



FOREST HILL SCHOOL

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SPECIALIST SCHOOL IN THE PERFORMING ARTS



KS4 Options Booklet

2016-18



Introduction

You are at a crucial time in your school career, where you are about to start on your accredited qualifications that will be the key determinant in your next steps after you complete school. After the Easter holidays you will have your end of KS3 Core exams and then will start your GCSEs in English, Maths and Science. However before that you need to decide which subjects you want to study in Year 10 and take qualifications in.

This booklet is to help you make that choice by answering questions like:

- What are the different subjects available?
- What does each subject focus on?
- What are the different qualifications available?
- How should I make the decision?
- What if I have no idea what I want to do?

Our teachers at Forest Hill School have worked very hard to develop a KS4 curriculum that is accessible and challenging for our students. All the courses being delivered are relevant, engaging and will allow our students to follow a wide range of pathways in the future. However it is down to you to choose a selection of courses that you think you will find interesting, you will excel in and will prepare you for what you want to do after school.

We are also aware that we cannot cater completely for all of our students' needs, particularly with the changes to the new GCSEs and other qualifications. Therefore we have invited other local institutions who provide a different offer to us to come and share what they can offer your son if you choose to look outside of Forest Hill School for his KS4 courses. If you are interested in finding out more about these other options please contact me directly.

Make sure you use the Launch Evening as well as the information provided through our online careers platform (www.fasttomato.co.uk) and in Citizenship & PSHEE lessons to help you and your son make the best choices for them.

I will be supporting you through this process so feel free to contact me directly if you would like to discuss options in more detail.

Yours faithfully



George German
Assistant Headteacher
Direct line: 020 8613 8462

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What do I need to know about changes to GCSE?

There have been quite a few significant changes to GCSE over recent years that it is important that you are aware of. Crucially GCSE has changed hugely since parents, friends or even older siblings would have taken them.

A few of the key changes are

- New GCSEs are having a staggered introduction
- The new GCSE grading system from 9-1
- The move away from coursework/controlled assessment to linear terminal exams in most subjects
- The move away from Foundation and Higher papers
- The extra requirement for good spelling, punctuation and grammar
- The increased rigour and content in most GCSEs
- The changes in BTEC qualifications
- The creation of V-Certs, the new NCFE qualification
- The introduction of the EBACC

New GCSEs are having a staggered introduction

The new GCSE qualifications are being introduced in stages. English and Maths were introduced this year (for the current Year 10), the majority of subjects are being introduced this year (for the current Year 9) and some will be introduced the following year (for the current Year 8). This list is subject to change from the Department for Education.

New Specifications for 2016		Old specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English language• English literature• Mathematics• Science• Art and design• Computer science• Dance• Drama• Food preparation and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geography• History• Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish)• Music• Music Technology• Photography• Physical Education• Religious Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Technology• Business & Economics• ICT• Psychology• Statistics

The new GCSE grading system from 9-1 for the new GCSE specifications

In the majority of subjects your son studies he will receive a grade from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest). This is why we have been using our new STEPs assessment system from 9-1 in Years 7-9 using the new GCSE criteria, to prepare him for these new grades.

9	Top 20% of the old A* grades will receive a 9
5	Equal to a low B/high C. This will be considered a good pass.
4	Equal to a low C. This will be considered a pass.
1	Equal to a G.
U	Equal to a U. This is a fail.

The move away from coursework/controlled assessment to linear terminal exams in most subjects

Exams for almost all subjects are at the end of the two year course and cannot be taken early or re-sat. Also, for most subjects they will be assessed by formal examination rather than controlled assessment or coursework.

The move away from Foundation and Higher papers

In most exams there will no longer be an option of doing either a Foundation or Higher paper.

The extra requirement for good spelling, punctuation and grammar

There has been an increased focus on good spelling, punctuation and grammar over the last few years, with up to 20% of marks in exams now allocated for it.

The increased rigour/content in GCSEs

The content for most GCSE exams has been increased and has been made more challenging. This is slightly different in each subject but includes; bringing A-Level content into GCSE (eg Maths); narrowing the range of options for what you can study (eg English Literature); and, broadening the content that needs to be studied (eg History).

The changes in BTEC qualifications

BTEC qualifications have offered support for students who struggled with exams over the last few years by providing, in some subjects, a non-exam based way of achieving a qualification. Although the portfolio based approach of a BTEC is still an option in some subjects, there is now also a challenging exam that forms a large part of the marks.

The creation of V-Certs, the new NCFE qualification

V-Certs are vocational qualifications that are given the same weight as a GCSE. They are a relatively new qualification designed to give high quality vocational skills in a variety of areas. We offer the V-Cert in a variety of subjects, mostly as an alternative to the GCSE course.

The introduction of the English Baccalaureate

In 2010 the government introduced the English Baccalaureate, designed to be a measure of whether a pupil has achieved good passes in 5 core academic subjects. Although introduced as a school performance measure it is considered to show aptitude in these academic subjects and so the government has encouraged schools, parents and students to ensure they take these subjects. The government has indicated that from September 2017 it expects all students to take these subjects. At present we ensure that every student can take these subjects if they wish, but do not force them to.

The EBACC consists of 1 of each of the following

Area	Subjects
English	English, English Literature
Maths	Maths
Science	Core Science, Additional Science, Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry or Physics), Computer Science
Humanities	History, Geography
Languages	French, German, Spanish etc.

My Curriculum Overview

Compulsory Subjects	Option 1 (3 periods)	Options 2, 3 and 4 (3 periods per option)	
<p><u>Accredited</u> English (4 periods)</p> <p>Mathematics & Statistics (4 periods)</p> <p>Science* (5 periods) *(6 periods a week for Triple Science students)</p> <p>Philosophy & Ethics (2 periods)</p>	<p>History</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>French</p> <p>German</p> <p>Spanish</p>	<p>Art & Design</p> <p>Business Studies</p> <p>Computing</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>Food Technology</p> <p>French</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>German</p>	<p>History</p> <p>ICT</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Music technology</p> <p>Photography</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Psychology</p> <p>Product Design</p> <p>Spanish</p>
<p><u>Non-accredited</u> Citizenship & PSHEE (1 period)</p> <p>Games* (2 periods) *(1 period a week for Triple Science students)</p>	<p>Extra English</p> <p>Extra Maths</p>		

Compulsory Subjects

It is compulsory for all students to study English, Maths and Science in Years 10 and 11. Students are also required to receive Religious Education, which we achieve by offering the exciting and interesting Philosophy & Ethics GCSE which covers this by looking at the fundamental questions in life. As well as this students are required to be given Citizenship, PSHEE and Careers education which we deliver through one lesson a week in Year 10. During these lessons key areas such as careers and work related skills are developed. Lastly we have a duty to support the student's health and fitness which we achieve through a weekly Games lesson.

Option 1

There is an increasing pressure for schools to prescribe that students follow what has been described as a "more academic" curriculum, often to the detriment of other subjects. Whilst we think that many students should challenge themselves by following a traditional academic subject, we believe strongly that students should make their own choices. Therefore we have an Option Block where the majority of our students have the choice of a Humanities or Modern Foreign Languages subject. If they struggle to access this curriculum they may be selected to be part of an English or Maths Support group. Students cannot select this. It is dependent on their progress in Year 7, 8 and 9.

Options 2, 3 and 4

Students are free to select whatever options they would like from this option block. This means they can choose to study the EBACC qualifications, a selection of Arts subjects or possibly a mixture of the two.

