



FOREST HILL SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS BOOKLET

Ambition
Aspiration
Rigour
Community
Partnership



A GUIDE TO SUBJECT CHOICES
September 2020

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You are at a crucial time in your school career, where you need to decide which subjects you want to study in Year 10 and take qualifications in.

OUR PLEDGE

We believe in the huge potential of our pupils and focus relentlessly on high aspirations and high achievement. Every child must be challenged, every gap to be closed and every learning opportunity is to be taken. Forest Hill School is committed to providing a world class education that covers a broad range of experiences, giving our pupils the tools to be successful in whatever they put their mind to. Our aim is that every pupil will go on to the best university or a career of their choice.

We provide excellent teaching, backed up with regular and robust assessment. We make sure we know every pupil well, so that we understand their needs and provide realistic and stretching goals. We are a disciplined school, where pupils thrive in a culture defined by mutual respect and exceptional behaviour. We see parents as our partners and work closely with families to secure the best possible outcomes for their children.

We have an uncompromising culture of no excuses, and we insist on high standards for staff and pupils. We mean this, we follow it and we refer to it every day because we believe in it. We make no excuses and we expect none from pupils, parents or staff. At the same time, Forest Hill School offers a caring and supportive learning environment that nurtures pupils' development into positive, well rounded members of society. We strongly believe in aspiring to provide a world class education and we are proud of our pupils. Every pupil matters; every pupil can achieve; every lesson counts.

We ensure that the best guidance is given across each of our institutions. We strongly believe that the advice and guidance given to our pupils throughout their academic career is vital to ensuring their success in the future, whether that be further and higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Independent advice and guidance is given to all pupils prior to them choosing their subjects during transition phases; ensuring that they have the knowledge and vision to be able to make those difficult decisions about their future. Our belief is that no child should lack motivation and ambition to succeed, aiming to tackle permanent exclusion and increase employment opportunities because pupils understand the need to be educationally successful and have the desire to meet that need.

Forest Hill School combines the traditional values of strong discipline, smart uniform and good manners with the best of modern teaching. We believe passionately that education transforms lives, that there is no ceiling to achievement and we are extremely proud of the academic progress that our pupils make.

SUPPORTING CHOICES AS A PARENT/CARER

Dear Parent/Carer

At Forest Hill School it is our duty to ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to succeed academically, economically and socially; a duty that is shared by you, the parent/carer. Working together, we will provide our young people with the appropriate pathway to the future they deserve.

We recognise that making subject choices is a life-altering decision and, as such, the school ensures that the best guidance is given. We strongly believe that the advice and guidance given to our pupils throughout their academic career is vital to ensuring their success in the future, whether that be further and higher education, apprenticeships or employment. Independent advice and guidance is given to all pupils prior to them choosing their subjects for next year, ensuring that they have the knowledge and vision to be able to make those difficult decisions. Pupils will need to make their own choices from option blocks selected to suit them.

When supporting your child in the selection process, please ensure previous attainment and progress, future planning and enjoyment are considered. At this vital stage in your child's education, it is imperative that the correct personal choices are made.

This process is one that will ensure that every pupil will aspire to greatness, achieve their goals and excel in all that they do. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that this Academy and its pupils move from strength to strength.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Kai-Samba

Assistant Headteacher

January 2020

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Recent Changes

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:

- Challenging new GCSE courses in all subjects
- 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 in most subjects
- The extra requirement for good spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Changes in BTEC qualifications
- The introduction of the EBACC
- A new focus on **progress** across a range of subjects

New GCSEs are now in place for all subjects

Your Year group will take the new specification in all qualifications. 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 (e.g. Maths); narrowing the range of options for what you can study (e.g. English Literature); and, broadening the content that needs to be studied (e.g. History).

The new GCSE grading system from 9-1

In the majority of subjects you study you will receive a grade from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest). This is why we have been using our STEPs assessment system from 1-9 in Years 7-9 using the new GCSE criteria, to prepare you 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 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 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 EBACC consists of 1 of each of the following:

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

Focus on progress

Whereas previously, the number of students achieving grade Cs or above was a key measure for schools, focus has now shifted to how much progress students make in secondary school, regardless of starting points. *Progress 8* measures a student's progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 across eight key subjects.

My Curriculum Overview

Compulsory Subjects	Option Block A (pick 1) (3 periods)	Other Options (pick 2 and 1 reserve) (3 periods per option)
<p><u>Accredited</u> English (5 periods)</p> <p>Mathematics (5 periods)</p> <p>Science* (5 periods) *(6 periods a week for Triple Science students)</p>	<p>History</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>German</p> <p>French</p>	<p>History</p> <p>Art & Design ICT</p> <p>Business Btec Music Studies (performance)</p> <p>Computing Btec Music (Technology)</p> <p>Dance</p> <p> Religion, Philosophy & Ethics</p> <p>Drama</p> <p>French Photography</p> <p>Geography Physical Education</p> <p> Psychology</p> <p> Product Design</p> <p> Spanish</p>
<p><u>Non-accredited</u></p> <p>Core Pe (1 period)</p>		

Compulsory Subjects

It is compulsory for all students to study English, Mathematics and Science in Years 10 and 11. We also have a duty to support students' health and fitness, which we achieve through a weekly Physical education lesson. PSHE and Citizenship are covered in tutor time, through the curriculum and in other events such as assemblies.

