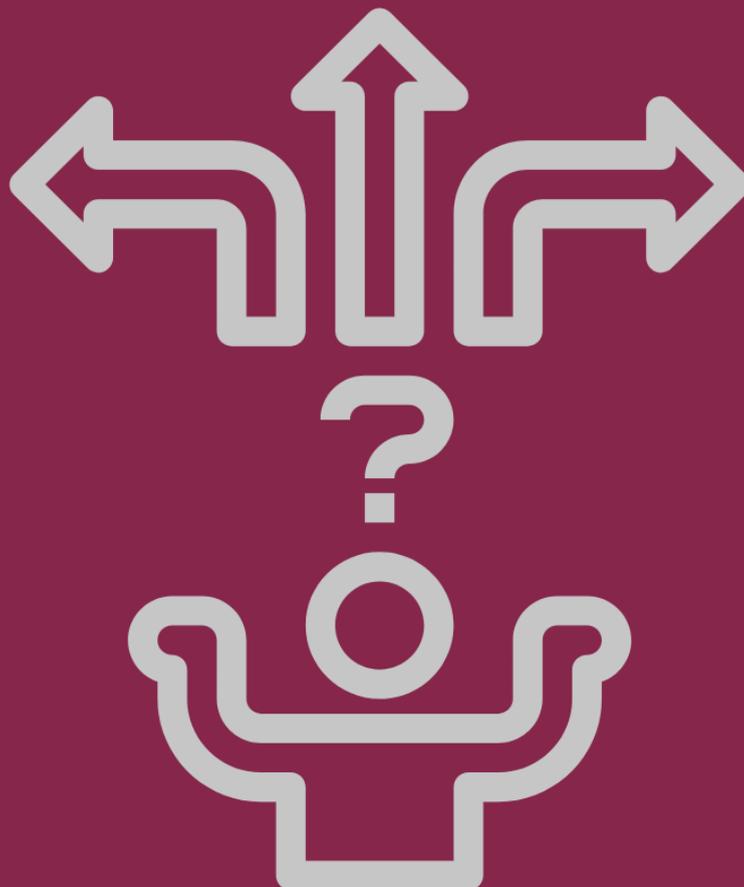




Cheney School
Think for yourself; act for others

GCSE Options Booklet 2022



SOME INITIAL ADVICE

Choosing BTEC and GCSE options can feel confusing and difficult, but it doesn't need to be if you ask for advice if you are stuck. Remember the following Dos and Don'ts as you go through this process:

- ✓ DO choose subjects which you like.
- ✓ DO choose subjects which you are successful in.
- ✓ DO choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education.
- ✓ DO find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it.
- ✓ DO talk to the people who know you.
- ✓ DO listen to the advice your subject teachers give you.

- ✗ DON'T choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it.
- ✗ DON'T choose a subject just because you like - or dislike - a particular teacher: they may not end up teaching you.

GCSE OPTIONS | KEY DATES



DECEMBER 2021 AND JANUARY 2022

Read booklet and discuss possible options with parents or carers.



WEDNESDAY 19TH JANUARY 2022

Complete initial preference indication with preferred and reserve choices. This is NOT final. This allows us to plan the right number of classes for next year.



TERM 3 AND 4 2022

Discuss selection with tutors and teachers.
Assemblies on different option choices.



THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2022

Year 9 Parents Evening with additional options information.



THURSDAY 12TH MAY 2022

Deadline for making final options selection with preferred and reserve choices indicated.



WHO DECIDES WHAT I STUDY?

We want you to choose the subjects that *you* want to do. Everyone is happier that way and you will enjoy your GCSE years much more if you're studying the subjects you enjoy and are good at. But you need to think things out carefully and remember these points:

- First, you must talk to your parents or carers, your teachers, your Tutor and your Head of Student Progress because they know you well and will be able to give you good ideas about what you should study.
- Secondly, you should think about whether the option subjects you are choosing *now* fit in with what you will need for further education or career choice in the future - if you are still unsure at this stage try to choose a range of subjects that won't restrict your choices in years to come.
- Thirdly, you must check any particular requirement of the course. You will not be allowed to begin any option course if your school work indicates that you will not benefit from it.

Each student in Year 9 will also have an opportunity to talk to their tutor about their options choices. Students may also request a meeting with [Mrs Robson](mailto:RRO@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) (RRO@cheney.oxon.sch.uk) or [Mr Davis](mailto:JDA@cheney.oxon.sch.uk), our Careers Advisor (JDA@cheney.oxon.sch.uk). All of these people will have a very good idea of your abilities and the subjects that will give you the broad set of skills that you will need for future success.

QUALIFICATIONS ON OFFER

GCSEs

This is the most common qualification and is the most widely-used academic study route through to A-levels and University. You will study your chosen subjects for two years and will be assessed by examinations at the end of the course. In most subjects, there is no coursework at all. Grade 4 is a standard pass and 9 is the highest grade.

Level 1 and 2 BTECs

These vocational qualifications are based more on skills and are particularly for students who enjoy building a portfolio and do well with continuous assessment, with exams playing a smaller part in the overall qualification. The BTEC courses are assessed at Pass, Merit, and Distinction. The Level 2 BTEC Certificate is equivalent to one GCSE.

GCSE Grade	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U
BTEC Grade	Distinction*		Distinction	Merit	Pass					

Entry Level Certificates, Functional Skills, ASDAN, non-examined vocational courses

Some students will be offered a different suite of qualifications, usually alongside GCSE. This ensures that students will get appropriate qualifications to move on to College, even if they do not get grade 4 or above at GCSE. We also offer some non-examined vocational courses (such as painting and decorating) which will lead on to apprenticeships and College courses, but don't currently offer a formal qualification. Students who are suitable for these choices will be invited to consider them. together with a conversation with parents or carers.