Reserve option

We always ask students to choose one reserve subject. We cannot guarantee everyone their top 4 choices but can normally give you 4 out of your top 5.

What happens when you have made your choices?

When you have made your choices you need to **hand your form in to main reception**. We will then build a timetable for the school based around giving as many students the options that they have selected. We will let students know if they have received their options in the summer term.

What about extra English or Maths?

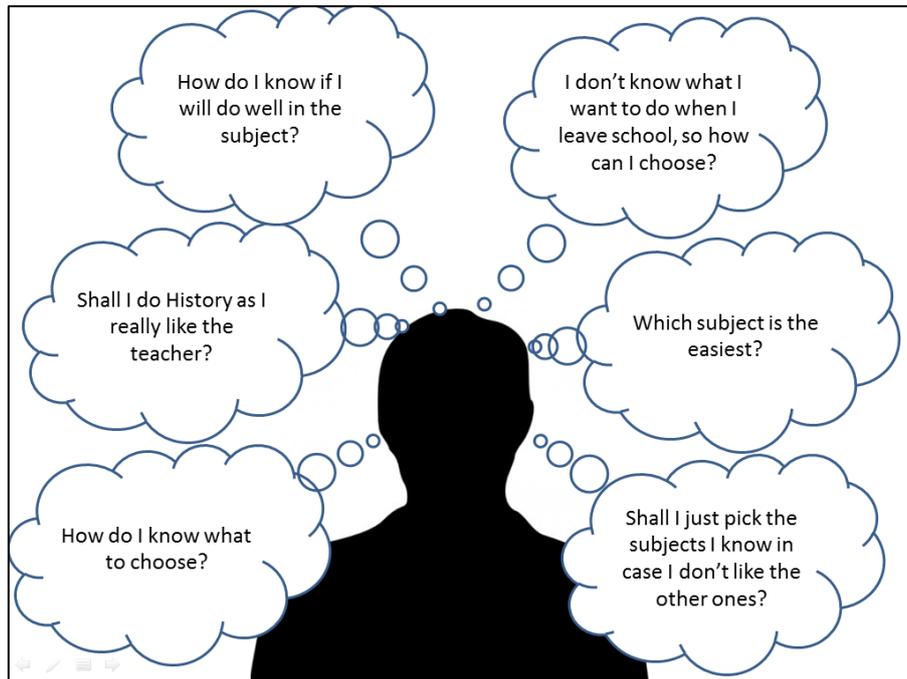
If you are selected for extra English or Maths you will be contacted by Mr. German in the summer term to discuss how this impacts upon your options.

What if I don't like these options or want to do something else?

If you feel that we are not catering for the subjects you are interested in, particularly if you are interested in a more vocational offer that relates more directly to the world of work, we can put you in touch with other schools and colleges which offer these courses. We will have several of these present at our Options Evening and if you discuss with Mr. German we can help you contact, visit and apply for these other places, if we all agree that this would be the right thing for you. Please talk to these organisations directly at the Options Evening or arrange an appointment with Mr. German to discuss further.

Don't forget when you have made your choices return your form to main reception. The quicker you make your choices the more likely you are to get your first choices!

How do I make my choices?



How do I know what to choose?

It is your choice and only you can make it. You need to think about which subjects you enjoy, are interested in and want to continue. There are no “good” or “bad” subjects to choose, it just comes down to which ones you think you will enjoy and do well in.

Shall I do History as I really like the teacher?

NO! You have no way of knowing whether you will be taught by the teacher you currently have and so you should not choose based on the teacher. Similarly you have no idea which groups you will be in so should not just choose what your friend is doing. These choices need to be yours and based around what you want to do.

How do I know if I will do well in the subject?

If you work hard and are engaged you will do well in the subject. However if you are struggling to make a decision, have a look at your current STEPs in each subject. These are based on GCSE grades and so you should be able to see where you are doing better. You can also go and ask your teacher about what the course involves and whether they think you will do well.

I don't know what I want to do when I leave school. How can I choose?

Knowing what you want to do after school might help you choose your options. If you are sure that you want to work in the tourist industry it is a good idea to do Geography and Languages. However most people don't know what they want to do and you can always pick up key skills later on in your training. What is most important is you pick subjects that you think you will enjoy and want to do

well in. In general it is more important that you get good GCSE grades, rather than the subjects you take them in.

Which subject is the easiest?

No subject is designed to be any easier than any other. However you might find certain things easier than others. If you find being creative over long periods of time than you might find the length of the Art exam suits you. If you do well under exam conditions then the completely exam based subjects will suit you.

Shall I just pick the subjects I know in case I don't like the other ones?

Pick the subjects you think you will find the most interesting, no matter whether you have studied them before. Make sure you do as much research as possible, but don't worry if you choose something that you later decide was a mistake as we can usually move you to another subject.

Top Tips

1. Talk to as many people as possible about what subjects you would like to do and why
2. If you know what you want to do after school think about what subjects will help you do that and/or what qualifications you need to do it
3. Do subjects you think you will enjoy and find interesting as you will get better marks at these
4. Don't do subjects just because your friends are or you like the teachers
5. Try and have a good balance of different subjects

Who can help you make the right decision?

On this page there is a list of useful contacts for option choices/careers advice. Use this page to help you find the right sort of advice.

- ❖ Your **Tutor** knows you well and will be able to suggest suitable options for you. They will also be able to tell you who to ask if you need further information.
- ❖ Your **Citizenship & PSHEE Teacher** will be a good source of advice and they will do some work on choosing options with you in C&PSHEE.
- ❖ Ask **the librarians** to show you where the careers section is in the library. They will also be able to tell you about some of the ICT based careers programmes that are available.
- ❖ **Subject teachers** would be the first people to ask if you want to know about a particular subject.
- ❖ You can speak to **Mr German**, who is charge of the KS4 curriculum and the option process.
- ❖ You can speak to **Mr Sullivan**, who is in charge of 14-16 education.

For More information about Year 9 Options/Careers go to these websites

www.fasttomato.com	This is an interactive guide which helps children aged 13 and upwards with their career choices/options. Your son will have used this program in school and will have a username and password.
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk	Useful careers and subject choice information
www.direct.gov.uk	Go onto the 'Education and Learning' section. This will give you further insight into making your options choices.
www.ucas.ac.uk	Information on Higher Education Courses. This may give you an insight into your career pathway, and therefore will help you to make your options in Year 9.
www.icould.com www.careerpilot.org.uk	Independent careers websites/articles

Advice from Year 10 and 11 Students

Teachers and parents will probably all have their point of view about what you should do and not do. However, some of the most sensible and valuable advice comes from the very people who have just been through the option process. Below are some comments from Year 10 and Year 11 students. If you think it would be useful to speak to a student doing a particular subject see Mr German.

Investigate the subject before choosing it.

Make sure that you know what you're picking, so that you don't have to change it.

Whatever options you choose work hard to get the GCSEs.

Pick lessons that you enjoy. Talk to your subject teachers about the benefits of that subject.

Follow your brain not your heart. Take a variety of choices.

Choose 2 options you are good at and 1 you will enjoy.

Do stuff you are good at.

Try hard in whatever you do.

Do not just choose the options you like, but the ones you will get the best grade in.

Don't let your teachers and parents pressure you into choosing a subject. Only choose what you like and what you are good at. The options are your choice, not anyone else's.