Option Block A

To support students to achieve the EBACC qualification whilst protecting an element of choice, we have an Option Block A where students choose one subject from a selection of humanities and languages. They may choose further subjects from this list as their other options.

Further Options

Students choose 2 more subjects and one reserve subject from this block. 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 choices but can normally give you most of them.

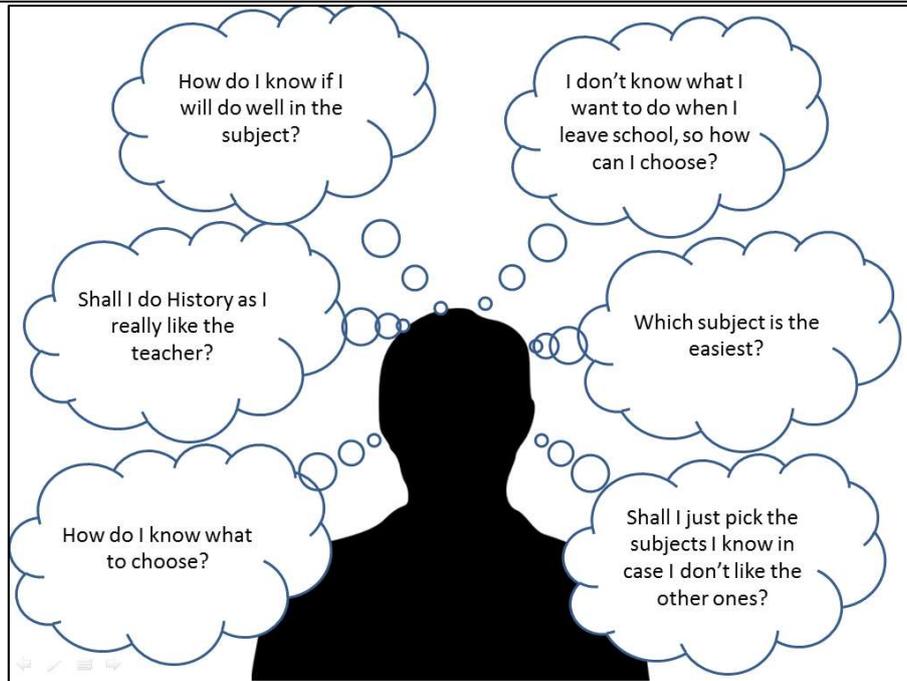
What happens when you have made your choices?

When you have made your choices you need to **hand your form in to student services**. 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.

Don't forget to return your completed form to Student Services. The sooner you hand in your options form, the more likely you are to get your first choices!

Deadline for handing in forms: Friday 1st March 2020

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 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.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Top Tips</h2>

- Talk to as many people as possible about what subjects you would like to do and why
- 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
- Do subjects you think you will enjoy and find interesting as you will get better marks at these
- Don't do subjects just because your friends are or because you like the teachers
- Try and have a good balance of different subjects

Who can help me 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 do some work with you on choosing options in PSHE. They will also be able to tell you who to ask if you need further information.
- 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 Kai-Samba**, who is charge of the option process.
- You can speak to **Mr German**, 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 be given access shortly.
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

Still not sure?

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

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 Kai-Samba.



With thanks to members of Year 10 & 11



Compulsory Subjects



GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Single Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

GCSE Combined Science



GCSE English Language

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
English Language AQA	GCSE	Everyone

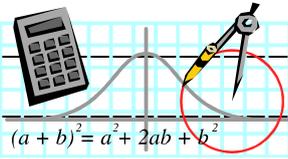
What is this course about?	<p>All students follow a course in English Language.</p> <p>This course provides opportunities for you to develop your skills in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.</p> <p>You will work on a wide range of writing tasks, writing for different purposes and with a high 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?	English Language is a compulsory subject for all students at Forest Hill.
How will I be assessed?	The course is assessed entirely by two terminal examinations. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.
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 or Media.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	Ask your English teacher, or see Mr Lamb , Faculty Leader of English, for further information. R.Lamb@foresthillschool.co.uk



GCSE English Literature

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
English Literature AQA	GCSE	Everyone

What is this course about?	<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>
Is it the right course for me?	<p>English Literature is a compulsory subject for all students at Forest Hill.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>The course is assessed entirely by two terminal examinations. There is no controlled assessment or coursework.</p> <p>You will study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A selection of poetry• <i>Macbeth</i>• <i>A Christmas Carol</i>• <i>An Inspector Calls</i>
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 Mr Lamb, Faculty Leader of English, for further information. R.Lamb@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>



