, which are designed to strengthen your timetable and ensure you are continuing to access a broad and balanced curriculum which will continue to provide you with the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to be successful.

Listen very carefully to the advice and guidance you're given by your teachers, form tutors and parents! When reading through the booklet you will notice that each section has a page for each subject in that group, which explains 4 important elements about that particular subject :

- **What will I be learning?**
- **How will I be assessed?**
- **What are my next steps?**
- **What are my possible career paths?**

Once you have read through these pages you will need to ask yourself the following questions:

1. **Will I enjoy studying this subject?**
2. **Have I taken advice from my teachers and parents?**
3. **Will these subjects support my career pathway?**

Do not worry if you're undecided at this stage, that's perfectly normal. We are here to help you!

With regards to the KS4 preferences process, this will happen in two parts;

Initially we want to know as much as we can about each student's preferred subjects, and so we ask them to **complete the Initial KS4 Subject Preferences form**. This form is NOT their final set of choices, but it does allow us to assign students to the right taster lessons, and later create the preferences "Blocks" that best suits the majority of students.

Secondly we will use the results of the initial student survey to create "BLOCKS" of subjects so that they can be timetabled, these are a list of subjects that will all be taught at the same time, so students will need to select their most preferred subject from each of the four blocks.

After we have collated these preference choices, we will work with students to ensure that, as much as possible, students are able to study their most preferred subjects, and ones that will allow them to go on truly **"BE their own future"**

What subjects can I take?

In year 10 and 11, all students will study 8 qualifications in total, including:

- GCSE English literature
- GCSE English language
 - GCSE Maths
- GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE (unless triple science is studied),
 - and four other GCSE or BTEC “Preferences” Subjects.

Within your four “Preferences” all students must study at least 1 “Facilitating subject” (you are able to study up to four if you wish). These are the subjects that open many future educational pathways, many colleges, sixth forms and universities like to see that students have studied them at GCSE.

FACILITATING SUBJECTS:

- GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE
 - GCSE FRENCH
 - GCSE GEOGRAPHY
 - GCSE HISTORY
 - GCSE SPANISH
- GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE (instead of Combined Science)

In addition to the core subjects and at least 1 facilitating subject listed above, students choose from this list of foundation subjects.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS:

- GCSE ART & DESIGN
 - BTEC DANCE
- GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
 - GCSE DRAMA
- V-CERT HOSPITALITY AND CATERING
- BTEC CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION
 - GCSE FILM STUDIES
 - GCSE MUSIC
 - GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY
- GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- GCSE RELIGION, ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY
 - GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES
 - GCSE SOCIOLOGY

EBACC:

The “English Baccalaureate” or EBACC is a group of subjects that allow students to access a greater number of educational pathways later in life. Although not a qualification in its own right, some universities for example will prefer students to have completed the EBACC at GCSE. In order to complete the EBACC students need to study all of the following (from the subjects that we offer at Debden Park High School) :

- GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE
 - GCSE MATHS
- GCSE SCIENCE, OR GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE
- GCSE GEOGRAPHY OR GCSE HISTORY
- GCSE FRENCH OR GCSE SPANISH

Subjects Overview

There are three groups of subjects, Core subjects, Facilitating Subjects and Foundation subjects.

CORE Subjects:

Everyone will study the core subjects at Key Stage 4 as these are essential to a broad, balanced successful education. These subjects are vital for all students as they contain the skills and knowledge needed to access all other subjects. It is important that whatever subjects you choose to study at KS4, you do well in English and Maths as these qualifications hold the key to whatever you choose to do in the future.

**ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

**ENGLISH
LITERATURE**

MATHEMATICS

**COMBINED SCIENCE
(unless you choose TRIPLE SCIENCE)**

You will then study a **total of 4 additional subjects** from the Facilitating & Foundation lists below. Everyone will study at least one facilitating subject (we recommend that most students choose at least two), as these subjects are key in opening up opportunities for you after year 11. Foundation subjects will allow you to expand your learning into new areas, often practical, that you have a passion to learn more about. Most students will choose up to two foundation subjects.

FACILITATING Subjects:

These subjects facilitate a wide range of careers and post 16 learning opportunities. They are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by 6th Forms, Universities and colleges to get on to a range of further education courses. For example a GCSE in Geography can lead to a degree in Geography, but also many geographers go into unrelated jobs such as banking, management consultancy, teaching or journalism. Facilitating subjects help you keep your options open when choosing a degree, and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A-level in a facilitating subject when you apply, so it is crucial you take this into account when selecting your GCSEs.

All students will study at least 1 Facilitating Subject but we recommend 2 if you are thinking about university (however, you can select up to 4 Facilitating Subjects):

GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE

GCSE FRENCH

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE SPANISH

GCSE HISTORY

FOUNDATION Subjects:

Foundation subjects are those that allow you to widen the foundation of your education further, by learning more about the subjects that you are passionate about. You can select up to any 3 Foundation Subjects (depending on how many Facilitating Subjects you have chosen). You should select subjects that you enjoy and perhaps new subjects you are potentially interested in:

GCSE ART & DESIGN

**V CERT HOSPITALITY &
CATERING**

BTEC DANCE

GCSE DRAMA

**KS4 MUSIC
(GCSE or NCFE)**

**KS4 SPORT
(GCSE or Cambridge National)**

**GCSE
PHOTOGRAPHY**

**GCSE DESIGN &
TECHNOLOGY**

GCSE SOCIOLOGY

**BTEC CREATIVE MEDIA
PRODUCTION**

**GCSE FILM
STUDIES**

**GCSE RELIGION, ETHICS
& PHILOSOPHY**

**GCSE BUSINESS
STUDIES**

What types of qualifications are there?

GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education and is the standard qualification taken by 14-16 year olds. You will take Maths, English Language, English Literature and Science as well as the other subjects you choose. The courses you choose may contain some controlled assessments, coursework and almost all will include final exams. The majority of exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

BTEC

BTEC courses are vocational qualifications which are suitable for a wide range of students. Each BTEC is made up of a number of units of work which are marked individually. Each unit is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction. A Level 2 BTEC qualification is equivalent to a GCSE. At Debden, we offer BTECs in Dance and Creative Media Production.

V-CERT & NCFE TECHNICAL AWARDS & CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS

Vocational Certificate and Technical award courses are technical alternative qualifications which are equivalent to a GCSE qualification. They are made up of a number of units of work which are internally assessed and externally moderated. Each unit is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction. At Debden we offer a vocational award in Hospitality and Catering, a vocational award in Music Technology, and a Cambridge national in Physical education (Sport).



CORE SUBJECTS



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

A GCSE in English Language assesses your skills to communicate with the world around you: to be able to read and understand explicit and implicit meaning when reading, as well as being able to structure and communicate your own ideas through writing.

With this GCSE being 100% exam based, it is essential that you sustain prior knowledge in order to build on it.

For this reason, we have created a both challenging and inspiring Key stage 4 curriculum that builds confidence, reflects and enhances skills as well as driving a love of learning. You will build an appreciation of how writers create texts to affect their audience and how to instill these skills in your own writing.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The exam board is AQA, and the exam consists of two equally weighted exam papers that will each assess 50% reading and 50% writing skills.