If you are not sure of your choices, see a member of senior staff or seek advice.

Take time to choose the subjects. Read the booklet carefully!

Pick subjects that will help you in your future career.

With thanks to the members of Year 10 & Year 11

Timetable for the Options Process

See below for the timeline for the options process. Remember the most important thing is to talk to as many people as possible about the different options.

Week beginning Monday 1 st February	Options Choices discussed in PHSCE
Wednesday 3 rd February	Launch the Options Process for 2016 at meeting for parents and students outlining the process and giving general information. Opportunity to discuss courses with teachers.
Thursday 4 th February to Friday 4 th March	Making your choices, asking for advice, etc.
Friday 4 th March	Deadline for returning the option forms to your tutor. Some courses are over-subscribed every year so submit your form as soon as possible and try not to wait until deadline day.

Still not sure?

If you cannot make up your mind ask your tutor or Mr German to arrange an interview for you so that you can talk through your options properly.



Compulsory Subjects



GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Statistics

GCSE Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

GCSE Single Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Alternative Science Qualification

- ❖ **These course descriptions are as accurate as possible at time of writing this booklet, however, many GCSE courses are still being developed and so the exact content and details of each course may change.**

English

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
English Language	GCSE	Everyone
English Literature	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE English Language

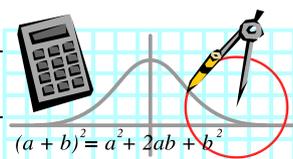
What is this course about?	<p>All students follow a course in English Language.</p> <p>This course provides opportunities for you to develop your skills in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.</p> <p>You will work on a wide range of writing tasks, writing for different purposes and with a high degree of technical accuracy.</p> <p>You will read widely and respond to a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. You will work towards feeling confident in all the ways you use and understand English, including creative writing.</p>
Is it the right course for me?	<p>English Language is a compulsory subject for all students at Forest Hill.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>The course is assessed entirely by terminal examination. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>The ability to communicate orally and in writing is a key skill in almost all areas of life.</p> <p>You might choose to study A Levels in English, Media or Film Studies, Applied Media or a Level 2 National Certificate in Media Production.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Ask your English teacher, or see Ms McEvoy, Director of English, for further information.</p>



<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>All students follow a course in English Literature.</p> <p>This course provides opportunities for the study of a substantial and diverse range of literary texts including prose, poetry and drama.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>English Literature is a compulsory subject for all students at Forest Hill.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>The course is assessed entirely by terminal examination. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>The ability to communicate orally and in writing is a key skill in almost all areas of life.</p> <p>You might choose to study A-Levels in English, Media or Film Studies, Applied Media or a Level 2 National Certificate in Media Production.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Ask your English teacher, or see Ms McEvoy, Director of English, for further information.</p>

Mathematics

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Mathematics Edexcel 1MA1	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE Mathematics

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>The new GCSE course will extend the knowledge that you built on during Key Stage 3 to develop your thinking and learning skills. You will be accredited with a new grading system, 1 to 9, whereby “9” represents the highest possible grade which can be obtained.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>The course is aimed at preparing you for using mathematics and improving your problem-solving skills in the real world.</p> <p>We equip pupils in the top sets with the necessary insight and experience to access the highest grades in the GCSE course. We, therefore, supplement the GCSE syllabus with additional material.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>You will be assessed through written examinations. There is no controlled assessment element to the course.</p> <p>You will be taking the GCSE Linear Course.</p> <p>The assessment will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ One non-calculator exam (1 hour and 30 minutes) ❖ Two calculator exams (each 1 hour and 30 minutes). <p>The exams will take place in June at the end of Year 11.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>Mathematics encompasses all occupations and will enhance your life and career opportunities.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>See either Ms. Nguyen, Ms. Wong or Mr. Joseph.</p>

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
<p>GCSE</p> <p>Religion, Philosophy and Ethics</p> <p>AQA</p>	<p>GCSE</p>	<p>Everyone</p>



GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

What is this course about?	<p>In Years 10 and 11 all students will be prepared for the AQA GCSE examination in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.</p> <p>Component 1: The study of Religions: beliefs, teachings and practices. Beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam.</p> <p>Component 2: Thematic studies: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies. FOUR of the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships and families • Religion and life • The existence of God and revelation • Religion peace and conflict • Religion crime and punishment • Religion, human rights and social justice <p><i>Note: The beliefs of humanists will be discussed alongside each religion or topic in order for students to gain a broad and balanced understanding of all relevant viewpoints.</i></p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>Students will sit 2 examinations of 1 hour 45 minutes each at the end of year 11. Each exam paper is worth 50% of the total marks.</p> <p>Pupil progress is internally assessed at the end of each unit throughout year 10 and 11. There will also be an internal pre-public exam at the end of Year 10 and in December of Year 11.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>This subject is essential to an understanding of Britain today as a multi-faith, multi-cultural society. It is valued by Further Education colleges and by employers as it shows that students can think independently as well as being sensitive to the needs of and empathising with other people. Students are given opportunities to discuss openly and reasonably and to improve their skills in reading, writing and communication and we are very proud of the confidence that we give students in terms of forming and voicing their own opinions.</p>
Homework	<p>Homework will be set weekly. It will often include written work based on discussions during the lesson and learning of key words and their meanings. Pupils are assessed frequently and will be expected to revise thoroughly for each assessment. All students will be given a revision booklet for each paper which they should bring to every lesson and should be using to revise at home.</p>
How can parents help?	<p>Parents can help by testing students on key words, quotations and information found in their revision booklets. This will really help the students to prepare for assessments and exams. Parents can also help by encouraging an interest in and discussing current affairs with children, especially those that involve the religious groups studied in school and the philosophical and ethical issues that form part of the course.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Contact the following members of staff:</p> <p>Mrs K Pugh - Head of RE</p>

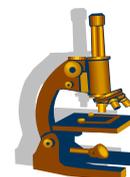
Science

Qualification	Entry Requirements
GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics 'Single Sciences', worth <i>three</i> GCSEs.	Offered to the 60 highest achieving students at the end of year 9 of whom have shown interest in this qualification.
GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy 'Double Science', worth <i>two</i> GCSEs.	All other students will follow this route, unless selected for a new alternative qualification.
<i>Alternative science qualifications*</i> <i>*Exam boards are developing new science qualifications for students are not ready for the new GCSEs. Decisions on these will be made once exam boards have released details about them.</i>	<i>For students that are not ready for the demands of GCSE Combined Science.</i>

Course Availability Overview

Science is a subject for everyone. Not only does it help us understand the world around us, satisfying our inquisitive nature, it also helps make educated decisions about issues that affect us in life.

- *Why won't my doctor give me antibiotics for my cold?!*
- *Why has the Government decided to charge us for carrier bags?!*
- *How can I reduce the energy bills for my home?!*



The above courses are available to study at KS4. It is compulsory for everyone to study science but there are a variety of levels of demand to suit different individuals. Courses will generally be allocated based on achievement, however you can show interest in the ones you would like to do.