CHOOSING OPTIONS

All students will study **core subjects** and choose **four options**. There are also some additional subjects available as after-school sessions, which means the average Cheney student will gain 9 or 10 GCSEs. All students should study a broad and balanced curriculum and therefore we would recommend you try to choose a range of subjects.

We strongly recommend that most students should choose at least 2 EBacc subjects among their 4 options (see explanation later). This means History or Geography with a Language, especially if your predicted GCSE grades are 5 or above. This is not the correct choice for everyone, however, and we will not force students into these choices (although we may recommend them). In addition, for some students we will be having individual conversations about taking one of our supportive curriculum options, such as ASDAN.

➤ CORE SUBJECTS

English Language (1 GCSE)	English Literature (1 GCSE)	Mathematics (1 GCSE)
Combined Science (2 GCSES)	Physical Education (non-examined)	Enrichment and PHSE (non-examined)

➤ LANGUAGES

French (1 GCSE)	German (1 GCSE)	Spanish (1 GCSE)
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➤ TECHNOLOGY AND CREATIVE OPTIONS

Art (1 GCSE)	Product Design (1 GCSE)	Textiles (1 GCSE)
Music (1 GCSE)	Drama (1 GCSE)	Computing (1 GCSE)
Food Preparation & Nutrition (1 GCSE)	Digital Information Technology (Level 1 or 2 BTEC)	Music Technology (RSL Level 2 Tech award)

➤ ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

History (1 GCSE)	Geography (1 GCSE)	Business Studies (1 GCSE)
Sport BTEC (Level 1 or 2 BTEC)	Religious Education (1 GCSE)	Triple Science (adds to Combined Science to give 3 science GCSEs overall)
Curriculum Support. Non-examined vocational courses, and ASDAN*	Employability* (Level 1 or Level 2 ASDAN)	

*by invitation only



The process of selecting your options comes in two stages:

- Initial preference indication in January:

When completing this form, you will be asked to indicate your preferences for subjects that you would like to study. There will also be an option to indicate reserve subjects as well.

This is not a commitment to select certain subjects but is an indication that helps us gauge interest, which in turn helps us build the timetable.

There are **no option blocks at this stage**; we build the blocks after seeing what people want to do.

This selection should not be taken lightly, but also, is not a final commitment to study the subject and therefore we anticipate that there will be changes.

- Final options selection in May:

When completing this form, you will be asked to select subjects that you would like to study from 4 option blocks.

The option blocks are how the subjects fit into our timetable and therefore subjects cannot move. If we can offer a subject in more than one block, that will be indicated on the form.

There will also be an option to indicate reserve subjects as well.

At this stage, you are committing to study these subjects and therefore this decision must be made once you have consulted with your parents/carers, tutors, teachers and other important adults in your life. This could include Mrs Robson and Mr Davis.

Your selection might be exactly the same as January. It might need tweaking after consultation with others. It might need tweaking to fit your subject choices into our blocked timetable. However, we will work hard to try and make your ideal selection work.

Not everyone will get to study the choices they indicate at this stage. However we will have conversations with you if you are one of the small number of students affected.

***Please be aware that option classes only run if they have a viable number of students opting for the subject.
Options with low student take-up may have to be cancelled.***

English Baccalaureate Subjects

The government pushes schools to fulfill the 'EBacc' as a proxy for a well-rounded and rigorous academic curriculum; it is not a qualification in itself. This is broadly true, but it is not suitable for everyone, and pursuing it can lead to distortions and unintended consequences. At Cheney, we do not insist that students do it, and we will always support the best outcomes for the individual over a central target. Having said this, doing the subjects below will often be appropriate, and having good grades in the subjects below does provide a well-respected academic profile, although the creative arts are sadly lacking from the list. It is possible to fulfill the EBacc, and still have 2 other options for a free choice.

English (language and literature), Maths and Science (either Triple or Combined Science, or Computer Science)
A Language (French, Spanish, German, Latin or a home language)
History or Geography



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Start by reading the booklet! Do not assume you know what each course is about. Talk to your teachers if you want more information. Engage with material shared through tutor time about different options, and talk openly to your tutor about your goals and dreams for the future, so they can help you with your selection. Talk to your parents and carers about your choices before you make your first selection.

Complete your first options selection before **Wednesday 19th January 2022**.

Attend Parents' Evening on **Thursday 5th May 2022**.

Make your final options selection before **Thursday 12th May 2022**.

What can I do after Y11?

Many Cheney students stay on at Cheney's Sixth Form after Year 11 to study a range of A-Levels and/or Level 3 BTECs (Level 3 BTEC is equivalent to an A-level). Entry to Cheney Sixth Form is dependent on how well you do in your GCSEs and Level 2 BTECs (a Level 2 BTEC is equivalent to a GCSE). You can see Cheney Sixth Form entry requirements and what subjects are on offer plus further information about Sixth Form on the [Sixth Form section of our website](#).

There are, of course, other Sixth Forms in Oxford that some Cheney students decide to go to and you can get more information from their websites.

In addition, the City of Oxford College and Abingdon and Witney College offer a range of vocational courses, A-levels and extended diplomas. For more information have a look at these websites:

<https://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/> - City of Oxford College

<http://www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/> - Abingdon and Witney College

Apprenticeships

Some students decide to go into a work-based apprenticeship after Year 11. For more information please have a look at these websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<http://oxme.info/cms/>





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CORE
SUBJECTS

CORE SUBJECT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

What will I study?

You will cover a range of topics including 19th, 20th and 21st century literature, non-fiction, literary non-fiction and poetry. You will also learn to write in a number of different styles and formats, and how to give an effective spoken language presentation.