Paper 1 Section A will test your ability to infer and analyse how writers use language and structure in an extract from either a 20th or 21st century prose fiction text. Section B will then require you to produce your own narrative or descriptive writing.

Paper 2 Section A will require you to read two nonfiction extracts (one being from the 19th century) and through a series of four questions you will be asked to analyse and compare inferred ideas. Section B will require you to produce your own discursive writing on a given topic.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

These are fundamental skills that are not only vital for your entry into Sixth Form or college, but in your ability to express yourself clearly in the workplace and in everyday life. English Language is highly valued by most employers and a requirement for many courses.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

You can also study English Language in greater depth at A-Level and at University, understanding how people have used and manipulated language in everyday circumstances and throughout the ages.



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Throughout this course you will be developing your inference skills, analysing how writers' ideas and perspectives about the world around us are presented through their writing.

Through reading Macbeth and 'Jekyll and Hyde', you'll appreciate how writers use language to create vivid characters and enable you to explore the contexts of sixteenth-century England and Victorian London. Modern Prose and Drama will introduce you to the contemporary greats such as George Orwell and JB Priestley.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The exam board is AQA, and the exam consists of two exam papers. The first paper will assess your understanding of Shakespeare and a 19th century novel. The second paper will then focus on Modern Drama or Prose and Poetry.

Paper 1 is worth 40% of your final grade and will require you to answer one question on both the play and novel. For each you will need to write in detail on a given extract from your chosen texts and then on the texts as a whole.

Paper 2 is worth 60% of your final grade and requires you to answer one question on your chosen novel or drama, and then answer two comparative questions on poetry both from your studied anthology and from two unseen poems.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

An English Literature A-Level is a requirement for further English study at University but is also a preferred A-Level for Degree level study of subjects such as History, Sociology and Law. What you study at A-Level will prepare you with the critical reasoning skills needed at University and desired by many employers, such as GCHQ, the Civil Service, Law Firms, Accountancy Firms

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

A person with an English Literature qualification has a world of opportunities open to them. It will harness the specific skills needed of the journalist or the teacher but will also develop critical and argumentative reasoning which is so desired by employers such as Law Firms, Accountancy Firms and for those looking to explore careers in business.



GCSE MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

You will learn the core units of Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry, Measures, Statistics and Probability. Within these areas you will learn to develop and use a range of methods of calculations, applying these to solve a variety of problems. You will learn to use and apply mathematics in practical tasks and real-life problems, considering different theories of maths. For example, you might be asked to answer questions on decorating a room or designing a garden; or perhaps paying bills or sorting out rotas for shop staff. The questions will require you to be able to communicate the maths you have learnt and may involve more than one skill.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

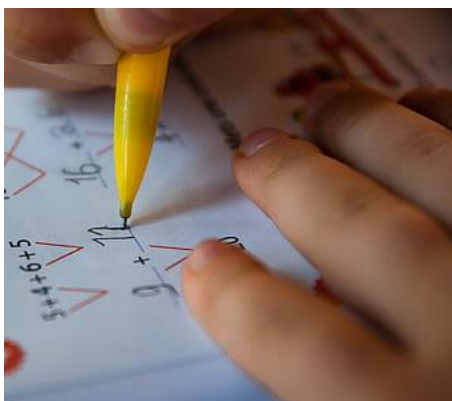
You will be assessed on your ability to use and apply mathematical knowledge and techniques. You will be required to reason, interpret and communicate mathematically and solve problems within mathematics and in non-mathematical contexts. Some questions will test the quality of written communication through your ability to explain the mathematical rules being applied. At the end of the course, you will sit 3 exams: A 'Non-Calculator' and two 'Calculator' papers, each contributing 33⅓% of the final grade. Each paper is out of 80 marks and will last for 1 hour 30 minutes per paper. There is a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The tiers are split into Higher and Foundation with the Higher paper ranging from levels 4-9 and Foundation 1-5. Almost 50% of the Higher paper will consist of grade 7-9 questions (Legacy Grades A-A*).

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Maths A-level is a must have for degrees in: Physics, Engineering, Actuarial Science and Economics. Of course, if you wish to read Maths at university, you may need to study Further Maths as well. Maths may be also required for: Computer Science, Accounting, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Life Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Business Studies, Management Studies, Finance, Architecture, Geology, Psychology and Surveying.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

A person with a Maths qualification can go into: Accounting, Medicine, Engineering, Forensic Pathology, Finance, Business, Teaching, IT, Games Development, Scientific Research, Programming, Electrician, Design, Construction, Plumbing and Astrophysics to name a few.



GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Combined Science will provide an opportunity for you to gain the knowledge and understanding to recognise the impact of Science and technology on everyday life. The specification comprises of three units of study equally spread across:
Biology, Chemistry & Physics

WHAT WILL MY TIMETABLE LOOK LIKE?

If you decide to do Combined science, you will be studying it with one teacher, who will cover all sciences over 8 hours a fortnight. Currently, you have 7 hours a fortnight, which means your science allocation will go up by one hour.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

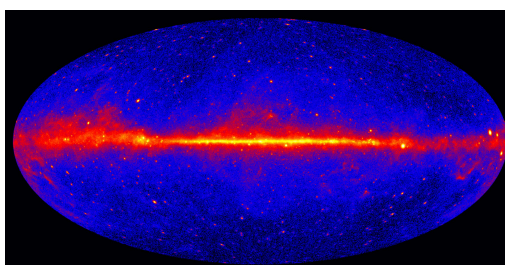
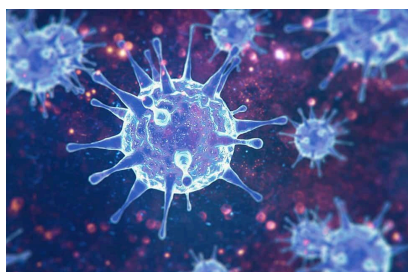
You will sit 6 exams, lasting 70 minutes each, at the end of Year 11. There are 2 papers for Biology, 2 for Chemistry and 2 for Physics. Half of the content in the 1st paper and the other half in the 2nd paper. Therefore each paper is worth 16.67% of your final GCSE.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Combined Science is a qualification recognised by all employers and Sixth Form colleges as vitally important. Progression to further study from GCSE will depend upon the number and nature of the grades achieved. Good grades in Science will show your future employer that you have a good variety of skills, are able to apply knowledge and think logically in many situations.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

A Doctor of Medicine, Forensic Scientist, Veterinary medicine, Microbiologist, Pharmacist, Materials Scientist, geneticist and many more. You could also go straight into employment and do further training or part time study with the support of your employer.



FACILITATING SUBJECTS



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: OCR J277

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

GCSE computer science is studied by looking at engaging and contemporary computing ideas – Skills that companies like Microsoft, Google and Cisco are looking for in employees. Focus on cyber security – The course looks at phishing, malware, firewalls and people as the ‘weak point’ in secure systems, which you will study for the first time at GCSE. A greater emphasis on ‘computational thinking’ – You will learn the theory of programming and apply it to real life situations. This encourages mental versatility – You will use your new-found programming skills on an independent coding project by solving a real-world problem of their choice.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1- Computer Systems, 1 Written paper (1 hour and 30 minutes)
Paper 2- Computational Thinking, 1 Written paper (1 hour and 30 minutes)
Project Work- Using text-based programming (Python)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Computer Science at GCSE is a great stepping stone to A level Computing, where you will enhance the skills you’ve already learnt at GCSE and prepare yourselves to study at Degree level. Other related A levels and Degree courses such as Software engineering, Computer Science, Networking, Maths, Physics, Engineering, Economics, Accounting, Chemistry, Biology and Life Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry, Business Studies, Management Studies, Finance, Architecture, Geology, Psychology, Surveying and even Philosophy.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

You can go into:

Software design, networking, accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, civil service, design, construction and astrophysics to name a few...