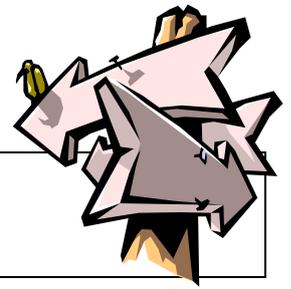
GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (AQA)

What is this course about?	<p>GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy offers an opportunity for students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop scientific knowledge and understanding • Develop understanding of scientific methods through enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them • Develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis <p>GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy covers a number of topics from Biology, Chemistry and Physics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cell biology, infection, bioenergetics, homeostasis, evolution, ecology. ▪ Periodic table, properties of matter, chemical changes, atmosphere, resources. ▪ Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, particles and atomic structure.
Is it the right course for me?	<p>Science is a compulsory subject and subject teachers will select the qualification that will be most suitable for individual students. Performance in year 9 exams will play a significant role in the decision.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>Six written exam papers = 100% of the final grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x biology, 2x chemistry and 2x physics papers. • All papers are 1 hour 15 minutes. • Foundation and higher tiers available. • Each worth 16.7% of the final grade. <p><u>No coursework or controlled assessment.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will complete 16 required practicals throughout the course which will develop investigation skills. • The required practicals and investigation skills will be assessed in the written exams.
Progression and career opportunities	<p>Studying science develops skills that are applicable to all careers. For these reason, many non-science related employers favour individuals that have achieved GCSEs in Science.</p> <p>This course aims to provide you with the scientific understanding needed to study science at an advanced level e.g. AS / A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Applied Science. This will then allow you to study science based courses at university leading to careers in sectors such as engineering, medicine, forensics, drug research, sport, food and nutrition.</p>



GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (AQA)

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>Biology will give you the opportunity to gain a good understanding of human biology, organisms, evolution and the environment.</p> <p>Chemistry will give you a good understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how chemistry is used in business and industry and how our use of fuels affect the local and global environment.</p> <p>Physics will give you a good understanding of the use and transfer of energy, as well as an insight into the nature of waves, radiation and space. They'll also learn about the application of physics in the real world they live in.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>These courses are for you if you have a keen interest in science and are committed to spend additional time studying beyond the classroom.</p> <p>These courses are ideal if you are thinking about studying Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A level.</p> <p>Only the 60 highest achieving students in the year that are interested in this course will be offered a place. Register your interest with Mr O'Donnell ASAP.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Six written exam papers = 100% of the final grade.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x biology, 2x chemistry and 2x physics papers. • All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. • Each worth 50% of the final grade for each GCSE. <p><u>No</u> coursework or controlled assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will complete 24 required practicals (8 in each science) throughout the course which will develop investigation skills. • The required practicals and investigation skills will be assessed in the written exams.
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>Studying science develops skills that are applicable to all careers. For these reason, many non-science related employers favour individuals that have achieved GCSEs in Science.</p> <p>This course aims to provide you with the scientific understanding needed to study science at an advanced level e.g. AS / A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics & Applied Science. This will then allow you to study science based courses at university leading to careers in sectors such as engineering, medicine, forensics, drug research, sport, food and nutrition.</p>



Your Options

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Business Studies & Economics

BTEC Level 1/ 2 First Award in Business

GCSE Computing

GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design

GCSE Design & Technology: Food Technology

GCSE Dance

GCSE Drama

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages: French-German-Spanish

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

OCR Level 1 / 2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT

GCSE Music

NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology

GCSE Photography

GCSE Psychology

GCSE Physical Education

- ❖ **These course descriptions are as accurate as possible at time of writing this booklet, however, many GCSE courses are still being developed and so the exact content and details of each course may change.**

Art & Design

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Art & Design	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE Art and Design

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>If you choose to study GCSE Art & Design you will explore a range of practical activities and respond in a <u>personal</u> way to different themes and ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will visit galleries such as Tate Modern in Years 10 and 11 to help you investigate the artwork of different artists. • You will experiment with a range of media and materials including clay, printmaking, photography and digital manipulation, collage, textiles –painting and drawing enabling you to develop confidence with your skills. • You will continue to develop your critical thinking in response to a range of art and artists.
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>This course will suit you if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like to use different materials and processes to develop your visual skills. • Are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative. • Willing to experiment and to take risks when you are trying out your ideas. • Able to work independently and like to visit art galleries and museums to make your work more informed and interesting. • Like communicating your ideas, opinions and addressing issues.
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>GCSE Art & Design is made up of coursework and an externally set assignment. You will be assessed against four criteria in each section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (60%): A personal portfolio of Art and Design selected from the projects you will complete in Years 10 and 11. • Externally Set Assignment (40%): You will be given a range of starting points from which you will make a personal response using materials and processes of your choice as your final exam in Year 11.
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>You can progress onto the following courses after you have completed your GCSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCE AS/A2 Art and Design. • NCFE in Art and Design. <p>It means you can go on to study Art at 6th form or go to Further Education Colleges.</p> <p>Career opportunities are vast!</p> <p>Architecture, animation visualisation, illustration, product design, fashion, textiles, ceramics, silversmithing, jewellery, visual media, graphics, sculptor, painter, game design. New technologies are creating a whole new range of courses where Art is being used in innovative ways.</p> <p>GCSE Art & Design will help you to develop your creative, technical, communication, analytical and problem solving skills - skills that are essential in these and a wide range of other career opportunities.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Ask your Art teachers to show you a Year 10 or 11 student's sketch book and final pieces. Ask your Art teacher to "buddy" you with a student currently studying Art and Design to find out what the course entails from their point of view!</p> <p>Take a look at the school and art department website gallery to see examples of artwork and videos.</p>

Business Studies

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Business Studies & Economics Edexcel 1171	GCSE	Students who achieve average grade Step 4 by the end of Year 9.
Business Studies (Edexcel)	BTEC	Everyone
Please note parents that the BTEC Business vocational offer is subject to change.		



GCSE Business Studies & Economics

What is GCSE Business Studies & Economics about?	<p>GCSE Business Studies & Economics (EdExcel syllabus)</p> <p>You will find out how to think like an economist and learn how the economy functions, the government's role in the economy and its impact on business. You will also examine what causes businesses to fail and how businesses grow. You will study many issues within the world of business such as inequality.</p> <p>In Year 10 study is broken into two, with a different teacher for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 – Introduction to Small Business <p>Unit cover the topics of :</p> <p>Spotting a business opportunity, showing enterprise, putting a business idea into practice, making the start-up effective and understanding the economic context.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 5 – Introduction to Economic Understanding <p>Unit cover the topics of :</p> <p>Thinking like an economist; risk or certainty, success and business failure, Is economic growth good? Absolute versus relative poverty how do countries overcome these? International trade to overcome poverty in LEDCs.</p> <p>In Year 11, as well as continuing with these two units, you will study for the controlled assessment :</p> <p>Unit 2 – Investigating a small business</p>
Is it the right course for me?	<p>A high level of interest in business and current affairs is need as you should be a keen reader and listener of the news: local, European and Global business news. Economics is a challenging academic subject and you would need a high standard of literacy and numeracy to succeed. You should have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you. You need to be good at communicating, particularly in written work, and explaining your ideas. You should not be afraid of learning new things and working with numbers to solve business and economic problems.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>For Unit 1, you will take a written examination paper with multiple-choice and objective test questions. This is worth 25% of the GCSE.</p> <p>For Unit 2, you will be given a list of controlled assessment tasks to choose from. This is worth 25% of the GCSE. Controlled assessment replaces coursework and is a method in which students must undertake research for homework and then write up the results of that research under exam conditions.</p> <p>For Unit 5, you will sit a written examination paper with a mixture of multiple-choice, data response, short-answer, extended-writing and scenario-based questions. This is worth 50% of the GCSE.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>This course will prepare you for further and higher education. In SFH6 we run AS /A2 Levels in Economics. We also run a Level 3 BTEC Business, which is assessed through 100% coursework.</p> <p>A GCSE Business & Economics course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, travel and tourism industry, marketing, and government.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Speak to any Business Studies teacher. The rooms in which business is taught are: 258, 313, 302, & 301.</p> <p>The Head of Business Education, Ms S Howell or Miss Flemmings (KS4 Curriculum Leader), both based in room 307 will be happy to answer any queries from students.</p>