What qualification will the course lead to?

We will be following the [AQA GCSE curriculum](#). This means students will study for two GCSEs in English: one in English Language and the other in English Literature.

How will it help me in the future?

You will learn to read and enjoy a range of texts, gaining crucial skills of analysis and interpretation. You will also learn how to express yourself in a way that is compelling, interesting and persuasive.

How will my work be assessed?

You will take all your English exams at the end of Year 11. Due to the changes in the English GCSE curriculum, there is no longer a coursework element.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You will need to enjoy looking at novels, poetry and drama, and reaching your own interpretations. You must also be prepared to backup your ideas in discussion and in written work. You will also need to be able to express yourself clearly, powerfully and accurately in written English, in a range of styles.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

The set texts for the course are: *An Inspector Calls*, JB Priestley; *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson; *Macbeth*, William Shakespeare; A poetry anthology supplied by the exam board

You will also study a range of other writers and texts as the course progresses.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mrs Taylor or your English teacher.



CORE SUBJECT

MATHEMATICS

What will I study?

You will continue to build on the topics and skills you have acquired at KS3. You will be taught a broader and deeper mathematical content covering six main topic areas: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change, Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

What qualification will the course lead to?

We follow the [Edexcel exam board specification](#) and students achieve a GCSE in Mathematics.

How will it help me in the future?

The processes and problem solving strategies that you will develop on this course will be required for higher education and essential for any future professional career. Mathematics will be needed in further study of the natural and social sciences, engineering and medicine.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed entirely by examination. It can be taken at Higher or Foundation tiers, and will be assessed at the end of Year 11 across three papers, each worth 80 marks.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

The key to success in Mathematics lies in practising and consolidating the methods you learn by doing lots of problems. For this reason, hard work in lesson time will need to be supported with independent study. Consistently well-attempted homework is essential for success. You will need to be well-organised with your time and equipment and show a high level of self-motivation and enthusiasm.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

We use a variety of textbooks, worksheets and websites. We will give you access to a range of resources including Dr Frost Maths, corbett maths, onmaths.com, revision guides and workbooks, to assist you in working independently. More information can be found from your Maths teacher.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Ms Thealla or your Maths teacher



CORE SUBJECT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What will I study?

Students will participate in two hours of core Physical Education (P.E.) per week.

In Year 10 and 11 students will continue to focus on improving their knowledge and performance. Students focus on a wide variety of sports in six lesson blocks using the astro turf, fitness suite, sports hall, dance studio and field. One lesson in four is a fitness lesson.

As well as improving skills and tactics students work with staff to develop their knowledge of:

- Health and fitness
- Leadership skills
- Life-skills
- Opportunities for extra activity

What qualifications will the course lead to?

There is no qualification for this subject. It is a core activity for all students. For a qualification in P.E., please refer to SPORT BTEC page later in this booklet.

How will I be assessed?

There is no assessment for P.E.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mrs Hart



CORE SUBJECT

PSHE and ENRICHMENT

What will I study?

Year 10 and 11 students will have 30 minutes per week of tutor time **PSHE** (Personal Social Health and Employment Education). Lessons will focus on three core themes: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Sex, and Living in the Wider World. Here are some of the core topics for each theme:

Health and Well-being: mental well-being; internet safety; physical health; healthy eating; drugs and alcohol; health and prevention and basic first aid.

Relationships and sex: types of stable, committed relationships, including marriage; respect, intimacy, and safety within relationships; sex, sexuality, and sexual health.

Living in the wider world: learning skills; job choices and pathways; types of work; employment rights and responsibilities; financial choices and media literacy.

Year 10 and 11 students will have one hour of **Enrichment** per fortnight. Enrichment lessons will cover some of the PSHE content described above but also careers advice and Citizenship topics such as: parliamentary democracy, human rights, the UK legal system and personal finance. Enrichment lessons may also cover topical cultural issues which the school feels are important at that time.

What qualifications will these courses lead to?

There is no qualification for these subjects. It is a core activity for all students.

How will I be assessed?

Enrichment teachers will test your understanding of the content covered at the end of each unit and will assess your ability to debate issues. At assessment points Enrichment teachers will give feedback on your attitude to learning and quality of work but you do not get a grade or level like you do for other subjects. PSHE is not formally assessed but your Tutors do monitor your engagement and understanding.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Dr. Bown and Dr. Narajos



CORE SUBJECT

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

What will I study?

You will study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Biology will include topics on cells, organisation, health, photosynthesis, inheritance and ecology. Chemistry will cover atomic structure, the atmosphere, chemical bonding, chemical and energy changes and analytical techniques. Physics looks at how energy is transferred, electricity, radioactivity, forces, waves and electromagnetism.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Combined Science (worth 2 GCSEs). [The examination board is AQA, and we follow the Trilogy pathway.](#)

How is the course structured?

The course will begin near the end of Year 9 – we will finish the KS3 course and then begin the GCSE course at the start of Term 5.

How will it help me in the future?

This qualification will allow you to study A-levels in Science and follow a wide range of careers – from Medicine to Aircraft Design. It is also accepted for entry onto BTEC Applied Science courses at Cheney Sixth Form, as well as at other colleges. So much of the modern world is shaped by our scientific understanding, from health to climate change and all aspects of technology. The knowledge built up in the GCSE combined science course will help you to make sense of it all, and allow you to make up your own mind when you hear scientific claims being made.

How will my work be assessed?