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Geography is a multidisciplinary subject that involves the crucial study of the physical and human world we live in. Studies into the physical world include earthquakes, tsunamis and other natural disasters; diverse ecosystems including tropical rainforests and hot deserts; as well as the UK's physical landscapes, particularly our coastlines. You will study the human world including economics, trade links and inequalities; cities around the world and how they're changing; plus, the challenges of sustainability and managing climate change.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Physical Geography (35% of the GCSE & 1 hour 30 minutes exam)

Human Geography (35% of the GCSE & 1 hour 30 minutes exam)

Geographical Skills (30% of the GCSE & 1 hour 15 minutes exam)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

GCSE Geographers should have a scientific and to some extent, mathematical mind. In parallel, Geographers must be able to write well, since a third of the core papers involve extended writing. If you are interested in GCSE Geography you should show a track record of high attainment and progress throughout year 9 and speak to your teachers for more information about the course. The fieldwork is compulsory and will be completed in June/July 2024.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

With a Geography qualification you will be very well regarded by a range of employers. In fact, Geography was regarded as the most employable degree subject this year. This is because it requires a scientific mind, extended writing skills and problem solving through interpretation of geographical resources. Geography is useful for geographical jobs such as environmental consultants and jobs within the energy sector. However, since the skills used are so varied, many geographers go into unrelated jobs such as banking, management consultancy, teaching, engineering or journalism.



GCSE HISTORY

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

GCSE History involves the study of a broad range of topics, spanning History from 1066 to the present day. You will complete one breadth study that examines Crime and Punishment from c1000 - the present day and a Whitechapel C1870- c1900. You will analyse key events in British and World History through the study of Anglo Saxon and Norman England, and the Cold War. You will evaluate interpretations of the past through analysis of sources relating to Weimar and Nazi Germany. This course is a challenging and thought-provoking introduction to the academic study of History and prepares you for the rigours of A Level with a focus on extended writing as the core method of examination.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1 British Thematic Study with Historic Environment 1 hour 15 minutes (30%)

Paper 2 Period study and British Depth Study 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Paper 3 Modern Depth Study 1 hour 20 minutes (30%)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

History is a subject that focuses on analysis of how and why events from the past occurred, as well as the study of how historians can piece together information to form a judgment. You will study sources from the past to identify how interpretations of events differ and why different people view the same events differently. You will identify key changes over time and will gain a broad picture of some of the key events of the 20th Century alongside Pre-Modern and Early Modern History.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of History and is also a subject that complements the study of Politics A-Level. History is a subject that allows you to develop your analysis and written communication skills which is relevant to many Degree Level subjects, particularly History, Law and other subjects that require a high level of critical thinking such as International Relations, Policy Making, Politics and the Civil Service.



GCSE FRENCH

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

This course will develop your ability and ambition to communicate confidently and coherently with French native speakers in speech and writing. It will broaden your horizons, help you step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world. This study will enable you to express your thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently. You will acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to authentic French material, including literary texts.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

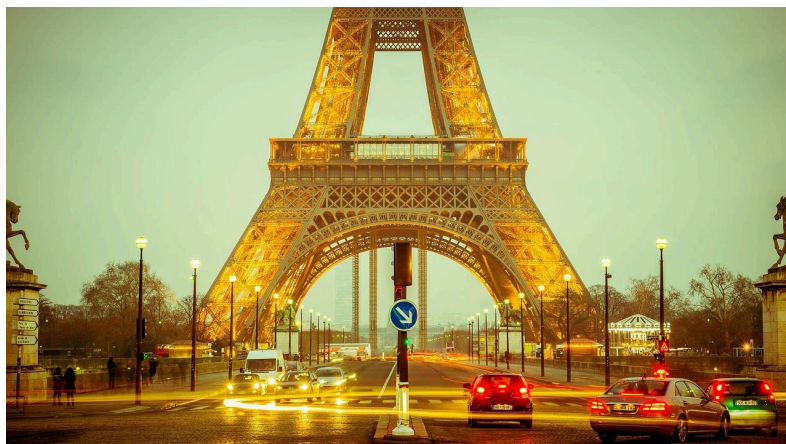
PAPER 1: Listening - 35 minutes, 40 marks (F), 45 minutes, 50 marks (H) PAPER 2: Speaking – 7/9 minutes (F), 10/12 minutes (H) – 60 marks
PAPER 3: Reading – 45 minutes (F), 1Hour (H) – 60 marks
PAPER 4: Writing – 1 Hour, 50 marks (F), 1 Hour 15 Minutes, 60 marks (H)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Due to the academic rigor required to study a language, many Redbrick Universities favour candidates who have a GCSE in a language, regardless of the subject of their degree. French A-Level builds on your learning at GCSE and explores the culture and history of France in more detail. You will learn to hold longer conversations in French and write extended essays on a variety of topics. Films, literature and music are also studied. It is a great challenge to take on but it is extremely rewarding. Imagine being able to read a magazine in French, listening to the radio in French or having a conversation with someone in Paris!
C'est fantastique!

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

With a French qualification you can be an interpreter, translator, teacher, journalist, aid worker, marketing manager, management consultant, banker, tour guide, lawyer, importer, exporter, salesperson, recruitment agent, lecturer, private tutor, writer, personal assistant, air stewardess, artist, poet... and any job where language, travel and creativity are required!



GCSE SPANISH

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

This course will develop your ability and ambition to communicate confidently and coherently with Spanish native speakers in speech and writing. It will broaden your horizons, help you step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world. This study will enable you to express your thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently. You will acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to authentic Spanish material, including literary texts.

By developing awareness of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken, this qualification will make you a well-rounded individual.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

PAPER 1: Listening - 35 minutes, 40 marks (F), 45 minutes, 50 marks (H) PAPER 2: Speaking – 7/9 minutes (F), 10/12 minutes (H) – 60 marks

PAPER 3: Reading – 45 minutes (F), 1h (H) – 60 marks

PAPER 4: Writing – 1h, 50 marks (F), 1h 15 minutes, 60 marks (H)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Due to the academic rigour required to study a language, many Redbrick universities favour candidates who have a GCSE in a language, regardless of the subject of their degree. Spanish A-Level builds on your learning at GCSE and explores the culture and history of Spain in more

detail. You will learn to hold longer conversations in Spanish and write extended essays on a variety of topics.

Films, literature and music are also studied. It is a great challenge to take on, but it is extremely rewarding. Imagine being able to read a magazine in Spanish, listening to the radio in Spanish or having a conversation with someone in Madrid! ¡Es fantástico!