BTEC Level 1/2 in Business Studies



<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>The BTEC Level 1/2 Business has been developed in the Business sector to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Provide education and training for business employees and give opportunities for business employees to achieve a nationally recognised Level 1/2 vocationally specific qualification. ❖ Give full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in the business sector or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Business. ❖ Give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. <p><u>You will study four areas :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Unit 1 : Enterprise in the Business World ❖ Unit 2 : Finance for Business ❖ Unit 4: Principles of Customer Service ❖ Unit 8 Recruitment, Selection and Employment
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ You should have an interest in business and want to know what influences business to make decisions. ❖ You need a good standard of written English, confidence with numeracy, good time management skills and an ability to meet deadlines.
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>The course is assessed by 75% coursework and 25% exam. The three coursework units (Units 1, 4 and 8) are graded at Level 2 Distinction, Merit or Pass or Level 1 Pass. The examined unit (Unit 2) will be graded in the same way. The coursework assessments allow learners to receive feedback as they work towards achieving a defined set of learning aims. The exam is an on-screen test of 1 hour in length.</p> <p>At the end of the course unit scores are aggregated leading to achievement graded as Level 1 Pass or Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>The BTEC Level 2 Business will prepare you for further and higher education. At SFH6 we run a Level 3 BTEC which is assessed by high production of coursework and would enable you to complete a single or double award, equivalent to 1 or 2 A Levels.</p> <p>The qualification provides a route to employment into the many diverse areas of business. These could include: roles in specialist areas such as marketing, finance, customer service or human resources in large organisations, or a more generic role in a small local business.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Speak to any Business Studies teacher. The rooms in which business is taught are: 258, 313, 302, & 301.</p> <p>The Head of Business Education, Ms Howell or Miss Flemmings (KS4 Curriculum Leader), both based in room 307 will be happy to answer any queries from students.</p>

Computing

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Computing OCR J275	GCSE	Students who achieve average grade Step 5 by the end of Year 9.
<i>OCR Level 1 / 2</i> Cambridge National Certificate in ICT	Level 2	Everyone

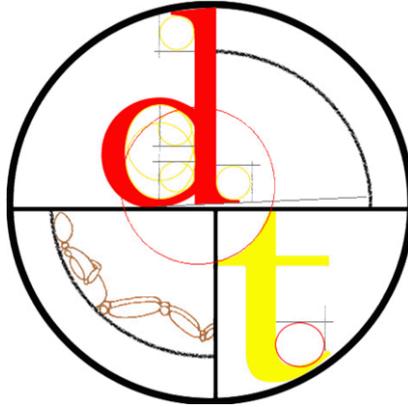
GCSE Computing

What is this course about?	OCR GCSE Computing (J275) The computing syllabus will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. As part of this, a large amount of the course will be spent learning computer programming. Through this study of computer programming, the course will help you develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects, especially mathematics and other sciences, and even applied in day-to-day life.
Is it the right course for me?	In order to be successful in the course students will need to be able to solve problems independently and in groups. To help them with this they will develop skills in designing algorithms and computer programming. Students will also be able to evaluate the effectiveness and success of their solutions, as well as other peoples, and the impact computer systems can have on society. This is the course for you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If when you use a PC you find yourself thinking 'What is going on inside the computer when I press this?' • If you are the kind of person who takes things apart to find out 'how they work' • If you have used software and thought 'I think I could make something better' • If you enjoy working hard to solve a problem • If you are willing to take up programming at home as a hobby
How will I be assessed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1 – computer systems You will take a written examination (1 hour and 30 minutes) that includes a mixture of short and long answer questions. This is worth 40% of the GCSE. The exam will assess what students know about computer systems. System architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, network topology, protocols and layers, system security, system software, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns. binary logic, memory, peripheral devices, secondary storage, types of data, databases, • Unit 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming. You will take a written examination that includes a mixture of short and long answer questions, some of which will require candidates to write program code. This is worth 40% of the GCSE. The exam will assess what students know about computational thinking, algorithms and programming which will include algorithms, programming techniques, programming robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages, Data representation. • Unit 3 – Programming Project You will be given a list of controlled assessment tasks to choose from. This is worth 20% of the GCSE
Progression and career opportunities	The course is ideal for you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if you wish to study A Level Computing or ICT at sixth form or similar courses at other institutions • if you are interested in becoming a computer programmer or working in the IT industry in some capacity
Homework	Either set tasks or revision for exam

How parents can help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you are aware of when controlled assessments are taking place and support your son in ensuring they attend lessons when these are scheduled. • Ensure adequate revision is taking place in preparation for written examination • Encourage your child to spend quality time completing homework assignments
How can I find out more about the course?	Speak to your computer science teacher or Exam board information (specification update pending):

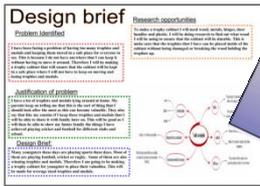
OCR Level 1 / 2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT

What is this course about?	This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. This new Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives. Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical.
Is it the right course for me?	<p>The course aims to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Problem-solving skills through the practical, real life application of ICT to complex problems. <input type="checkbox"/> The ability to analyse, appraise and make critical judgements about the use of ICT systems. <input type="checkbox"/> An awareness of the role of ICT in the management, manipulation and dissemination of information. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting skills necessary for effective communication with others. <p>Students study four different 'Units'. Within a unit, a student will learn new ICT skills and develop their capability. There are two compulsory units:-</p> <p>Unit 1 – Understanding computer systems (compulsory unit - assessed by written examination 1 hour – 60 marks 25% of course)</p> <p>Unit 2 - Using ICT to create business solutions, controlled assessment worth 25% (compulsory unit - internally marked, externally moderated set task)</p> <p>Unit 3 - Handling data using spreadsheets, controlled assessment worth 25% - internally marked, externally moderated set task)</p> <p>Unit 4 -Handling data using databases, controlled assessment worth 25% - internally marked, externally moderated set task)</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>Unit 1 is assessed by a 1 hour written examination paper. Other units are 100% coursework and take the form of a series of exam board set tasks for each unit. Work is internally marked and externally moderated by the exam board (OCR). The four units that students complete are together worth the equivalent of 1 GCSE qualification up to grade A*. (Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* equivalent to C, B, A and A* grades at GCSE)</p> <p>Student work is continually marked and moderated and students are kept informed on their progress at all times.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	Progression to Level 3, AS/A2 Level, BTEC Award, AVCE, NVQ3, Advanced Apprenticeship in related subjects, Access to HE.
Homework	Either set tasks or revision for exam
How parents can help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you are aware of when controlled assessments are taking place and support your son in ensuring they attend lessons when these are scheduled. • Ensure adequate revision is taking place in preparation for written examination • Encourage your child to spend quality time completing homework assignments
How can I find out more about the course?	Speak to your ICT teacher or http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/cambridge_nationals/ict/ict/