GCSE Mathematics

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

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>The Mathematics curriculum at Forest hill school prepares pupils for success at GCSE and beyond. The curriculum has being designed to support the development and mastery of fundamental and functional mathematical skills that not only prepares pupils for post 16 Mathematics courses, but also for adult life.</p> <p>The key stage 4 curriculum boasts a wide range of objectives on both the higher and foundation tier that relate to the wider context of real life and relative application. Alongside pupils developing their mathematical skills, developing their mathematical fluency, ability to problem solve, reason and communicate mathematically, has become a core focus within the curriculum content. One of the key assessment objectives in the Mathematics examinations is the ability to communicate, reason and justify mathematical understanding and conclusions. To support the development of these skills, specifically designed tasks are used that encourage pupils to engage with complex scenarios and develop their problem solving skills.</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>The GCSE Mathematics Course can be studied at two tiers, higher or foundation. Pupils studying the Higher Tier can achieve Grades 4 to 9 and the Foundation Tier Grades 1 to 5.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Foundation Tier</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Higher Tier</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>3 Papers that are equally weighted: Paper 2 - Non-Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks)</p> <p>Across the three papers pupils will be assessed on the six core strands of the Mathematics Curriculum and the emphasis on each of these concepts is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number 25% • Algebra 20% • Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change 25% • Geometry and Measures 15% • Statistics and Probability 15% <p>Within the core mathematical concepts pupils will be assessed on how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and apply standard techniques 50% • Reason, interpret and communicate 25% • Problem solve within mathematics and other contexts 25% </td> <td style="padding: 5px;"> <p>3 Papers that are equally weighted: Paper 2 - Non-Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks)</p> <p>Across the three papers pupils will be assessed on the six core strands of the Mathematics Curriculum and the emphasis on each of these concepts is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number 15% • Algebra 30% • Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change 20% • Geometry and Measures 20% • Statistics and Probability 15% <p>Within the core mathematical concepts pupils will be assessed on how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and apply standard techniques 40% • Reason, interpret and communicate 30% • Problem solve within mathematics and other contexts 30% </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Foundation Tier	Higher Tier	<p>3 Papers that are equally weighted: Paper 2 - Non-Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks)</p> <p>Across the three papers pupils will be assessed on the six core strands of the Mathematics Curriculum and the emphasis on each of these concepts is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number 25% • Algebra 20% • Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change 25% • Geometry and Measures 15% • Statistics and Probability 15% <p>Within the core mathematical concepts pupils will be assessed on how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and apply standard techniques 50% • Reason, interpret and communicate 25% • Problem solve within mathematics and other contexts 25% 	<p>3 Papers that are equally weighted: Paper 2 - Non-Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks) Paper 1 - Calculator (80 Marks)</p> <p>Across the three papers pupils will be assessed on the six core strands of the Mathematics Curriculum and the emphasis on each of these concepts is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number 15% • Algebra 30% • Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change 20% • Geometry and Measures 20% • Statistics and Probability 15% <p>Within the core mathematical concepts pupils will be assessed on how they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and apply standard techniques 40% • Reason, interpret and communicate 30% • Problem solve within mathematics and other contexts 30%
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<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>There are many opportunities for those that are successful in Mathematics; almost every job will require pupils to have a high quality Mathematics grade. Specialised jobs such as the financial sector, accountancy,</p>				

	<p>engineering, computer science, politics, health and even aerospace all require mathematical skills and qualifications. Employers and post 16 institutions generally require pupils to have Mathematics GCSE with a Grade 5 or above in order to offer them places on courses at Level 3.</p> <p>Mathematics is one of the best subjects to develop analytical, research and problem solving skills. Not only will studying Mathematics help give pupils the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems, it will also help to develop logic to tackle everyday issues such as planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively.</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Faculty Leader – Mr Godwin Kanton G.Kanton@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>

Science

Qualification	Entry Requirements
GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics 'Separate Sciences', worth <i>three</i> GCSEs. AQA	Offered to the 60 highest achieving students at the end of Year 9 who have shown interest in this qualification.
GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy 'Double Science', worth <i>two</i> GCSEs. AQA	All other students will follow this route which still includes biology, chemistry and physics.

Course Availability Overview

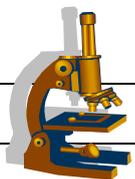
Science is a subject for everyone. Not only does it help us understand the world around us, satisfying our inquisitive nature, it also helps make educated decisions about issues that affect us in life.