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

A person with a Spanish qualification can be an interpreter, translator, teacher, journalist, aid worker, marketing manager, management consultant, banker, tour guide, lawyer, importer, exporter, salesperson, recruitment agent, lecturer, private tutor, writer, personal assistant, air stewardess, artist, poet... and any job where language, travel and creativity are required!



GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE (BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS)

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Triple Science provides you with an excellent platform from which to progress to any of the Science A levels.

It also provides you with the opportunity to:

- Develop interest in, and an enthusiasm for Biology, Chemistry and Physics Develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- Acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and it's essential role in society
- Acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding

WHAT WILL MY TIMETABLE LOOK LIKE?

If you decide to do Triple Science, you will be studying it with three specialist teachers, each covering one of the sciences, over 14 hours a fortnight in total. Currently, you have 7 hours a fortnight, which means your science allocation will double. This means it is possible for you to have a double lesson in Chemistry in the morning and a double Biology lesson in the afternoon, for example, so you need to be sure you enjoy science before deciding to take triple science.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This course will be suitable for students able to achieve a grade 5 or higher.

You will sit 6 exams, lasting 1:45 hours each, at the end of Year 11, 2 in biology, 2 in physics, and 2 in chemistry.

Half of the content in the 1st paper and the other half in the 2nd paper.

Both of these count 50% each towards the total GCSE.

You will achieve individual grades for all 3 of the separate sciences.

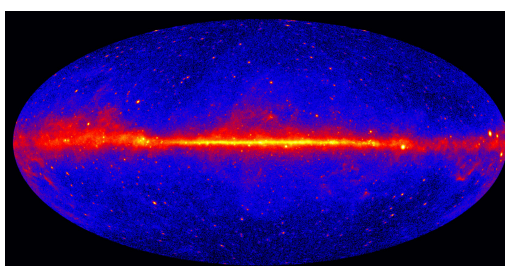
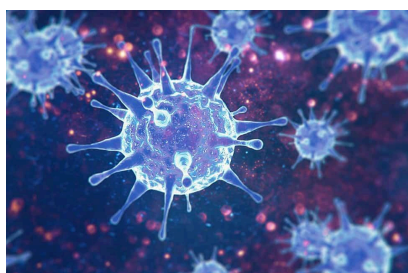
In order to achieve well in Triple Science students should have the potential to achieve at least a grade 5.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

You could take this course to prepare for A level courses such as A/AS level in: Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Psychology

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

A Doctor of Medicine, Forensic Scientist, Veterinary medicine, Microbiologist, Pharmacist, Materials Scientist, geneticist and many more. You could also go straight into employment and do further training or part time study with the support of your employer. Many scientists will work toward Masters degrees and funded PhDs through their careers. There are also plenty of opportunities to gain professional qualifications, such as a medical professional or chartered scientist.



FOUNDATION SUBJECTS



GCSE ART & DESIGN

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Art and Design equips you with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual arts. Part of the joy of the GCSE Art course is that you don't just study Art: you make it. You will: Research artists and their technical process of making, experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes, record ideas relevant to intentions and finally present personal responses to a theme.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will complete two components:

Component 1: Personal Portfolio

This component is worth 60% of the overall qualification. You will look at a variety of contemporary artists and produce artwork to a personal theme.

Component 2: Externally set Assignment

This component is worth 40% of the qualification. This component has a theme set by the exam board. At the end of the component you will sit a 10-hour sustained focus period under exam conditions, set over two school days.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Studying GCSE Art and Design will enable you to continue your journey into Sixth Form and onto subjects such as A-Level Fine Art which will allow you to further develop your knowledge and understanding of visual communication, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

Advertiser, Animator, Art director, Architect, Art Gallery curator, Art historian, Art reviewer, Art teacher, Art therapist, Cartoonist, commercial artist, costume designer, Fashion designer, Fine artist, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, logo designer, make-up artist, painter, photographer, set designer, web designer.



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Unit 1 Investigating small businesses

Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice Topic 1.4 Making the business effective Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Unit 2 Building a business

Topic 2.1 Growing the business Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions Topic 2.3 Making product decisions Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

2 x 100 minute exams with a range of questions covering multiple choice, short answer and longer case study based answers up to 12 marks.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

A level Business or economics , School leaver apprenticeship KS5 BTEC Business Studies
Business studies supports a vast array of subjects to be studied at a higher level. You will improve your communication skills - verbal and written, team working, maths and creativity during the course giving you the confidence and ability to present to large audiences and participate in interview programs that may require group observations.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

Accounting and finance , Sales Management Human resources, Marketing, Self employed entrepreneur



BTEC DANCE

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

The qualification has three components that focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis for progression and therefore you need to demonstrate attainment across all components in order to achieve the qualification. You will explore a range of different dance styles and practitioners. This is a performance based course and therefore some of the assessments are to a live audience.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The BTEC Tech Award consists of three components. They comprise of a theoretical and a practical study giving you a real insight into the performing arts world. Component 1 Exploring the Performing Arts. Internal assessment 30%. Component 2 Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts. Internal assessment (30%). Component 3 Performing to a Brief Synoptic. External assessment (40%).

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help you to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that you can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and your performance in the qualification. You who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:
A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Performing Arts, which prepares you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the performing arts or production arts areas.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

As a learner, you will generally achieve at Level 2 across your Key Stage 4 learning and you might consider progression to study at Level 3 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, progression, employment, apprenticeships or to further study at university. If this is you, the attitudes reflective and communication skills covered in the qualification will help you achieve and allow you study of performing arts post-16 through a BTEC technical certificate. If you perform strongly in this qualification compared to your overall performance should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the performing arts sector.



GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

You will learn that designing is not just making things for the sake of making. It is simply to find a solution to address a problem. E.g. Problem – Many people do not live a healthy lifestyle. Solution – Design a product that promotes/encourages healthy living. You will learn the process of design which is DESIGN, PROTOTYPE, EVALUATE and REPEAT until a solution has been found which will be a product.

In Year 10, you will do exam preparation that will involve learning 26 topics that will be in the form of booklets. Examples of these topics are: Materials and Systems, Papers and Boards, Woods, Metals, Polymers (plastics), Textiles, Electronics and Mechanical Systems. You will also learn how to put together a portfolio so that in Year 11 you will produce a similar folder called a non-examination assessment (NEA). This NEA is course work and is 50% of the GCSE. You will also learn how to use machinery, computer aided design (CAD) google sketch up, the laser cutter and wood joining methods as these will help broaden your knowledge on making prototypes.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written exam: 2 hours: 100 marks: 50% of GCSE
Coursework: 30-35 hours: 100 marks: 50% of GCSE

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Design and Technology is a creative subject that teaches you how to problem solve and think outside of the box. Without a doubt you can take the next step in studying this at Sixth Form, College or doing an apprenticeship that is more within your job interest.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

Picking Design and Technology is the first stepping stone and can lead you towards the following career paths: Architecture, CAD technician, textile technologist, Colour Technologist, Exhibition Designer, Furniture Designer, Interior Designer, Interior Architecture, Product Designer, Graphic Designer, Fashion Designer, Advertising Art Director, Automotive Engineer, Materials Engineer, Product Manager and Production Designer for theatre/television/ film.