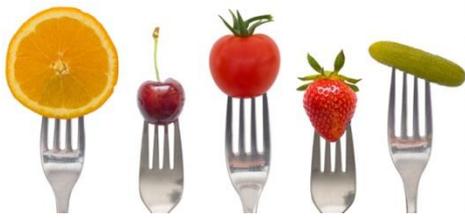
Design & Technology

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
D & T: GCSE Product Design AQA 4555	GCSE	Everyone
D & T: Food Technology AQA 4545	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE D & T Product Design

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>AQA GCSE D&T: Product Design encourages students to design and make products with creativity and originality using a range of materials such as paper/card, plastics, textiles, electronics, timber-based materials and ferrous and non-ferrous metals. Students will develop a variety of techniques for working with these materials. The course has a practical approach that encourages students to design and make products with creativity and originality through a variety of practical activities, including computer-aided design and manufacture.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>The benefits of studying GCSE D&T Product Design are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Creativity and innovation – it enables students to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study, which also gives an insight into related sectors, such as manufacturing and engineering. ❖ Critical thinking – students develop their ability to critically evaluate the man-made world, and to consider how the lives of others could be improved through product design ❖ Preparation - learners start to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices ❖ Independent learning - students develop skills in decision making, creativity, and critical analysis through individual and collaborative working. <p>Product Design is a course for students interested in how products look and work. It covers any designed product and focuses specifically on how people use those objects and how products are designed to meet the needs of the user.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>The Product Design course has 2 units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Unit 1: Written Exam (40%) ❖ Unit 2: Controlled Assessment (Written, worth 60%) <p>Unit 1 – Written paper, 40% of total marks, 2 hour exam, 120 marks Candidates answer all questions in two sections. Pre-release materials issued.</p> <p>Unit 2 – Design and Making Practice, 60% of total marks, Approximately 45 hours 90 marks. Consists of a single design and make activity. Candidates produce a high quality 3-Dimensional product, supported by a presentation of around 25 pages.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AS/A2 Level Product Design can be studied at SFH6 or other colleges ❖ A range of Further Education qualifications in related areas, for example manufacturing, 3D Design, engineering and furniture-making <p>Careers and university courses are extensive, and can include product design, architecture, shoe design, computer game design, engineering, furniture making, musical instrument making, electrical engineering, manufacturing, art and design, and many more.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Talk to Mrs Owusu-Taylor (Covering Curriculum Leader for Design & Technology), Ms Liddle, or Miss McNamara D&T: Product Design teachers.</p> <p>We follow the AQA GCSE Design Technology: Product Design course. You can find more information at www.aqa.org.uk/dt</p>



Food Preparation and Nutrition

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>This new GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students’ practical cooking skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.</p> <p>Further Information</p> <p>Although we haven’t made a final decision on the exam board we will use for this qualification, they all have a very similar course structure. The assessment is always 50% exams 50% non-exam assessment (coursework). We are currently favouring the draft copy of AQA specification. A summary of the subject content and methods of assessment is highlighted below, but for more detail, see the full copy of the draft specification by searching for the link below</p> <p>http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/food/specifications/AQA-8585-SP-2016-DRAFT.PDF</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>The benefits of studying GCSE D&T Food and Nutrition are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Creativity and innovation – it enables students to be inspired and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study, which gives an insight into the food industry through extensive experience of understanding and preparing food using a broad range of techniques and processes. ❖ Critical thinking – students develop their ability to critically evaluate food products and to consider how the lives of others could be improved through food science and nutrition. ❖ Preparation – learners start to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices ❖ Independent learning – students develop skills in decision making, creativity, and critical analysis through individual and collaborative working.
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 100 marks 50% of GCSE Questions Multiple choice questions (20 marks) Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)</p> <p>Non-exam assessment (NEA)</p>

	<p>Task 1: Food Investigation Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.</p> <p>Task 2: Food preparation assessment Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <p>Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500-2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ AS/A2 Level Food and Nutrition can be studied at other colleges. ❖ A range of Further Education qualifications in related areas, for example catering and hospitality industry.
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Talk to Mrs Owusu-Taylor (Covering Curriculum Leader for Design & Technology) or Miss Scotting Food Technology teacher. We follow the AQA GCSE Design Technology: Food Technology course. You can find more information at www.aqa.org.uk/dt</p>

Dance

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Dance AQA 4230	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE Dance

What is this course about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Performing and choreographing Dance in a range of styles including street dance and contemporary dance ❖ Developing personal fitness, strength, flexibility, co-ordination and confidence ❖ Appreciating Dance as a powerful means of expression and an art form in its own right
Is it the right course for me?	<p>Any student with an interest, enthusiasm, talent/ability or commitment in dance.</p> <p>Previous experience is an advantage, but not essential.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p><u>60% practical assessment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Performance (30%): Performing in a group dance demonstrating your performance skills. Performing the Set Dance Phrases as a soloist demonstrating your technical ability. ❖ Choreography (30%): Creating and performing a solo based on a stimulus demonstrating your creative skills and techniques. <p><u>40% written exam</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Written appreciation of professional dance works and your personal dance practice.
Progression and career opportunities	<p>GCSE Dance is not only for students interested in a career in dance/theatre. All colleges, universities and employers look for the skills covered in the course, including confidence, co-operation and creativity. Dance is unique in the range of expressive qualities involved.</p> <p>Students who are interested in furthering their dance/theatrical education should seriously consider taking GCSE Dance as a route to college and/or career progression.</p> <p>Currently we have GCSE students receiving advanced training at the Laban Centre for Dance and applying for Vocational Dance Training next year.</p> <p>A-level Dance is available to study in our SFH6 sixth form for those students who wish to take Dance at Key Stage 5.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>See/Contact: Ms. Humphrey (Head of Dance)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">d.humphrey@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>

Drama

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Drama Edexcel 2DR01	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE Drama

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>GCSE Drama is an exciting and dynamic course, which builds on the creative and inter-personal skills developed at Key Stage Three. You will develop your use of drama techniques and deepen your understanding of theatrical conventions.</p> <p>You will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how drama is created, including all the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on to the stage • how to create a character and play this character in a performance • many skills that are highly valued in any walk of life including teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public.
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>If you enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expressing yourself in an active and exciting way • working in a group • contributing your ideas and taking on-board those of others • playing many parts in different imaginary situations • creating your own drama work • looking at plays written by other people <p>You will be expected to produce a portfolio of work.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>GCSE Drama consists of three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Unit One (40%) DEVISING: Students create and perform a piece of theatre in response to stimuli or a theme. They write a 2000 word portfolio documenting the process. ❖ Unit Two(20%) PERFORMANCE FROM A TEXT: Students perform two extract from a specified play text. This is externally assessed by visiting examiner. ❖ Unit Three (40%)THEATRE MAKERS IN PRACTICE: Written exam externally assessed. <p>35% of the course is assessed by your teacher based on the drama work you do in class. This will include your ability to respond to stimuli, your ability to develop your ideas, perform and your ability to evaluate the work of others.</p> <p>65% of the course is assessed by an external examiner; in the written exam and an evaluative portfolio. Students answer question about the directing, acting and set of a play.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>Students with a grade A*-C in GCSE Drama can expect to be looked upon favourably by colleges and employers, who are keen to work with people who have the confidence and inter-personal skills the subject affords them. The transferable skills of cooperation, commitment, communication and confidence are highly sought and GCSE Drama equips you with these.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>See Ms Emanuel-Stanford or Ms O’Loughlin or visit www.edexcel.com and search for GCSE Drama.</p>

Modern Foreign Languages

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
French Board and Specification tbc	GCSE	Students who achieve a Step 5 in French by the end of Year 9.
German Board and Specification tbc	GCSE	Students who achieve a Step 5 in German by the end of Year 9.
Spanish Board and Specification tbc	GCSE	Students who achieve a Step 5 in Spanish by the end of Year 9.