The two GCSE grades will be decided entirely through 6 exams at the end of year 11 - two each in biology, chemistry and physics. All six are out of 70 marks and are 1 hour 15 minutes long. Throughout the two years, students will complete assessments to check their knowledge, which will allow teachers to give feedback so that students can improve their knowledge and understanding.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You have to be interested in carrying out experiments and working with your friends to understand the world around you. You need to be willing to revise for exams and commit facts and explanations to memory.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

We use the Educake website to set quizzes for homework, the Seneca Learning website to support and consolidate understanding, and the CGP textbooks throughout the course. You will be able to buy CGP revision guides or revision cards through ParentPay.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Your current science teacher, or Ms Berry (Key Stage 4 Science Lead) or Mr Preston (Head of Science)





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GCSE Options Booklet 2022

OPTIONAL
SUBJECTS

OPTION SUBJECT

ART GCSE

What will I study?

In this course, you will develop practical skills in art and design, acquiring the ability to investigate, analyse and experiment with your ideas and make connections with the work of artists. You will learn skills in drawing and painting, printmaking, 3D construction (clay and sculpture), photo manipulation and mixed media techniques.

What qualification will the course lead to?

[GCSE in Art & Design \(Fine Art\). The examination board is Edexcel.](#)

How would it help me in the future?

The study of Art can help you develop transferable skills that you can take to any career or job; the creative industries are in fact leaders in generating jobs in the UK. It will help your research skills, the ability to work independently and the aptitude to share ideas visually. You could go on to take a higher qualification in Art & Design such as A-level. Ultimately, you may wish to go on to careers in fields such as Design, Architecture, Advertising, Marketing, Publishing, Media or Education.

How will my work be assessed?

Your teacher will help you improve your grade by continually assessing you throughout the course. You will be required to produce coursework and sit an exam. Coursework is 60% of the final grade and includes a portfolio of work and a mock exam. The exam component consists of one set project and a ten-hour exam and is worth 40% of the final grade.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

- A good level of artistic skill and a desire to learn new techniques
- Be enthusiastic, ambitious and creative
- Readiness to work hard and good organisation

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

You will use specialist Art books which will be available in the Art Department. Your teacher will direct you to relevant websites throughout the course but for now have a look at <http://www.tate.org.uk/> or <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/>

Who is the best person to see for more information?

Ms Cox



OPTION SUBJECT

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Computing gives pupils a real, in-depth understanding of computers. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many pupils find absorbing. This course will appeal to students who have an interest in programming. It will develop practical skills in creating solutions to problems and promote confidence and independent thinking. A range of different languages will be used, the main one being Python.

Computer Science is concerned with how computers and computer systems work, and how they are designed and programmed. Students studying computing gain insight into computational systems of all kinds, whether or not they include computers. Computational thinking influences fields such as biology, chemistry, linguistics, psychology, economics, and statistics.

[The exam board is OCR](#) . The new course code is OCR J277.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE Computer Science will lead to A' Level Computer Science, Apprenticeship or college courses.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is examined by two written exams:

Unit 1 - Computer Systems and Programming written paper, 1 hour, worth 50%

Unit 2 - Computational thinking, algorithms & programming written paper, 1 hour, worth 50%

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

Computing entry will be decided by Ms Garden, Head of Technology. Entry criteria include:

- Minimum of a teacher projected grade 5 in Computer Studies at Assessment Point 2 in Year 8
- Learner characteristics minimum of an average of 3 in Computer Studies
- Should there be more students wanting to study Computer Sciences than spaces then we will determine entry based on students' learner characteristics

How would it help me in the future?

Whether you are interested in following a career in Computer Science, Programming and Systems Analysis, or just want to have a competitive edge in the modern digital world, Computer Science offers you real opportunities to be at the forefront with skills in industry standard software and programming skills in languages behind major players in the world of ICT such as Facebook, YouTube and Industrial Light and Magic (the company behind productions such as Star Wars).

Who is the best person to see for more information?

Mr Magagula

Mr Williamson



OPTION SUBJECT

DRAMA GCSE

What will I study?

You will learn how Drama is created, including all the performance and design skills that are needed to get a piece of Theatre on to the stage. You will learn how to create and develop different roles for performances. You will also learn many other skills that are highly valued in any walk of life. These include teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public.

What qualification will the course lead to?

[GCSE Drama. The exam board is OCR.](#) For further information, see the OCR website.

How would it help me in the future?

If you are interested in working within the Performing Arts or media industry, this course is the first stepping-stone to understanding the demands of working in such a field. This course will also encourage you to develop a range of skills that are useful for further education and work in all industries.

How will my work be assessed?

The majority of your assessment is practical. Two units are performance exams and you will be required to keep a written record of your practical work as well as carry out research that links to your performances. This work will be assessed as coursework for these practical units. There is a written exam at the end of the course that includes a live theatre evaluation and the study of a play. Over the course of the three year GCSE, you will explore, study and perform extracts from up to nine different plays. You will also see a live performance to review for your exam in Year 11.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

The most important aspect of this course is commitment. You will need to be committed to the subject and to working as a part of a group. You also will need to be able to communicate effectively with the whole class and have confidence in your work as a performer.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

We will explore a variety of contrasting play texts throughout the course. It is important to see as much as you can and to read some different plays in preparation for the performance aspect of the course.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Miss Johnson



OPTION SUBJECT

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and relevant course. It focuses on practical cooking skills ensuring that students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics - Food, nutrition and health; Food science; Food safety; Food choice; Food provenance

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition

How would it help me in the future?

The opportunities to work within the food industry really are endless. A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to exciting and well-paid career opportunities such as catering, food marketing, product development, diet-related industries, and food retail. Several celebrity chefs such as Heston Blumenthal, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and Nicole Pisani have endorsed this new qualification.

How will my work be assessed?

50% NEA Coursework (Controlled Assessment) and 50% written exam.