GCSE DRAMA

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

- Participate in practical workshops on a variety of theater practitioners, further developing the range of creative techniques introduced at Key Stage 3.
- Explore the style, story and characters of Noughts and Crosses with an emphasis on how to perform each role whilst honing vocal and physical skills.
- Collaborate with a group to create and present a devised piece based on a chosen stimulus, as well as submit a written portfolio documenting your contribution to the rehearsal process.
 - Rehearse and learn two extracts from one play and perform to an audience and examiner.
 - Gain knowledge and understanding of the theatre industry.
- Analyse the performance skills you would use to interpret characters in Noughts and Crosses.
- Review and evaluate the work of performers and designers based on a live production.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Year 10 Devised Performance: Group creation and performance of a devised piece, plus a written portfolio. 40%
- Year 11 Scripted Performance: Two scripted performances from one play in a pair or group. 20%
- Year 11 Written Exam: Written exam on the performance of characters in Noughts and Crosses, and a review of a live production we see at the theatre. 40%

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

A GCSE in Drama opens many doors for future education. Debden Park Sixth Form offers you the opportunity to take a BTEC Foundation Diploma in Performing Arts, the most practical route for studying Acting. You may then consider auditioning for drama school in order to train for a career in professional acting; or applying to university in order to shape your wider knowledge and understanding of the industry.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

Some examples of the many careers in television, film and theatre are: actor; agent; casting director; costume, hair and make up designer; critic; director; editor; playwright; presenter; producer; publicist; researcher; screenwriter; sound, visual or special effects designer; voiceover artist; stage manager; technician. As well as jobs in front of and behind the camera in TV and Film, plus performance and backstage jobs in theatre, a GCSE in Drama can help you develop many transferable skills to take into any career or job: communication and listening; confidence; extended writing; face-to-face relations; interpersonal skills; leadership, management and teamwork; perseverance and resilience; presenting to an audience; public speaking; self-analysis. The above transferable skills can lead you into a career in: advertising; community development; dramatherapy; events; hospitality; law; marketing; presenting; psychology; public relations; recruitment; sales; teaching.



GCSE FILM STUDIES

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Within Film Studies, you will learn about cinema and its role as one of the most important and exciting art forms in the 21st century. You will be learning about the influence of film through a variety of different perspectives, countries, languages and time periods. You will explore these through films such as *Skyfall*, *Jojo Rabbit*, *Tsotsi*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Rebel Without a Cause* and *Whiplash*.

You will also develop many of the skills needed in your core subjects, especially English. You will develop your understanding of film as an art form through the analysis of each film, with focus on film style, narrative, representation, film history and film comparison. This subject focuses on an academic approach and if you see yourself as a critical thinker and are fascinated with journalism or a career in the creative arts industries then GCSE Film Studies could be the subject for you.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams at the end of year 11 (70% of the course) each 90 minutes long. You will produce one piece of coursework (30%) in which you will create a short screenplay OR create a 2 minute short film production.

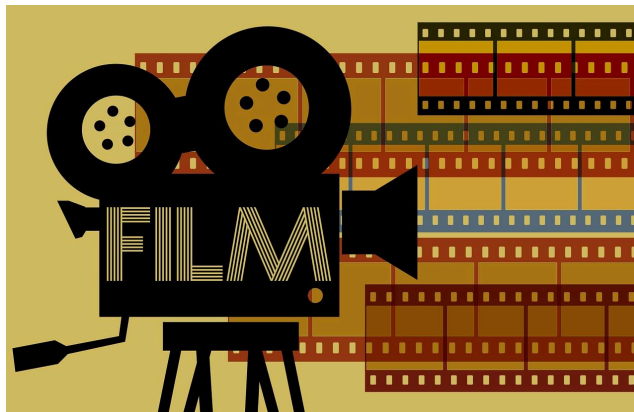
WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Studying GCSE Film Studies will enable you to continue your journey into Sixth Form and onto subjects such as A-Level English Literature and Film Studies, which will allow you to further develop your knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, industry, audience and production skills. This course is also a great step if you're interested in academic and creative subjects at University. This subject also works well when chosen alongside English, History or Expressive Arts subjects such as Music, Dance or Drama.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Film both at A-Level (subjects such as Drama, Music, History or English Literature work well with this course) and Degree Level or for jobs in the creative and media industries.

These could include: journalism, acting, directing, videographer, film critic, film historian, designer, writer, developer, screenwriter.



VOCATIONAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

EXAM BOARD: WJEC

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

This qualification is designed for learners who have an interest in food and cookery. It will provide you with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable you to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give you a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food and knowledge of the catering industry. It will also provide you with the knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop your ability to plan, prepare and cook dishes as well as equip you with the practical skills required within the catering industry. You will complete tasks that mirror industry practice.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 The hospitality and catering industry

The hospitality and catering industry – Exam Graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action

Hospitality and catering in action – Portfolio of evidence leading to cooking 2 dishes of your choice. Graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction – Internally assessed

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

The course will enable you to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the hospitality and catering sector. It will develop essential employability skills that are valued by employers and further and higher education understanding of cooking techniques, health and safety and healthy eating.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

After completing the WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering you might be interested in progressing to other qualifications relevant to working in the sector, such as: Food Science and Nutrition, Diplomas in Hospitality and Catering, Professional Cooking or Hospitality and Tourism Management.

This is a qualification that will enable you to gain employment in a flourishing and exciting industry. Also, this will allow you to progress into further or higher education if you decide that you want to continue with further study after year 11.



BTEC CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

This course will allow you to study the creative and productive side of media with an emphasis on coursework rather than exams. This course will allow you to explore, research and create a range of media products with a key focus on writing about and creating print products (Magazines, newspapers etc).

This exciting course will enable you to develop a wider understanding and appreciation of the media through a variety of different platforms. This qualification enables you to look at how media professionals put together a project and apply this to your own coursework assignments. You will focus on the importance of the media in your everyday lives, as well as how it has been affected by what was happening in society both historically and contemporarily.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Within Creative Media Production you will be assessed through 3 coursework projects;
Component 1 is Exploring media productions,
Component 2 is developing digital media skills,
Component 3 is based on a professional media product brief chosen by the exam board.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Studying BTEC Creative Media Production will enable you to continue your journey onto College to study Level 3 Creative Media Production, an apprenticeship in creative industries or even Sixth Form to study subjects such as A-Level Film Studies and A Level Media Studies. These courses will allow you to further develop your knowledge and understanding of media language, representation, industry, audience and a variety of production skills.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Media both at A-Level (subjects such as Drama, Music, English Literature work well with this course) and Degree Level or for jobs in the creative and media industry. These could include: Advertising, journalism, producing, radio, social media managing, television, press, social media manager, event manager, broadcaster, graphic designer or writer for various media outlets.



KS4 MUSIC (GCSE)

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

You will be studying music from different styles, genres and countries throughout the two years. You will learn how musicians put their music together and use this knowledge to create your own pieces of music in your own chosen style!

You will get to perform on a regular basis on your chosen instrument as a soloist and as a group. You can choose to perform on any instrument - this could be something you're already learning or it could be something you choose to start at the start of year 10. This can be any instrument you like (that includes your singing voice or even rap!) You will create 2 compositions—one to a brief set by the examiner and one in a style of your choice. You will get to use the Macs for both these compositions and you'll do this as a solo project.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Performance (30% 4-minute performance- 1 solo, 1 group: Both pieces are completely your choice)

Listening and Appraising (40% Listening paper)

Composition (30% 2 compositions using the Macs - one set by the exam board and one in your own chosen style)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

A Level Music or BTEC level 3 Music Production can lead to degrees in the following areas: Music performance, Sound production, Studio work, Composition, Music business and management, Musical Theater, Music Technology, Contemporary music performance.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Music both at A and Degree Level or for jobs in the music industry.