GCSE Modern Foreign Languages

French – German - Spanish



What is this course about?	<p>GCSE Languages are respected and enriching qualifications which are vital for anyone looking to get ahead in a globalized world.</p> <p>Studying GCSE Languages will enable you to develop your communication skills and further your understanding of how the language is constructed, and you will also gain a valuable insight into the culture and society of the countries where that language is spoken. Topics will include identity and culture; local, national international and global areas of interest; and current and future study and employment and you will use a range of engaging multimedia resources to study these.</p>
Is it the right course for me?	<p>If you have enjoyed learning a foreign language in Years 7-9, have made good progress and are prepared to work hard to develop your language skills and cultural knowledge, then you certainly should take this course.</p>
How will I be assessed?*	<p>There are four exams and all are tiered (Foundation and Higher). You must take all four exams at the same tier at the end of the course.</p> <p>Unit 1: Listening (25%) Unit 2: Speaking (25%) Unit 3: Reading (25%) Unit 4: Writing (25%)</p> <p>For more detail on the individual exams, please consult www.aqa.org.uk *</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>Speaking one or more foreign languages is not only enriching on a personal basis, but can help enormously on the job market. A number of top universities require students to have a qualification in a foreign language and many employers cite language skills as highly desirable. What's more, using a foreign language at work could raise your salary from 8-20%**!</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>visit www.aqa.org.uk * http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk</p>

* At the time of writing, only AQA's new GCSE MFL specification has been approved. This information is based on AQA's approved specification

** http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/ks4/why_languages

Geography

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Geography OCR J385	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE Geography

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>The GCSE Geography course we follow is the OCR syllabus A (Geographical Themes).</p> <p>As part of this course three unit themes are examined:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Living in the UK</u> (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Landscapes of the UK (<i>rivers and coasts or glacial</i>) ✓ People of the UK (<i>the north/south divide and life in cities</i>) ✓ The UK's environmental challenges (<i>energy, climate and flooding</i>) 2. <u>The world around us</u> (30%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ecosystems of our planet (<i>rainforests and coral reefs</i>) ✓ People of our planet (<i>inequality, life in LIDCs</i>) ✓ Environmental threats to our planet (<i>climate change and extreme weather</i>) 3. <u>Geographical skills</u> (40%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Numeracy and literacy skills ✓ Decision making skills ✓ GIS and digital mapping ✓ Fieldwork skills <p style="text-align: right;"><i>(Each unit lasts approximately two terms.)</i></p> <p>The work covered is a variety of theoretical and practical work with regular practice of exam style questions. The variety of theoretical and practical work and will encourage active involvement which aims to enthuse interest. The topics are wide ranging, encouraging learners to become well-rounded geographers with a wide range of knowledge and skills that reflect modern global issues and how to apply this to a range of contexts. To this end, we will study a wide range of “real” and current examples or case studies e.g. flooding in the UK of winter 2016. This means learners’ real life skills are developed and become relevant to future decision making. These skills are transferable and appropriate to many careers.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>The relevance of Geography to our modern lives is reflected in the course and students who are interested in our modern world will find this worthwhile and rewarding. The course demands a steady yet consistent effort across the whole two years.</p> <p>There is a compulsory fieldwork element to the course to prepare students for their examined components – this may be offered as a residential trip and students and parents should be aware of this when choosing Geography.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Students will be regularly assessed with exam practice questions to embed knowledge and practise exam techniques, both of which monitor progress for both the pupils and the departments and help towards achievement.</p> <p>There are three written exams, one for each of the above units, and these will be taken in the summer of year 11. These each last around one hour and the papers include marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>GCSE Geography provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain an understanding of our modern world. It is applicable to many jobs and professions due to the transferrable skills students learn, including: town council planning, management, working in development agencies, landscape design, the leisure and tourist industry, the transport industry, journalism, teaching, advertising and market research.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>For other information, help and advice contact Mr Manning (Head of Geography)</p>

History

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
History OCR J418	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE History

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>GCSE History aims to support students in learning more about the history of Britain and that of the wider world. History at GCSE is designed to inspire students to deepen their understanding of the people, periods and events studied and enable them to think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, make informed decisions and develop perspective.</p> <p>Students will be expected to cover a variety of different historical eras: Medieval (500-1500), Early Modern (1450-1750) and Modern (1700-present day)</p> <p>It is our intention to cover a diverse range of topics during the course. There is a requirement that British history will form 40% of any GCSE specification.</p> <p>The History Department is currently reviewing a number of suitable exam specifications. The course will be chosen based on a range of criteria which, will ensure students have the opportunity to achieve an excellent outcome at GCSE.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>Students who consider choosing History at Key Stage 4 should be aware that the course is demanding. However, students who choose History do find it enjoyable and worthwhile.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Students are assessed in GCSE History with a series of written exams. The final marks for these papers will be confirmed when GCSE specification has been selected. Students will be assessed on their knowledge of historical periods. The final weighting of these components will be confirmed once the specification has been selected.</p> <p>A period study into British, European or wider world history from any one of the historical eras defined above.</p> <p>One depth study may be from the same era as the period study The historic environment through the study of a particular site in its historical context.</p> <p>One thematic study involving the study of people, events and developments drawn from all three eras defined above. Where appropriate, it may also draw on earlier times</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>History is a good GCSE to obtain for students wanting to study a wide range of further courses and who are interested in careers such as Law, Journalism and Politics</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>If you wish to obtain any further information, do not hesitate to contact Mr G. Keefe (Curriculum Leader of History).</p>

Music

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Music (AQA) 4270	GCSE	Instrumentalists and Vocalists
NCFE TECHNICAL AWARD IN MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	LEVEL 2	Everyone
Please note parents that the NCFE Technical Award offer is subject to change.		



GCSE Music

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>This course is ideal for anyone who is serious about their music-making.</p> <p>It involves a great deal of performance opportunities and focuses on performing solo and ensemble pieces.</p> <p>It also involves composing music in a range of styles and developing your musical ear, and theoretical knowledge.</p> <p>The course is a great opportunity to develop as a musician through performing, composing and listening.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>If you are dedicated to practising your instrument, keen to compose music, and are able to work well with others then this is the course for you.</p> <p>There is a strong emphasis on listening and learning musical key words and theory.</p> <p>You will need to have an open mind and be willing to learn how to read/write music and analyse music using specialist musical vocabulary.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that you have a good level of instrumental or vocal skill before applying for this course and have a good knowledge of musical notation.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>You will be assessed on</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understanding music (1 and ½ hour listening exam) 40% 2. Performing music ((1 solo and 1 ensemble performance) 30% 3. Composing music (1 composition to a brief and 1 free composition) 30%
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>You will learn how to rehearse properly so that if you want to gig semi-professionally you will know what is involved.</p> <p>Also, upon successful completion of the course you could take BTEC Level 3 or A-Level Music, and pursue Music at the university level which could prepare you to become a performer, composer, community music leader, or teacher.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>If you would like to find out more about this course, then speak to your Music teacher or speak to pupils in Year 10 or 11 whom you know do GCSE Music and ask them what it is like.</p>