- NEA Task 1 – Food Science Investigation (10 hours) = 15% of GCSE
- NEA Task 2 – Food Preparation Assessment (20 hours including a 3 hour assessment) = 35% of GCSE
- Written Paper 1 hour 45 minute exam = 50% of GCSE

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You must be prepared to work in a group and independently. Students are also expected to be prepared for lessons by familiarizing themselves with their recipes prior to attending class. You must also have good personal organization and time-management skills.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition: Student book ISBN:978-1-908682-78-9

Who is the best person to see for more information?

Mr Olubodun

Mrs Hilton



OPTION SUBJECT

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

What will I study?

Geography is the study of our interactions with the world around us and so is one of the most varied subjects you can study. This includes hurricanes and volcanoes as well as global poverty and the UK's political role in the world. We will examine issues of food insecurity, culture and housing shortages in the UK, as well as polar ecosystems, tropical rainforests and global warming. During the course, you will learn a wide range of valuable skills such as research, presentations and decision-making. Fieldwork is fundamental to Geography and we undertake two fieldwork days for the exam.

What qualification will the course lead to?

A GCSE in Geography. [The examination board is OCR B](#)

How would it help me in the future?

Geography is a widely respected subject. It provides a grounding in both scientific and humanities subjects therefore is an excellent accompaniment to all other subject choices. Geography is a skills-based subject and in addition to learning specific environmental, field-based and graphical techniques you will also develop a wide range of transferable skills such as enquiry, research, analysis and evaluation; skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. Geography also develops your understanding of issues and will empower you to take action on topical issues such as global warming, global poverty, and building on local green field sites.

How will my work be assessed?

There are three exams at the end of Year 11 covering physical and human geography, fieldwork and decision making.

Students will be required to attend two fieldwork days to be able to answer all of the questions in the exam.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

The most important thing is that you have a desire to understand the world around you. Geographers also have a well-developed sense of social justice that makes them want to understand world issues.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

We have access to both paper and electronic copies of the course textbook, which is OUP OCR Geography B. Students are encouraged to make full use of Seneca Learning for revision. We will also use a range of other resources to support independent reading and research; these will include the BBC and various newspapers.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mr. Twycross or your Geography teacher.



OPTION SUBJECT

HISTORY GCSE

What will I study and how is the course structured?

The course covers four topics:

- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and the British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
- The balance of power between monarchs and the people: The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216.
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941–91.
- How to have a positive impact on the world: American Civil rights.

What qualification will the course lead to?

A GCSE in History. [The examination board is Edexcel](#). For further information see the Edexcel website.

How would it help me in the future?

History gives you a completely different view of life and it is worth studying just because it is so stimulating. However, History is also a highly respected subject, which prepares you for any job in which you need to solve a problem or present an argument clearly. It is particularly good for journalism, law, business, teaching, writing, publishing, the civil service and many other careers.

How will my work be assessed?

You will sit three exams at the end of the course. The exam questions will ask you to show: a) what you know about your topics; and b) what your view is about the reasons for change or significance. The questions are stimulating and your personal opinions and explanations really matter.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You will need a strong interest in people, enthusiasm and a readiness to work hard.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

A full (and very interesting) reading list is available – or simply talk to your teacher for advice on wider reading. There are many very good books available on both our main topics.

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History – medicine through time, C1250 – present. H Stark /S Thoren *ISBN: 1292127376*

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History the USA, 1954-1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad (EDEXCEL GCSE HISTORY (9-1))

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Ms. South or your History teacher



OPTION SUBJECT

BUSINESS GCSE

There is an entry requirement for this course - Maths predicted grade 4 or above. This information will come from discussions with the Maths department once the option is picked as a choice.

What will I study?

The course is Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business. The course is split into two units:

Theme 1 - Investigating Small Business - concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills 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.

Theme 2 - Building a Business - 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 an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

What qualification will the course lead to?

A GCSE in Business - [Edexcel GCSE \(9-1\) Business](#)

How would it help me in the future?

GCSE Business can help you prepare for further and higher education such as A-Levels and BTEC courses. You will become skilled at decision making, being creative, understanding finance, communicating and working as part of team. A GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

How will my work be assessed?

Only through examination. There are two 1 hour and 30 minute papers, each worth 50% of the qualification.

What will be especially important for me to succeed?

Communicating ideas, thinking creatively, working with numbers to solve problems, research and investigation, working through practical tasks and a good attitude to learning. Students are expected and encouraged to regularly watch the news and read a quality newspaper every week. Students will use these relevant and up-to-date news articles for discussion and analysis in class. Other useful programmes to watch are Newsnight, Dragons Den and The Apprentice. These programmes will help students develop their understanding of Business Studies. Students should also like working with numbers.

Will I be using any particular text books or websites?

There is one recommended text: Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business. There are also many useful websites including: businessstudiesonline.co.uk, .tutor2u.net, bbc.co.uk/news/business

Useful programmes to watch are Undercover Boss, Dragon's Den, The Apprentice and The Billion Dollar Chicken Shop.

Who is the best person to see for more information?

Mr Buchanan



OPTION SUBJECT

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

What will I study?

Religious Studies is about developing an interest in people and their beliefs, within the context of the modern world. It is about examining different cultures and having your own say on important issues such as environmental issues, moral behaviour, relationships, human rights and conflict. In addition, this GCSE also allows you to explore philosophical issues, such as life after death, the existence and nature of God, and how people make ethical and moral choices from both a religious and non-religious perspective.

What qualification will the course lead to?

You will achieve a GCSE in Religious Studies Specification route A. [The examination board is WJEC.](#)

How would it help me in the future?

It will encourage you to develop skills in questioning and discussion and to empathise with people who hold different opinions. Everything you do in this GCSE is relevant to your future life. It will help you to understand why people make their decisions and why people have different views on the same topic. It will be useful when you travel, when you deal with members of the public who hold a faith and when you have to face choices about difficult issues.