These could include: Performance, song writing, recording, the record industry, music business and management, music industry tour management, facility, arena and club management, music education, public relations and advertising, radio and television, symphony and orchestra performance, music industry merchandising, instrument work and development. Plus, many more!



MUSIC PRACTICE BTEC

(Music Production)

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Throughout this qualification you will gain valuable knowledge of Music Technology through setting up and using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) such as Logic Pro X, creating a musical project to a specified brief and using audio and MIDI editing tools to create your own tracks. You will spend time experimenting with musical elements in different musical styles and then creating your own song in line with other popular songs in that style.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be working on the Macs for the majority of the Music Production course. You have to complete 3 components - 2 are coursework based and the final unit is an externally assessed practical and written exam.

These units are:

1. **Exploring Music Products and Styles** : Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.
2. **Music Skills Development** : Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
3. **Responding to a Music Brief**: Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress onto further level 3 qualifications and A levels, such as:

- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Music Technology
 - Level 3 Diploma in Creative Media
- Level 3 Extended Diploma in Creative Media
 - A level Music
 - A level Music Technology

It may also be useful to those studying qualifications in film studies, media studies, music, computing, economics, business, science or maths.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Music Technology or Music Production both at A and Degree Level or for jobs in the music industry. These could include: Recording Artist, Pyrotechnician, DJ, Instrument Technician, Live Audio Technician, Song writing, recording, the record industry, music business and management, music industry tour management, Plus, many more!



GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

Photography equips you with the skills to enjoy, produce and engage with the visual Arts. You will learn how to use a DSLR camera along with how to use Photoshop to create a portfolio of work. You will research Artists and their technical process of making Experiment with media, materials, techniques and processes, record ideas relevant to intentions, present personal responses to a theme.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio- 60% of the overall qualification. You will look at a variety of contemporary artists and produce artwork to a personal theme. Component 2: Externally set Assignment- 40% of the qualification. This component has a theme set by the exam board. At the end of the component you will sit a 10-hour sustained focus period under exam conditions, set over two school days.

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

A-level Photography– developing skills in creative and practical problem solving, developing ideas through research, practical application, analysis and critique. These transferable skills gained through study of Photography are of wide applicability in many walks of life.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

Fashion photographer, landscape photographer, wildlife photographer, sports photographer, event photographer, real estate/architect photographer, journalist, concert photographer, medical photographer, advertising photographer.



KS4 SPORT (GCSE)

EXAM BOARD: OCR

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

GCSE PE develops a real understanding of physiological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors related to sport and physical activity. GCSE PE enables you to develop your knowledge and understanding in a range of topics related to sport, such as, human anatomy (skeletal, muscular, cardiovascular and respiratory systems); understanding how we train and why; socio-cultural issues such as violence in sport and drugs in sport; and so much more. Practically, you must perform effectively in three different physical activities demonstrating a high level of skill and technique. One piece of coursework completed in Year 11 focuses on your ability to analyse and evaluate yourself in order to improve your overall performance in one of your three sports.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Physical factors affecting performance: Written Paper 1. 1 hour, 60 marks

Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology: Written Paper 2. 1 hour, 60 marks

Performance in physical education: Non-exam assessment. 80 marks

(this includes 3 x practical performances and one piece of coursework; 20 marks each. You will need to be able to demonstrate excellent practical ability for this course and preferably you should be attending at least one sports club outside of school linked to at least one sport on the specification)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Studying GCSE PE will enable you to continue your journey into Sixth Form and onto subjects such as A-Level PE, Biology and Psychology; or into a vocational course such as BTEC Sport/ Sport and Exercise Science. You will also learn valuable information and skills that may help you to move towards a job or career in the sport and leisure industry or support a career in medicine.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Physical Education and Sport-related courses at sixth form study; as well as being a fantastic facilitating subject alongside other academic subjects.

Potential careers could include: Physiotherapist; Nurse, Sports Therapist; Nutritionist; Personal Trainer; Teacher; Coach; Sports Journalist; Video Analyst; Sports Scientist; Healthcare professional.



KS4 SPORT (Cambridge National)

EXAM BOARD: OCR

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

You will learn how to conduct fitness tests, including interpreting and feeding back on the data you get from these as well as how to design, implement and evaluate fitness training programmes. You will also develop knowledge of either how the body responds to exercise and understand how technology helps inform us of these changes, or a delve into the world of sports nutrition to understand how what we eat can impact our performance in sport. Finally you will develop the skills of team working, research and planning and understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical movements of the human body.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will complete three units:

- One mandatory exam: Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions. 1 hour 15 Minutes, 70 Marks.
- One mandatory piece of coursework: Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance.
- One piece of coursework from a choice of two: 1. The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this; 2. Nutrition and sports performance.

All results are awarded on the following scale: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Studying Cambridge Nationals Level 2 will enable you to continue your journey into Sixth Form and onto subjects such as A-Level PE, Biology and Psychology; or into a vocational course such as BTEC Sport/ Sport and Exercise Science. You will also learn valuable information and skills that may help you to move towards a job or career in the sport and leisure industry or support a career in medicine.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Physical Education and Sport-related courses at sixth form study; as well as being a fantastic facilitating subject alongside other academic subjects.

Potential careers could include: Physiotherapist; Nurse, Sports Therapist; Nutritionist; Personal Trainer; Teacher; Coach; Sports Journalist; Video Analyst; Sports Scientist; Healthcare professional.



GCSE RELIGION, ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

This course will investigate the beliefs and teachings of Christianity and Islam. A fascinating opportunity to explore two of the major world religions and how their believers approach life, faith and difficult ethical decisions. You will also have the opportunity to explore some of life's big questions, does God exist? Did he create the world? What happens when we die? There are many interesting perspectives and you'll be free to express yours as long as you can support it with evidence, in fact you will be actively encouraged to do this.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Study of Religions Four questions two on each religion 50%