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

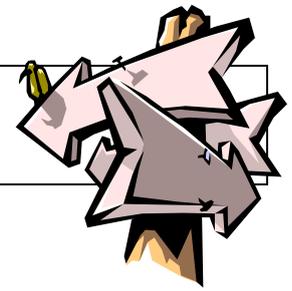
<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy offers an opportunity for students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop scientific knowledge and understanding Develop understanding of scientific methods through enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions 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> <p>Cell biology, infection, bioenergetics, homeostasis, evolution, ecology. Periodic table, properties of matter, chemical changes, atmosphere, resources.</p> <p>Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, particles and atomic structure.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<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>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Six written exam papers = 100% of the final grade. 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> <p><u>No</u> coursework or controlled assessment. 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.</p>
<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>



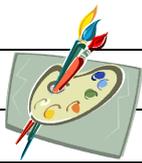
GCSE Biology Chemistry and Physics

<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 N Coller ASAP.</p>
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>Six written exam papers = 100% of the final grade. 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> <p><u>No</u> coursework or controlled assessment. 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>
<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>

My Options



- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computing
- AQA Technical Award Information Technology
- GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Modern Foreign Languages: French/German
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Music
- Btec Music Performance
- BTEC First Award in Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Psychology
- GCSE Religion, Philosophy & Ethics



GCSE Art and Design

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

What is this course about?	<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> <p>You will want to visit galleries such as Tate Modern to help you investigate the artwork of different artists.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>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.
How will I be assessed?	<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> <p>Coursework (60%): A personal portfolio of Art and Design selected from the projects you will complete in Years 10 and 11.</p> <p>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> <p>You will sit a 5 hour practical exam in Year 10 and a 10 hour practical exam at Christmas in Year 11.</p> <p>You will sit a final 10 hour exam for the externally set assignment at Easter.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>You can progress onto the following courses after you have completed your GCSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCE A-Level Art and Design • GCE A-Level Photography <p>It means you can go on to study Art at 6th form or go to Further Education Colleges. Career opportunities are vast!: 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>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>
How can I find out more about the course?	<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 or speak to Ms Tang-Campbell R.Tang-Campbell@foresthillschool.co.uk. Take a look at the #fhsarthub display in the atrium and the work displayed round the art department</p>

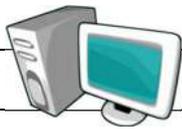


GCSE Business Studies

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Business Studies Edexcel	GCSE	Students who achieve average grade Step 4 by the end of Year 9.

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>This exciting and challenging course will introduce you to the dynamic world of business. It covers a broad range of topics that are designed to provide you with the knowledge and understanding that underpins modern business. You will learn how entrepreneurs turn simple ideas into profitable businesses; as well as how companies operate and make important decisions on a local, national and international level. Above all, the course will encourage you to become enterprising and think creatively and commercially in order to solve problems. The course is divided into two themes;</p> <p>In Year 10 , you will study the following; Theme 1: Investigating small business</p> <p>In Theme 1 you will study five topics covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise • Spotting a business opportunity • Putting an idea into practice • How to make a business effective • External influences on business <p>In Year 11, you will study the following; Theme 2: Building a business</p> <p>In Theme 2 you will look at five more topics which focus on making decisions in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing a business • Marketing • Operations • Finance • Human resources <p>You will build on what you have learnt in Theme 1, by examining these topics in relation to developing businesses. You will also explore the interdependent nature of business through the relationships between these different business areas.</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>A high level of interest in business and current affairs is needed and you should be a keen reader and listener of the news: local, European and Global business news. Business 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?	Your assessment will consist of two separate written exams. Paper 1 covers Theme 1: Investigating small business, and Paper 2 covers content from Theme 2: Building a business. Each paper is worth 50% of the qualification final mark.
Progression and career opportunities	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 Cambridge Technical in Business. A GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, banking and finance, marketing, and government.
How can I find out more about the course?	Speak to any Business Studies teacher. The rooms in which business is taught are: 258, 313, 302, & 301. Speak with Miss Flemmings (Lead Teacher for Business) R.Flemmings@foresthillschool.co.uk , both based in room 307, will be happy to answer any queries from students.



GCSE Computing

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Computing OCR J276	GCSE	Students who achieve average grade Step 5B by the end of Year 9.

What is this course about?	<p>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.</p>
Is it the right course for me?	<p>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 if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When you use a PC you find yourself thinking 'What is going on inside the computer when I press this?' • You are the kind of person who takes things apart to find out 'how they work' • You have used software and thought 'I think I could make something better' • You enjoy working hard to solve a problem • You are willing to take up programming at home as a hobby
How will I be assessed?	<p>Unit 1 – Computer systems You will take a written examination (1.5 hrs) 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, types of data and databases.</p> <p>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 and data representation.</p>

	<p>Unit 3 – Programming Project</p> <p>You will be given a list of controlled assessment tasks to choose from. This is worth 20% of the GCSE.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>The course is ideal for you:</p> <p>if you wish to study A Level Computing or ICT at sixth form or similar courses at other institutions</p> <p>if you are interested in becoming a computer programmer or working in the IT industry in some capacity</p>
<p>How can I find out more about the course?</p>	<p>Speak to Mrs Akpojaro V.Akpojaro@foresthillschool.co.uk / Mr Simpson P.Simpson@foresthillschool.co.uk</p> <p>Visit: http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/</p>