How will my work be assessed?

You will be assessed in class after each topic area and this will give you practice in answering exam questions. You will also get teacher feedback after each assessment explaining what you need to do to improve your grade. There is no coursework but the GCSE is assessed with three written exams, one lasting two hours and other two exams lasting one hour each.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

The most important thing is that you are open-minded and have an interest in other people and their opinions. Being inquisitive and questioning is essential. Listening to the opinions of others is also very important on this course. If you can do these things, you will both enjoy and achieve in this course.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

In Religious Studies, we tend to use a variety of sources. WJEC operating as EDUQAS in England have published a textbook to accompany this [course](#).

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mrs Makwezva



OPTION SUBJECT

LANGUAGES GCSE - FRENCH/ GERMAN/ SPANISH

What will I study?

You will learn how to describe what you think about a variety of topics: holidays, films, TV, personal relationships, school life, the environment, the world of work and future career plans, amongst others. The course will be built on the knowledge and skills that you already have from your work in Years 7 and 8.

What qualifications will the course lead to?

Students will gain a GCSE in [French](#), [German](#), or [Spanish](#). Many universities require students to have a language GCSE. The examination board is AQA.

How would it help me in the future?

The ability to speak a foreign language is becoming increasingly sought after, whatever career you choose. Linguists learn how to communicate effectively in both their writing and speaking. This makes you more desirable to a potential employer or university.

How will my work be assessed?

At the end of the three-year course, you will be assessed on the four skills (Listening/Reading/Speaking/Writing) to check your understanding, interacting, communicating and responding to different types of language. All skills will represent 25% of the GCSE.

What will be especially important for me to succeed in this course?

You will need to demonstrate resilience and resourcefulness. You will also have to take responsibility for your own learning, which will mean reading/listening to languages in your own time. This will enhance your understanding of the language you study.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

We strongly recommend all students use language-learning websites like *GCSE Bitesize*, *Linguascope*, *Memrise*, *Quia*, *Languages Online* and *BBC languages*. Students should also use a dictionary as part of their learning tool alongside the textbooks used in class. We use the following textbooks to implement our lessons: French AQA GCSE, German AQA GCSE, and Spanish AQA GCSE.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mme Reynes or your languages teacher



OPTION SUBJECT

MUSIC GCSE

What will I study?

During the course, you will develop your skills in performing, composing and listening. This course will suit the traditional violinist, the rock guitarist and everything in between! The listening element of the course is set and will guide you through music from the Classical era to today. The performance and composition units will cater to your interests and you will have an opportunity to try out a variety of styles before focussing on one.

What qualification will the course lead to?

[GCSE in Music. The examination board is Eduqas.](#)

How would it help me in the future?

The study of Music can help you develop transferable skills that you can take to any career or job; the creative industries are in fact leaders in generating jobs in the UK. It will help your analytical skills, the ability to work independently and as part of an ensemble and to develop creative skills in composition. You could go on to take a higher qualification in Music such as A-level or use the transferable skills in any other A-level course or career. Music is also a subject that helps to develop your own confidence and creativity, giving you an outlet for ideas.

How will my work be assessed?

You will be continually assessed throughout the course by your teacher to help you improve your grade. The course is 60% coursework which is internally assessed. This is made up of two performances (30%) and two compositions (30%). There is an external exam at the end of the course, which focuses on the listening elements of the course. This is worth 40% of the course.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You will either already play an instrument or be keen and dedicated to learning a new instrument. You will be motivated, enthusiastic and creative and have an open mind to exploring new genres of music. We will fully support you with this.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

You will use specialist Music books, which will be available in the Music Department. You will also be directed to the Eduqas website for the course books once you begin the course.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mrs O'Neil, Mrs Payne, Mr Barquilla



OPTION SUBJECT

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (Level 2)

What will I study?

Music Technology is an area of the Music industry that is constantly evolving and offers a vast array of opportunities to those interested in the technical side of the industry and technology in general. The Music Technology course gives you the opportunity to develop your understanding of music sequencing software; for example, LogicProX (industry standard). You will create your own music as well as record and arrange existing pieces using the Music Studio and our suite of Apple Macs. You will explore different ways of responding to a brief through the composition and performance of music using music technology.

What qualification will the course lead to?

This Level 2 qualification is equivalent to a GCSE qualification

How would it help me in the future?

Technology is constantly evolving in every industry and having in-depth transferable skills will help you in whatever career you choose and make you more desirable to a potential employer or university. The creative industries are in fact leaders in generating jobs in the UK. It will help you develop research skills, the ability to work independently and as part of a team and the ability to share ideas. You could go on to take a higher qualification in Music Technology such as A-level or use the transferable skills in any other A-level course or career.

How will my work be assessed?

There are several units you will take as part of the course. Some of these are internally assessed and some externally. The course is very practical and focuses on skill development and how you respond to a given brief.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

This course is open to any student who is interested in the technology side of the music industry. You will be motivated, enthusiastic and creative and have an open mind to exploring recording styles. It is not necessary to be able to play a musical instrument but a basic understanding of the elements of music is needed.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

You will use specialist Music books, which will be available in the Music Department.

Who is the best person to see for more information?

Mrs O'Neil, Mrs Payne, Mr Barquilla

The exact specification is still to be confirmed, as the Department for Education has not yet published the final list of courses accredited for examination in 2024. We do not anticipate significant changes to what is written here, and we will be able to confirm the exam board by the time final choices are made.



OPTION SUBJECT

GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS (TRIPLE SCIENCE)

What will I study?