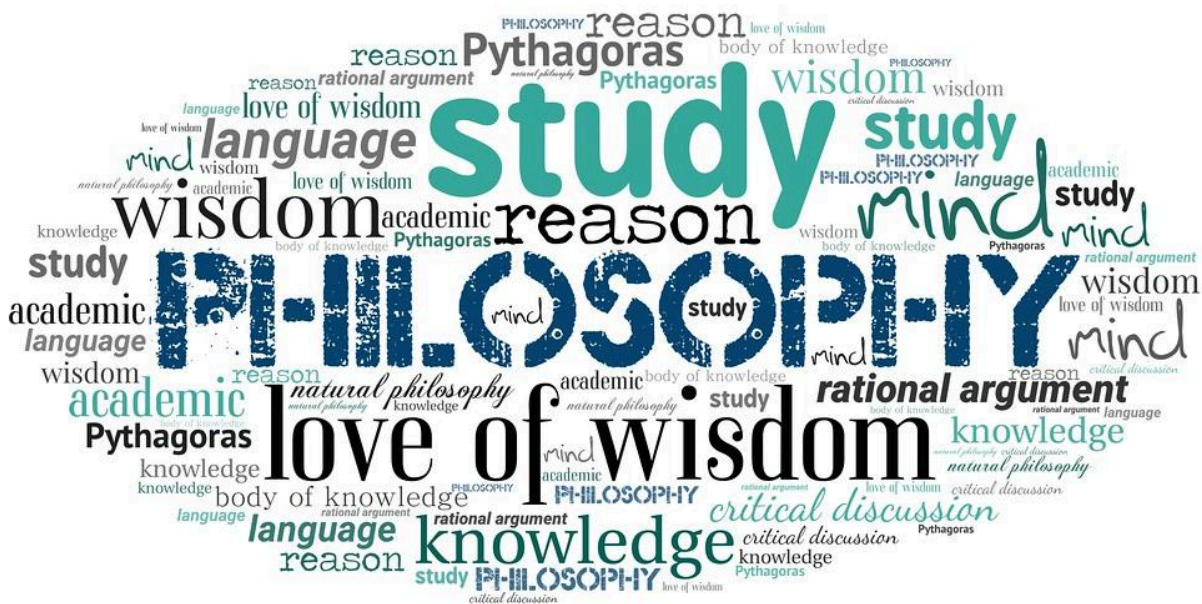
Paper 2: Themes paper Four questions one on each theme 50%

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

The religious studies GCSE is an excellent opportunity to develop your analytical skills, you will be encouraged to debate and justify your opinion and be able to explain why and how others develop theirs. The GCSE is an excellent opportunity to develop your written skills and will help towards the following A Levels: Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Law, Government and Politics, English Literature, History, Economics and Psychology.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

This course prepares you for further study of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics both at A-Level (subjects such as sociology, Government and Politics and English work well with this course) and Degree Level or for jobs in the caring sector and education. These could include: Lawyers, Teachers, Social workers, Journalists, Doctors.



GCSE SOCIOLOGY

EXAM BOARD: AQA

WHAT WILL I BE LEARNING?

GCSE Sociology is a subject that will open your eyes up to the world as it actually is rather than how you have been told it is. Essential to any understanding of the society in which you live is knowledge of how power operates, why teachers have more power than students, the rich more power than the poor, men more power than women etc.. For sociologists none of this is 'natural', groups of people have taken power and will do their best to keep it as it benefits them. Unlike anything that you have studied before you will learn about where you get your seemingly individual identity from, how you are shaped by those around you like your friends and institutions including the media, family, education, religion and the law. Whilst you will be VERY welcome to debate your ideas and opinions on society sociology is an 'evidence based subject' based on research and you will be encouraged to carry out your own research to test whether your own opinions 'stand up'. Sociology is for those who want to stretch themselves intellectually and who want to find out not only about themselves but other people too.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE sociology is a one hundred percent exam based subject and the two papers are a mixture of multiple choice, short four and six mark questions and longer essay type questions which are twelve marks. Paper one includes the topics: sociology of families sociology of education, social theory and research methods (90 minutes). Paper two includes: The sociology of crime, sociology of social stratification along with social theory and research methods (90 minutes)

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Doing GCSE sociology will help to develop your thinking, debating and reasoning skills and can lead you onto A level sociology in the sixth form where you will look at some of the GCSE topics in more depth but new topics too. Sociology is one of the most popular and successful A levels here at the school and combines well with other critical thinking essay based subjects including: history, geography, politics, English literature, economics and philosophy.

WHAT ARE MY POSSIBLE CAREER PATHS?

Students who have studied sociology here at the school have taken up a range of different options when leaving. Some have gone onto degree apprenticeships with top employers in the fields of construction, marketing and real estate, others have gone off to University with some gaining places at top universities including Cambridge, King's College London, Newcastle and Leeds - one even went to study Medicine a few years ago! The skills and qualities that you develop in sociology - empathy, research, writing, group work, and thinking skills - are very much in demand by employers and sociology graduates find work as lawyers*, members of parliament, criminologists, doctors, midwives, nurses, policy analysts for the government where they create and evaluate policies that focus on crime, poverty or education. Sociologists also become, teachers, psychotherapists, journalists, overseas development workers, youth and community social workers, advertising and marketing executives, researchers, wives former U.S Presidents - Michelle Obama, pop singers James Blunt (You're Beautiful) and actors - Michaela Coel



Frequently asked questions

1. Which subjects should I choose?

You should choose subjects you enjoy

It is likely that you will have enjoyed several subjects during your time at Debden. It is probable that you have enjoyed the subject content and enjoyed that experience. It may be because you enjoyed the way your teacher taught you, however, you must realise that there is no guarantee that this particular teacher will be teaching you in Year 10 or 11.

You should choose subjects you are good at

Your recent assessments and reports will give you a clear indication of how well you are doing in the different subjects. This will assist you in identifying which subjects you are doing well in. Speak to your teachers regarding your progress in those subjects that you are doing well in and seek their advice as to whether they think the subject will be suitable for you. It is very important that when making the choice of subjects, you keep in mind the subject content to be taught and how you will be assessed. Would you prefer exams or coursework based courses?

You should choose subjects that will allow you to “BE Your Own Future”

What will you be doing when you are 21? Just graduated from university? Starting a business? Being an apprenticeship? You will need to consider which subjects will allow you to progress to the next level of your education, and the career path you are thinking of. If you are not sure, keep your options open by choosing more foundation subjects.

2. Can I choose anything I want?

You will need to choose 4 subjects you would like to study from 4 blocks (A,B,C,D). However, your subject choices should depend on which future pathway you are thinking about taking after Year 11. Blocks are explained later, and created based on the initial preferences surveys and data about the year group to create the best possible curriculum offer for you.



3. Will I get the subjects I want?

We run an open preferences process through a blocking system, so that we give you the most input into your choices. It is possible that some subjects will not run due to the lack of numbers, or that a particular combination of subjects will prove impossible to timetable. In addition some subjects may be over subscribed so it's very important you rank your preferences in the correct order. For these reasons we ask that you rank all the available subjects so that if you cannot be allocated one, we know which other subject to prioritize for you.

4. Will I be guided during the process?

You will all be guided by Madam Drake and Mr Davies throughout this process as to which preferences are the right ones for you to take. In all cases we will try our best to ensure that you get your preferences, where this is not possible it will be discussed with you as to what the alternative preferences are.

What are the next steps in the preferences process?

5. What happens next?

Once we have provided you with the blocks, and your preferences booklet you will have time over Easter to discuss your preferences at home. Our Preferences Evening is held on **Wednesday the 6th March this year**, and after you have attended you will be able to make your application online.

6. Will I be able to change my subjects next year?

All choices will be finalised in the summer term and you will receive a letter confirming your choices. You will not be able to change your choices once the options are finalised. It will not be possible for you to move between subjects once the courses have started at the start of Year 10 in September 2024.

7. Who do I go to for advice?

You should speak to the subject teachers of those courses that you are thinking of choosing. Discuss your options with your form tutor and your parents, as well as the Director of Year, Mde Drake or Mr Davies.

Remember that the choice is yours, however, you will be guided through this imperative process to ensure you are heading in the right direction.