Information Technology



COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
AQA Technical Award Information Technology	Level 2	Everyone

What is this course about?	This is a new course that puts emphasis on the practical application of IT. It is a single award that carries GCSE equivalent grading of 9 to 1. The course covers THREE units (one exam 40% and 2 sets of controlled assessment tasks worth 60%)
Is it the right course for me?	<p>The Technical Award in IT comprises three units and these will be studied in Years 10 and 11.</p> <p>Unit 1: In this unit pupils complete a variety of tasks covering 10 different skills units. They produce a portfolio of evidence to evidence their understanding. Skills covered will include Digital Animation, Digital Audio and Digital Sound.</p> <p>Unit 2: This Unit builds on the skills developed in Unit 1 to develop IT systems that can be used to address a variety of different scenarios. Students will design, build, configure and test their IT system.</p> <p>Unit 3: We use computers all the time, but what makes them work? How do all the pieces fit together? What is an IT system? How are IT systems built and configured? This unit will allow students to investigate these questions and find answers to them. They will look at the devices that allow IT systems to work and the way they're connected together. Students will find out how to make IT systems secure from the common threats that affect so many systems these days. They will also learn how to configure PCs so that they meet user requirements.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<p>Unit 1 (30%) is internally assessed and externally moderated/sampled. All tasks are completed under controlled conditions. A series of scenarios will be provided by the examination board, and students will choose a "Skills Pathway" to follow, based on their interests, with guidance from their teacher.</p> <p>Unit 2 (30%) is internally assessed and externally moderated and sampled. All tasks are completed under controlled conditions.</p> <p>Unit 3 (40%) is the examination. This will be a 90-minute written exam, worth 80 marks. A range of question types will be used to allow learners to express their knowledge and understanding as effectively as possible. Some questions will be based on case study prompt material and will test the learner's application of knowledge, whilst others will test recall and understanding.</p>
Progression and career opportunities	This course will prepare you for further and higher education and apprenticeship in related subjects.
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Speak to Mrs Akpojaro V.Akpojaro@foresthillschool.co.uk</p> <p>Visit : http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/it/specifications/AQA-3735-SP-2017.PDF</p> <p>http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/it/specifications/AQA-3735-SP-2017.PDF</p>



GCSE D & T: Product Design

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
D & T: Product Design AQA 8552	GCSE	Everyone

What is this course about?	<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>
Is it the right course for me?	<p>The benefits of studying GCSE D&T Product Design are:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Preparation - learners start to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices</p> <p>Independent learning - students develop skills in decision making, creativity, and critical analysis through individual and collaborative working.</p> <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>
How will I be assessed?	<p>The Product Design course has 2 units: Unit 1: Written Exam (50%), Unit 2: Controlled Assessment (written, 50%)</p> <p>Unit 1 – Written paper 50% of total marks, 2 hour exam, 100 marks Candidates answer all questions in two sections. Pre-release materials issued.</p> <p>Unit 2 – Design and Making Practice 50% of total marks, Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx. 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>
Progression and career opportunities	<p>AS/A2 Level Product Design can be studied at SFH6 or other colleges</p> <p>A range of Further Education qualifications in related areas, for example manufacturing, 3D Design, engineering and furniture-making</p> <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>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Speak to Mr Vaughan, M.Vaughan@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>



GCSE Dance

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Dance AQA 8236	GCSE	Everyone

What is this course about?	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?	Dance GCSE is for all students who have a passion for Dance and are committed . You will take part in multiple performances, have opportunities to work with professional dancers, and watch a variety of works. The course enables you to work in a variety of dance styles. In offering students this range of skills and learning experiences, Dance is unique as a subject. We recommend a minimum step of 3A.
How will I be assessed?	<p><u>Component 1: Performance and Choreography</u> <i>All elements in Component 1 are Controlled Assessment</i> Performance: 30% Set dance phrases: Performance of the AQA set phrases through a solo performance (approx. 1 min.) focusing on physical and performance skills. Group Dance: Duo/Trio performance showcasing ability to perform in a group.</p> <p>Choreography: 30% Solo choreography: Creating a dance in response to a stimulus set by AQA using motif development and a range of choreographic devices.</p> <p><u>Component 2: Dance appreciation</u> 1 hour 30 min paper: 40% Written paper sat in the summer of year 11 assessing students appreciation of their own work, detailed analysis of six professional dance works (Dance Anthology), and the process of choreography and performance.</p>
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?	See/contact: Miss Manders , K.Manders@foresthillschool.co.uk



GCSE Drama

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Drama AQA	GCSE	All students who enjoy Drama and Theatre. All we ask is that you are motivated and enthusiastic about the subject.