You will study three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In addition to the topics covered in Combined Science you will extend your knowledge more deeply within all the taught topics, as well as learning space physics as an additional topic in Physics. The majority of this additional content is embedded into lessons throughout Years 10 and 11.

What qualification will the course lead to?

[AQA GCSEs in Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.](#)

How would it help me in the future?

This qualification will provide an excellent foundation for all A level science courses. It also supports further study in a wide range of science-related careers, from medicine, nursing and physiotherapy to aircraft design, and computer science. And of course it will enrich students' scientific understanding of the world around them, allowing them to make better-informed decisions throughout their lives.

How will my work be assessed?

The GCSE will be decided entirely through 6 exams at the end of year 11 - two each in biology, chemistry and physics. All six are out of 100 marks and are 1 hour 45 minutes long. Throughout the two years, students will complete assessments to check their knowledge, which will allow teachers to give feedback so that students can improve their knowledge and understanding.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You need to be interested in science, and will probably have thought ahead to what career you are interested in. You have to be interested in carrying out experiments and working with your friends to understand the world around you. You need to be willing to revise for exams and commit facts and explanations to memory.

Triple Science entry will be decided by Mr Preston, Head of Science. Entry criteria include:

- Minimum of "Expected progress" in Assessment Point 1 and 2 in Year 9
- Learner characteristics minimum of an average of 3
- Should there be more students wanting to study Triple Science than spaces then we will determine entry based on students' learner characteristics

Will I be using any particular textbooks or websites?

We use the Educake website to set quizzes for homework, the Seneca Learning website to support and consolidate understanding, and the CGP textbooks throughout the course. You will be able to buy CGP revision guides or revision cards through ParentPay.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Your current science teacher, or Ms Berry (Key Stage 4 Science Lead) or Mr Preston (Head of Science)



OPTION SUBJECT

BTEC Tech Award in Sport

What will I study?

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport consists of three units of work. Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity. Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance. Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity.

This course has been designed to give students the opportunity to participate in a range of practical activities as not only the performer but also the leader. Therefore, students have the opportunity to develop their personal skills such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork. The theoretical units allow students to develop their knowledge of components of fitness and the principles of training. They explore different fitness training methods.

What qualification will the course lead to?

A qualification in BTEC Tech Award in Sport. [Specification for what will be studied](#). The examination board is Pearson.

How is the course structured?

Lessons will be both practical and theory based.

How would it help me in the future?

On successful completion of a BTEC First qualification, learners can progress to or within employment and/or continue their study in the same vocational area. In Key Stage 5, students can opt for the Level 3 BTEC in Sport, which equates to an A Level.

How will my work be assessed?

Students will complete assignments throughout each unit to meet the learning aims for that unit. The assignments will be assessed against the grading criteria for each unit and students will receive either Level 1 or Pass/Merit/Distinction (Level 2). Two units are internally assessed, 60% of the overall qualification. One unit is externally examined in a written format and whilst being synoptic equates to 40% of the qualification.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

Students should do this course if they:

- Have an interest in sport and physical fitness
- Are prepared to participate practically
- Have the ability to work consistently, while being continually assessed.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mrs Hart or Mr Evans

The exact specification is still to be confirmed, as the Department for Education has not yet published the final list of courses accredited for examination in 2024. We do not anticipate significant changes to what is written here, and we will be able to confirm the exam board by the time final choices are made.



OPTION SUBJECT

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

What will I study?

This is an exciting course, which includes practical skills at the same time as providing you with knowledge about design and industry. You will design products to meet real world needs, create your designs using a variety of materials and learn what happens to your products when you do not want them anymore. During the course, you will produce several projects; each will introduce you to particular aspects of designing and making.

What qualification will the course lead to?

[AQA GCSE in Design and Technology](#)

How would it help me in the future?

This course leads directly to A-level Product Design. Alternatively, you could go on to study BTEC level 3 in Product Design. There are many careers in the design industry from buying products for retail to designing and making your own products as a designer. Alternatively it could lead you to a career in architecture or jewellery design.

How will my work be assessed?

Written Examination– 2 hours – 100 marks – 50% of the GCSE

The paper is divided into three key sections: Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks), Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) and Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks).

Non-exam assessment (NEA) – Approximately 30-35 hours –100 marks – 50% of GCSE

Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1st June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA. Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages). Assessment Criteria for the NEA will be focused on the following:

Investigating, Designing, Making and Analysing and Evaluating

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

- An interest in Product Design and Technology
- The desire to design and make things and enjoyment of designing and creating.
- A willingness to be challenged by hard work and organise yourself independently

Will I be using any particular textbooks or website?

The following link has excellent resources that will prepare you for the course:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Miss Beer, Ms Oddie or Mrs Garden



OPTION SUBJECT

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY: TEXTILES

What will I study?

This is an exciting course, which includes the study of **Core D&T** such as new and emerging technologies, energy generation and storage, developments in new materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices and a wide range of materials and their working properties. You will also **specialise in Textiles** and this will be the main focus in the NEA project work. This will include developing practical skills and provide you with knowledge of the Fashion and Textiles industry such as sustainability, smart materials and modern developments.

What qualification will the course lead to?

GCSE in Design and Technology

How would it help me in the future?

This course leads directly to A-level Fashion and Textiles, or you could go on to study BTEC Level 3 in Fashion and Clothing at college. Students can also progress onto university to gain qualifications to pursue a wide range of exciting career paths focusing on design in textiles, fashion or interior products; merchandising and buying; journalism; advertising and marketing within the manufacturing industry.

How will my work be assessed?

Written Examination– 2 hours – 100 marks – 50% of the GCSE

The paper is divided into three key sections: Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks), Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks), Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks).