8. When is the deadline?

You must complete and submit the Choices Form **by Friday 27th April**. If you submit the form after the due date, you run the risk of not being allocated your chosen subject choices.

For any other inquiries or questions feel free to contact Mr Davies (Deputy Head) at

Gareth.Davies@Debden-TKAT.org or Mde Drake (Director of Year 9) at Emily.Drake@Debden-TKAT.org.

9. What subjects do I need for A Levels?

In order to study the subjects below at A Level, you will need to have the following GCSE subjects and grades. Think about what you might want to study, as see if that affects your choices.

Subject	Minimum essential grades required where subject studied at GCSE	Alternative where subject not studied at GCSE
Art & Design (Fine Art)	Grade 6 in GCSE	
Biology	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6 in Biology and Grade 6 in Maths	
Business Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and English
Chemistry	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6 in Chemistry and Grade 6 in Maths	
Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and English
Economics	Grade 6 in GCSE	Grade 6 in GCSE Maths and English
English Literature	Grade 6 in English Literature	
French	Grade 6 in GCSE	
Film Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE Media Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE English
Further Mathematics	Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics	
Geography	Grade 6 in GCSE	
History	Grade 6 in GCSE	
Mathematics	Grade 7 or above in GCSE	
Music Performance	Grade 5 in GCSE or Merit in BTEC	Portfolio of evidence
Performing Arts: Acting	Grade 5 in GCSE or Merit in BTEC	Portfolio of evidence
Performing Arts: Musical Theatre	Grade 5 in GCSE or Merit in BTEC	Portfolio of evidence
Physical Education	Grade 6 in GCSE (with Grade 6 on the theory paper)	
Philosophy & Ethics	Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies	Grade 6 in GCSE English
Physics	Grade 6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6 in Physics and Grade 6 in Maths	
Politics		Grade 6 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in any humanities GCSE
Psychology	Grade 6 in GCSE	Grade 6 in English and either a Grade 6 in Maths or Science
Sociology		Grade 6 in GCSE English
Spanish	Grade 6 in GCSE	

Preference Blocks

Based on your preferences surveys, and the schools staffing and timetable, the preference blocks will be created as follows for next year. **You will study one subject from EACH Option block. All students are required to study at LEAST ONE facilitating subject (we recommend two - shown in lilac below)** Please bear this in mind when selecting your preferences.

*** The details of which subjects are in which blocks will be released at the end of term.**

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D

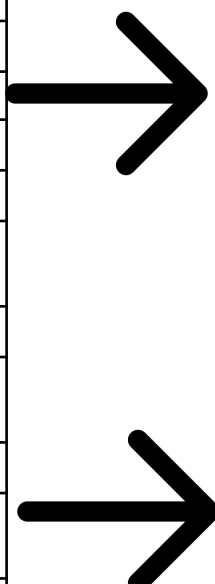
***Please note, some subjects may not be able to run due to staffing and curriculum changes.**

What if I can't decide?

It's quite normal to be unsure about which subjects to choose, especially when you get down to your 3rd and 4th choices. Why not use our preferences 20 questions to find your perfect match!

Read each question, and find the linked subject on the right.

1	Do you like music, but don't play an instrument ?
2	Do you like to work with others ?
3	Do you like to write about, or review the arts?
4	Do you like to create?
5	Do you prefer assignments to exams?
6	Are you good at Maths?
7	Are you good at English?
8	Do you like to debate ?
9	Do you play an instrument?
10	Do you like to mix practical with theory?
11	Do you enjoy sports?
12	Are you interested in what's in the news?
13	Do you like documentaries?
14	Does your family speak more than one language?
15	Would you like to travel?
16	Do you prefer active lessons?
17	Are you a very logical person?
18	Do you like to talk about films?
19	Do you like to discuss?
20	Do you like to analyze how things work?



20	17	12	6	GCSE TRIPLE SCIENCE
20	17	12	6	GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE
19	15	14	7	GCSE FRENCH
19	15	14	7	GCSE SPANISH
17	15	13	12	GCSE GEOGRAPHY
13	12	8	7	GCSE HISTORY
16	10	4	3	GCSE ART & DESIGN
16	10	9	4	GCSE MUSIC
20	18	7	3	GCSE FILM STUDIES
16	5	4	2	HOSPITALITY & CATERING
16	5	4	1	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
16	5	4	2	BTEC CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION
16	5	4	2	BTEC DANCE
16	10	4	3	GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY
20	16	11	10	GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION
16	10	4	2	GCSE DRAMA
20	16	10	4	GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
19	15	8	7	GCSE RELIGION, ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY
19	8	7	12	GCSE Sociology
6	2	19	20	GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

If you're still unsure, we encourage you to speak to your teachers and ask them these questions:

- Do you think I could be successful in your subject at GCSE?
- What GCSE grade should I be aiming for if I chose your subject?
- I really want to choose _____, which subject would work well with this?

What happens now?

Thursday 15th February

5.00 pm - Be Informed evening at School. All students and parents are encouraged to attend.
"Taster lessons" form Sign up released (**deadline Monday 26th February**)

Wednesday 6th March

4:30 pm - 6.00 pm - Preferences evening at school.
Initial preferences survey (Deadline Friday 20th March)

Wednesday 13th March

WOW Festival for all students.

Friday 22nd March

Careers interviews with year 12
Careers fair with Debden Alumni

Wednesday 27th March

Final preferences form released

Friday 27th April

Final preferences deadline

Come along to the Preferences Evening on 6th March at 4:30 pm to talk to your subject teachers about what each course can offer you.

You will then be able to select your preferences and submit your Form online, please go to the Debden Park High School Website to access your Preferences Form. It will also be posted on the Year 9 Google Classroom.

www.debdenparkhighschool.org

You will then need to click on the link on the top of the page that says Year 9 Preferences 2024 Please ensure you **submit your form by Friday 27th April 2024**

*Please note if you do not submit your form by the closing date we may not be able to provide you with your choices.

In addition please note that while we will try as much as possible to provide you with your top 4 preferences, this is not always possible.

Contacts

For further information on the preferences listed in this booklet, please contact any of the Team Leaders below.

Art & Photography Kiri.Bradbury@Debden-TKAT.org

Combined/Triple Science Debbie.Blain@Debden-TKAT.org

Computer Science Rony.Rahman@Debden-TKAT.org

Creative Media Production & Film Studies Sarah.Avery@Debden-TKAT.org

Dance Sasha.Sherwood@Debden-TKAT.org

Design & Technology/Hospitality & Catering Rony.Rahman@Debden-TKAT.org

Drama Emily.Mitchell@Debden-TKAT.org

English Language & Literature Sarah.Avery@Debden-TKAT.org

Geography Lauren.Hall@Debden-TKAT.org

History Kelly.Lattimore@Debden-TKAT.org

Mathematics James.Simpson@Debden-TKAT.org

Music / Music Technology Emily.Russell@Debden-TKAT.org

PE Hannah.Carr@Debden-TKAT.org

Religion, Ethics & Philosophy Sobia.Amin@Debden-TKAT.org

Spanish/French Federica.DiPaolo@Debden-TKAT.org

Director of Year 9 Emily.Drake@Debden-TKAT.org

Deputy Head Gareth.Davies@Debden-TKAT.org

NOTES:

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