What is this course about?	GCSE Drama is designed to develop your understanding and awareness of live performance work. You will develop skills required for performing in front of a live audience and you will learn how to prepare both devised and scripted work for performance. You will study a range of play texts as well as having the opportunity to experience as much live theatre as possible.
Is it the right course for me?	You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is practical and creative whilst giving you the opportunity to study different theatrical styles and different play texts. You may be an experienced performer; or you may have always wanted to devise and direct your own performance material – the important thing is that you are passionate about live theatre and performance.
How will I be assessed?	GCSE Drama is assessed both theoretically and practically, with students taking part in Performances as well as completing a Written Exam at the end of Year 11. The course is delivered in 3 components: Component 1 – Understanding Drama – Written Exam Study of a Play Text Analysis and Evaluation of a Live Theatre Production Written Exam – 1 hour and 45 minutes (3 Sections) 80 marks = 40% of GCSE Component 2 – Devising Drama – Practical Performance Creating, Devising and Performance of Original Drama Devising & Rehearsal Log 80 marks = 40% of GCSE Component 3 – Texts in Practice – 2 Practical Performances Performance of Two Play Text Extracts 50 marks = 20% of GCSE
How can I find out more about the course?	Please speak to Ms Ferry (Lead teacher of Dance and Drama) M.Ferry@foresthillschool.co.uk or Mr Chambers (Drama Teacher) T.Chambers@foresthillschool.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions...

Q	Can anyone take GCSE Drama?
A	Yes. GCSE Drama is open to all students who enjoy Drama and Theatre. All we ask is that you are motivated and enthusiastic about the subject. It is essential that students be committed to the subject, as you will need to arrange and attend your own rehearsals at lunchtimes and after-school in preparation for performance work.
Q	Is there a written exam in GCSE Drama?
A	Yes. At the end of Year 11, students sit a written exam (1hr 45min) in which you will be asked questions about Drama and Theatre Form, Plays and Live Theatre you have seen

	during the course. You will also be assessed in the Practical Performance Exams which require you to perform extracts from plays as well as original devised drama pieces.
Q	What if I am interested in technical elements of theatre?
A	Students in GCSE Drama can be entered as Performers, Lighting Designers, Make-Up Designers and Costume Designers for the final practical examination. However, all students must take part in the practical exploration and be prepared to perform at various times throughout the course.
Q	Will there be an opportunity to see live theatre?
A	Yes. The Drama Department arranges various visits to the theatre allowing students to experience different genres and styles of theatre. Students have been taken part in various auditions, performances with LYT and The Royal Court.
Q	How will Drama benefit me in the future?
A	As well as learning subject specific skills, Drama equips students with a whole range of transferable skills such as personal, independent learning and thinking skills useful for further studies and in the outside world.
Q	What can I do to prepare for the GCSE course?
A	Visit the theatre as frequently as possible and attend the Year 11 performance evening.

GCSE German/French



COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
German/French AQA	GCSE	All students with genuine interest and aptitude in languages. <i>Note that you cannot start learning a new language for GCSE.</i>

What is this course about?	GCSE Languages are respected and enriching qualifications which are vital for anyone looking to get ahead in a globalized world. 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. You will use a range of engaging multimedia resources and activities to study these.
Is it the right course for me?	All students with genuine interest and aptitude in languages, who will be Grade 5 at the end of Year 9 in either German or French. Note that you cannot start learning a new language for GCSE, nor will this course be suited to students from Explorer classes.
How will I be assessed?*	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. Unit 1: Listening (25%) Unit 2: Speaking (25%) Unit 3: Reading (25%) Unit 4: Writing (25%) For more detail on the individual exams, please consult www.aqa.org.uk
Progression and career opportunities	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 by up to 20%!!
How can I find out more about the course?	Visit www.aqa.org.uk http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk For other information, help and advice contact Ms S Learoyd (Teaching and Learning Lead for MFL) S.Learoyd@foresthillschool.co.uk

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



GCSE Geography

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

<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> <p><u>Living in the UK</u> (30%)</p> <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>) <p><u>The world around us</u> (30%)</p> <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>) <p><u>Geographical skills</u> (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numeracy and literacy skills • Decision making skills • GIS and digital mapping • Fieldwork skills <p><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 <u>compulsory</u> two day 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. Fieldwork is usually completed in Year 10.</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>

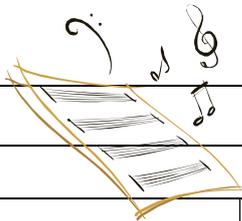
	There are three written exams, one for each of the above units, and these will be taken in the summer of year 11. These each last around one hour and the papers include marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Progression and career opportunities	GCSE Geography provides an excellent opportunity for 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.
How can I find out more about the course?	For other information, help and advice, contact Mr Brook (Faculty Leader of Humanities and MFL) A.Brook@foresthillschool.co.uk Or visit the OCR A Geography (1-9) website.