Non-exam assessment (NEA) – Approximately 30-35 hours –100 marks – 50% of GCSE

Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1st June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA. Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence (max 20 pages). Assessment Criteria for the NEA will be focused on the following:

Investigating, Designing, Making and Analysing and Evaluating

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

- An interest in textiles, fashion or interior design
- The desire to design and make things using fabric
- A willingness to be challenged by hard work and organise yourself independently
- An enjoyment of designing and creating

Will I be using any particular textbooks or website?

The following link has excellent resources that will prepare you for the course:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mrs Garden or Miss Beer



OPTION SUBJECT

BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

What will I study?

Digital technologies are used by individuals and organisations. However, have you ever wondered how hardware and software has been designed to allow humans to interact with their devices? Have you ever thought about why items appear on screen in the way that they do? People often use the devices without realising the complex study that has gone into their design.

Digital technologies are constantly evolving. Each new development opens up a new project that needs to be completed. The ability to manage these projects effectively and develop devices that meet our ever-changing needs is crucial for hardware manufacturers to keep up with their competitors

Data is part of modern life. The systems that we interact with daily – mobile phones, contactless payments, websites and many others – collect large amounts of data. This data can provide useful information to organisations. They can analyse it to identify trends and opportunities for improving their customers' experience or to sell more of their goods and services. Large quantities of data can be very difficult to understand. You will also learn how to manipulate data and use it to create dashboards that summarise and present data clearly.

What qualifications will the course lead to?

In Key Stage 5, students can opt for the Level 3 BTEC in Information Technology, which equates to an A Level.

How would it help me in the future?

You will gain practical as well as theoretical experience and knowledge of IT-related subjects and a sound grounding for progression to further study. After this course, you can progress to the Level 3 Diploma in ICT at Sixth form, Further Education College or IT apprenticeship. You are also able to progress to working directly in the IT industry in IT helpdesk or support roles.

How will my work be assessed?

The majority of the qualification will be assessed by coursework (60%), with one written exam worth (40%).

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

An interest in the ever-developing world of ICT and how we communicate.

The keenness to learn about project planning, designing and creating user interfaces.

A willingness to think independently and to work as part of a team.

Will I be using any particular textbooks or website?

Textbook which is used during the course is *BTEC Tech Award - Digital Information Technology* by Pearsons; ISBN:978-1-292-20837, can be obtained from Amazon.

Who is the best person to see for more information?

Mr Williamson or Ms Ada

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OPTION SUBJECT

CURRICULUM SUPPORT and ASDAN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDP) BRONZE, SILVER & GOLD

Please only select Curriculum Support if your Pastoral Leader or a member of the Curriculum Support (SEND) team has suggested this to you.

What will I study?

The PDP qualification offers imaginative activities and personal challenges that support young people in becoming confident individuals who are physically, emotionally and socially healthy. It encourages young people to become responsible members of the community who make a positive contribution to society and embrace change, while managing risk together with their own wellbeing. Units covered will include 'Independent Living', 'Number and Money Handling' and 'World of Work' which share an emphasis on preparation for the wider world.

There will also be time available in these lessons to focus on work from other subjects, as well as completing coursework.

What qualifications will the course lead to?

Either an Award or Entry Level qualification.

How is the course structured?

You will have five lessons per fortnight and the course will last one year - in year 11 you will instead use this lesson time for additional English, Maths and Science.

How will it help me in the future?

The ASDAN course will allow you to acquire practical knowledge of the world around you, and to develop your skills; the topics focus on

- the environment; the community;
- the wider world home management;
- health and safety;
- sport and leisure
- the world of work;
- number handling
- beliefs and values
- knowledge and skills needed in later life, to develop your social and literacy skills, and will support you to grow in confidence.

How will my work be assessed?

You will be assessed by the work completed in class: this will be in various forms - for example, written pieces, posters, presentations, leaflets, research and role-play. The completion of units will go towards your final grade qualification.

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

To be interested in improving your literacy and social skills and to be willing to try your best.

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Dr Coombs, Miss Partlett, Mr Richardson & Mr Thomas



OPTION SUBJECT

ASDAN EMPLOYABILITY

Please only select ASDAN Employability if your Pastoral Leader or a member of the Curriculum Support (SEND) team has suggested this to you.

What will I study?

The Entry 2, Entry 3, Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications are intended for young people who are not yet ready for employment but for whom a job is a realistic aim within a reasonable timescale.

The Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications aim to help learners develop employability skills within occupational settings, allowing them to build on their employability skills and acquire transferable skills that will help them progress in their current situation and in the wider world of work.

Some of the units that you may study include:

- Maintaining Work Standards
- Learning through Work Experience
- Managing Personal Finance as an Employee
- Health and Safety in the Workplace

What qualifications will the course lead to?

Entry 2, Entry 3, Level 1 or Level 2 Certificate in Employability

All units are internally assessed, and the assessment can be undertaken in a way that suits the individual learner. The range of certificates available ensures that every learner achieves a certificate in Employability which is well matched to their needs.

Research shows that a large number of employers consider that young people's 'soft' employability skills are lacking. Labour Market data also shows that consistently it is young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who are most likely to be unemployed in comparison to other age groups. Employability ASDAN can help with this preparation and make young people more aware of what the expectations will be at work and what they are likely to face during their working life.

How is the course structured?

The Employability ASDAN is designed to meet the needs of learners and therefore the course is structured flexibly so that it can be used to support bespoke programmes. The qualifications measure employability skills but often these skills are developed using a particular activity or context. Examples of when skills are commonly developed include:

- The process of searching for work
- Undertaking a group project, for example in Enterprise
- Work experience placements
- Planning towards undertaking a particular career path
- Preparing for apprenticeships

Who are the best people to see for more information?

Mr Harley, Mr Toner, Mr Richardson and Mr Thomas