NCFE Level 2 V CERT in Creative Studies: Music Technology

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>This course is designed for pupils who are keen on creating music using computers rather than on instruments.</p> <p>You will learn about MIDI/Audio and how to use them to make music.</p> <p>You will learn how to use microphones and how to set-up recording equipment and MIDI workstations.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>If you are keen and conscientious about your music-making and have an interest in using music software programmes such as logic then this is the course for you!</p> <p>You should also have a desire to improve your composition skills and develop your understanding of music theory.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that you have a good level of keyboard skills and are interested in the processes producers, sounds technicians and composer use in order to create their own music to a professional standard.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>You will complete 4 Units of Work:</p> <p>Unit 1: Set-up and Operate a DAW Unit 2: Create music using a DAW (Exam) Unit 3: Multi-track Recording Unit 4: Mixing Multi-track Audio</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>You will have the opportunity to learn about the music industry and will use industry-standard equipment and software packages. This would enable you to progress to a level 3 music technology course.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>If you would like to find out more about the course then speak to your Music Teacher.</p>

Photography

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Photography	GCSE	Everyone



GCSE Photography

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>If you choose to study Photography you will explore a range of practical activities and respond in a <u>personal</u> way to different themes and ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will investigate the artwork of different artists and photographers. • You will experiment with a range of media and materials including, collage and digital media, for example, photo-shop. • You will continue to develop your critical thinking in response to a range of art, photographers and artists.
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>This course will suit you if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like to use different materials and processes to develop your visual skills. • Are creative, enthusiastic and imaginative. • Are willing to experiment and to take risks when you are trying out your ideas. • Are able to work independently and like to visit art galleries and museums to make your work more informed and interesting. • Like communicating your ideas, opinions and addressing issues.
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Photography is made up of coursework and an externally set assignment. You will be assessed against four criteria in each section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework (60%): A personal portfolio selected from the projects you will complete in Years 10 and 11. • Externally Set Assignment (40%): You will be given a range of starting points from which you will make a personal response using materials and processes of your choice as your final exam in Year 11.
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>You can progress onto the following course after you have completed your GCSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCE AS/A2Photography. <p>It means you can go on to study Art/photography at 6th form or go to Further Education Colleges.</p> <p>Career opportunities are vast!</p> <p>Architecture, animation visualisation, illustration, product design, fashion, textiles, ceramics, silver smithing, jewellery, visual media, graphics, sculptor, painter, game design. New technologies are creating a whole new range of courses where Art is being used in innovative ways.</p> <p>Photography will help you to develop your creative, technical, communication, analytical and problem solving skills - skills that are essential in these and a wide range of other career opportunities.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Take a look at the school and art department website gallery to see links to examples of photography, artwork and videos.</p>

Psychology

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Edexcel Psychology 2PS01	GCSE	Everyone – an interest in Science is recommended



GCSE Psychology

What is this course about?	<p>You will be looking at answers to the following five topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do we see our world? 2. Is dreaming meaningful? 3. Do TV and video games affect young people’s behaviour? 4. Why do we have phobias? 5. Are criminals born or made? <p>Within these five topics you will look at how illusions work, how we see things and whether aggression and antisocial behaviour comes from our biology (for example genes and hormones) or our upbringing, the work of forensic, clinical and educational psychologists, as well as psychoanalysts, issues such as how reliable eyewitness testimony is and how someone’s race or accent can affect how they are judged by a jury, the methods used in psychology, as well as ethics and wider issues such as nature-nurture.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>There are two exams which include some multiple-choice questions, some short-answer questions and some extended writing.</p> <p>There will be case studies with questions and you need to give answers about what happened in the study and the possible problems with it. You will be asked to use your understanding of psychology, such as commenting on a dream or comparing two different explanations of aggression.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>You can go on to study A Level Psychology. The skills you learn, such as how to evaluate, how to design experiments, how to see problems in data gathering and how to interpret graphs and data, will be very useful in further study. You can go on to a health and social care course which includes Psychology. You can use these skills, and some of the material, in other subjects such as English literature (for example, looking at Virginia Woolf or Shakespeare’s Hamlet) and Sociology (for example, considering the role of self-fulfilling prophecy). Business Studies and Media Studies also involve Psychology, as does Biology. You will find Psychology useful in many areas of work, such as selling, marketing, training and coaching.</p>
Homework	<p>Will be set as on the H/W timetable and will often include learning by heart. It may also include planning and carrying out small – scale experiments and independent research.</p>
How can parents help?	<p>By discussing the content of the course (which is fascinating!) with students, by helping them with learning by heart, by watching with and discussing students any relevant documentaries / You Tube links relating to the course.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>See Ms. Cooper in room 204.</p>

Physical Education

COURSES	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Physical Education AQA 4892	GCSE	Those with strong science and theory understanding
<p>We are currently looking into the possibility of a V-Cert in Health and Fitness being an option. This would be determined by pupil's suitability for the GCSE due to the changes in specification and the lower levels of practical assessment. Suitability for the course will be based on your son's assessments from Physical Education from years 7-9.</p>		
NCFE Health and Fitness	V-Cert	Those wanting a more vocational course (health and fitness industry), a shorter exam and no practical



GCSE Physical Education

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>The course builds on knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education.</p> <p>It demands an interest in the theoretical aspects of sport including science, nutrition, analysis and training.</p> <p>You will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a small limited number of practical activities. ❖ Learn about the effects of exercise and how training can improve your performance. ❖ Learn to find ways to improve your own performance in a variety of ways. ❖ Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity.
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>The GCSE Physical Education course will appeal to you if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Have a keen interest in sport and theory of performance and always look forward to, and take part in your PE lessons. ❖ Take part in sport/recreation outside of class time. ❖ Want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding of theory in physical education and performance with a small element of practical involvement ❖ Want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise. ❖ Are considering a sports-related career or Higher Education course. ❖ Improve your ability to perform in a Team sport and an Individual sport
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>The GCSE course is assessed over three units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Unit one: assessed through a written examination paper (30% of overall grade) which will take 75minutes. The style of the question paper will include a small number of multiple choice questions, some structured questions and extended written answers. The following will be assessed in this paper: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis and Physical Training including using data within these areas. ❖ Unit two: assessed through a written examination paper (30% of overall grade) which will take 75minutes. The style of the question paper will include a small number of multiple choice questions, some structured questions and extended written answers. The following will be assessed in this paper: Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences, Health Fitness and Well-Being, including using data within these areas. ❖ Unit three: assessed through practical performance (40% of overall grade) in three activities. One Team activity, one individual activity and one choice of either a Team or Individual activity. Only 30% of the assessment is performance the remaining 10% is analysis. Students must also complete a written task on analysing a performance and identifying ways in which it could be improved. This task can be carried out through students considering either, their own or another person's performance in one sport. <i>(Activities offered at FHS: Football, Badminton, Basketball, Cricket, Dance, Handball, Hockey, Rugby Union, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, Athletics, Cycling, Swimming)</i>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>Career opportunities include teaching, coaching, sports science and medicine, sports administration, and sports journalism.</p> <p>Move onto further education in BTEC's or A Levels before Degree.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Should you require any further information or details about this course, you should see your Mr. Hollidge (Head of Physical Education), Mr Davey or your Physical Education teacher.</p>