GCSE History

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
History Edexcel	GCSE	Everyone

What is this course about?	<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 factors and events which have been significant in shaping the world we live. Areas which will be covered by EDEXCEL syllabus include Superpower relations 1941-1991, Changes to warfare from Medieval times to the modern day, Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39 and Elizabethan England 1588-1601. Students will sit exams at the end of Year 11 in all of these units.</p>
Is it the right course for me?	<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>
How will I be assessed?	<p>Students are assessed in GCSE History with a series of written exams. Students will cover 4 units of study which will be divided into 3 papers, which will be sat at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 (Changes to warfare) is 30% of the final grade, Paper 2(Superpower relations and Cold War/Elizabethan England 1558-1588) is 40% and Paper 3 (Weimar and Nazi Germany) is 30%.</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</p>
Progression and career opportunities	<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>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>If you wish to obtain any further information, your son can discuss their suitability for this course with their History teacher or Ms Bradley H.Bradley@foresthillschool.co.uk or check the EDEXCEL History website.</p>



GCSE Music

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Music (OCR)	GCSE	Instrumentalists and Vocalists

What is this course about?	<p>This course is ideal for anyone who is serious about all aspects of 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>
Is it the right course for me?	<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. It is helpful if you have worked on theory/practical grades on your instrument.</p>
How will I be assessed?	<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%
Progression and career opportunities	<p>This course gives you a good grounding in performing, composing and appraising music.</p> <p>Upon successful completion of the course you could take BTEC Level 3 or A-Level Music, and pursue Music at University which could prepare you to become a performer, composer, community music leader, or teacher.</p>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Speak to your Ms Carini L.Carini@foresthillschool.co.uk , Mr Livingstone S.Livingstone@foresthillschool.co.uk or speak to pupils in Year 10 or 11 whom you know do GCSE Music and ask them what it is like.</p>

Btec Music Technology



COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Btec First In Music	LEVEL 2	Pianists/keyboard players- those with a strong desire to learn about sequencing and recording techniques.

What is this course about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is designed for pupils who are keen on creating music using computers rather than on instruments. • You will learn about MIDI/Audio and how to use them to make music. • You will learn how to use microphones and how to set-up recording equipment and MIDI workstations. • You will spend most of your time in the Mac suite developing your composition and production skills, in particular looking at mixing and editing techniques. • You will also spend time learning about the Music Industry and how it operates.
Is it the right course for me?	<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>
How will I be assessed?	<p>You will complete different units of work over the two years and will build up a portfolio of evidence that is assessed by your teacher. You will also have a written exam in year 11 that you can attempt twice.</p> <p>You will complete 4 Units of Work which are equally weighted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: The Music Industry- Written Exam • Unit 2: Managing a Music Product- Coursework • Unit 4: Exploring Musical Composition- Coursework • Unit 6: Introducing Music Recording- Coursework •
Progression and career opportunities	<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>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Speak to your Music Teacher or current year 10/11 students who study the course or you can speak to Ms Carini, L.Carini@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>

Btec Music Performance



COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
BTEC First In Music	Level 2	Instrumentalists and Vocalists

What is this course about?	This course is a practical hands on approach to music- with lots of emphasis on performing, composing, learning about the Music Industry and developing your skills as a musician. The course is assessed through coursework and a written exam; with a mix of video/audio and written evidence.
Is it the right course for me?	This course is for students who are confident at performing in front of others and dedicated to practising inside and outside of school. This course will give you the opportunity to learn about different styles of music and understand their key features. You will also explore musical composition- creating your own ideas and developing them. You will also spend time learning about the Music Industry and how it operates.
How will I be assessed?	You will complete different units of work over the two years and will build up a portfolio of evidence that is assessed by your teacher. You will also have a written exam in year 11 that you can attempt twice. You will complete 4 Units of Work which are equally weighted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: The Music Industry- Written Exam • Unit 2: Managing a Music Product- Coursework • Unit 4: Exploring Musical Composition- Coursework • Unit 5: Exploring Musical Performance- Coursework
Progression and career opportunities	You will have the opportunity to learn about the music industry and develop your performance skills. This will allow you to study a level 3 course at college such as BTEC/RSL Music
How can I find out more about the course?	If you would like to find out more about the course then speak to your Music Teacher or go to https://www.rslawards.com/vocational/vocational-syllabus , or you can speak to Ms Carini, L.Carini@foresthillschool.co.uk



GCSE Photography

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Photography	GCSE	Everyone

What is this course about?	<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. You will investigate the artwork of different artists and photographers. You will learn how to use the digital SLR and experiment with a range of media and materials including collage and editing software's including Photoshop. 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>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.
How will I be assessed?	<p>Photography is made up of coursework and an externally set assignment. You will be assessed against four criteria in each section.</p> <p>Coursework (60%): A personal portfolio selected from the projects you will complete in Years 10 and 11.</p> <p>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>You can progress onto the following course after you have completed your GCSE: GCE A-Level Photography</p> <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 and 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>
How can I find out more about the course?	<p>Ask your Art teacher to show you a Year 10 or 11 student's sketch book and final pieces. Take a look at the school and art department website gallery to see links to examples of photography, artwork and videos or speak to Ms Tang-Campbell R.Tang-Campbell@foresthillschool.co.uk.</p> <p>Visit our Instagram page too: @fhs.photography</p>



OCR Cambridge National Physical Education

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
OCR Cambridge National	GCSE	Those with strong science and theory understanding

<p>What is this course about?</p>	<p>Elite sport has embraced sport science disciplines wholeheartedly in the past few decades, moving from a perspective which assumed the primacy of natural talent in producing outstanding performance, to one which considers every minute detail of an athlete's training programme, rest time, environment and psychology in the pursuit of excellence. The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science offer students the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and psychology in sport and sports performance</p>
<p>Is it the right course for me?</p>	<p>The OCR National 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. • Want to study a theory only course. There is no practical assessment and very limited performance opportunities outside your normal games lessons
<p>How will I be assessed?</p>	<p>The OCR National course is assessed over four units:</p> <p>You will be assessed through a written examination paper. The style of the question paper will include a small number of multiple choice questions, some structured questions and extended written answers. The other units will be assessed with coursework tasks.</p> <p>Unit one: Examination unit - Reducing the risk of sports injuries: Taking part in sport and physical activity puts the body under stress. Knowing how to reduce the risk of injury when taking part in sport, and how to respond to injuries and medical conditions in a sport setting are, therefore, vital skills in many roles within the sport and leisure industry, whether you are a lifeguard, a steward at a sports stadium or a personal fitness instructor</p> <p>Unit two: Applying principles of training - In the world of team and individual sport, it is vital that coaches keep their performers in peak condition. They do this by regularly monitoring them through fitness tests and by designing bespoke training programmes to suit the type of sport, performance schedule and the individual themselves. High quality training programmes apply principles of training to the requirements of the individual in their development and implementation</p>

	<p>Unit three: The body's response to physical activity - It is recognised that physical activity is essential in maintaining good health. Many careers within the sport, leisure and health industries require employees to have an understanding of how the body changes and responds to physical activity. With this knowledge it is possible to improve body systems to optimise sports performance and promote healthier</p> <p>Unit Four: Sports nutrition - In all walks of life, appropriate nutrition and diet are vital to our health and wellbeing. In the world of sport the right nutrition is as important as the right equipment and the right training methods, because without suitable nutrition a performer's body would not be able to cope with the stresses and strains put upon it. This would lead not only to deterioration in performance, but also in health. The amount of legislation and media coverage that surrounds the use of supplements in elite sport, some of which are approved and some of which are prohibited, highlights the value placed on nutrition in modern day sport.</p>
<p>Progression and career opportunities</p>	<p>Career opportunities include teaching, coaching, sports science and medicine, sports administration, and sports journalism. 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 K.Hollidge@foresthillschool.co.uk (Head of Faculty), Mr Davey A.Davey@foresthillschool.co.uk or your Physical Education teacher.</p>



GCSE Psychology

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

What is this course about?	<p>You will be looking at answers to the following five questions::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development – How did you develop? • Memory – How does your memory work? • Psychological problems – How would psychological problems affect you? • The brain and neuropsychology – How does your brain affect you? • Social influence – How do others affect you? <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 Mr Lamb, Faculty Leader of English, for further information. R.Lamb@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>



GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

COURSE	LEVEL	WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics AQA	GCSE	Everyone

What is this course about?	<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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships and families • Religion peace and conflict • Religion crime and punishment • Religion, human rights and social justice
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>Speak to Mr Lamb, Faculty Leader of English, for further information. R.Lamb@foresthillschool.co.uk</p>

Key Stage 4 Pathways for September 2020



Pupil's Name: _____

TG: _____

Please tick **ONE** option from the Compulsory Option table:

Compulsory Option	Tick One only
History	
Geography	
German	
French	

Now choose **A FURTHER TWO** subjects you wish to study from the Elective Options table below. (Do NOT tick the same subject as your compulsory choice)

Please order them in terms of preference. You must also choose **one reserve** subject.

(Please see example overleaf)

Elective Options	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	Reserve
GCSE Art and Design				
GCSE Business Studies				
GCSE Computing				
AQA Award Information Technology IT				
GCSE Product Design				
GCSE Dance				
GCSE Drama				
GCSE German				
GCSE French				
GCSE Geography				
GCSE History				
GCSE Music				
Btec Music Performance				
Btec Music Technology				
GCSE Photography				
GCSE Psychology				
Physical Education				
GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics				

Pupil Signature: _____

Tutor/Head of Year Signature _____

Parent/Carer signature _____