



The
Featherstone Academy



Options Booklet

Year 10 GCSE Prospectus

2026 – 2028



The Featherstone Academy

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Options Process

Your child is about to make their choice of optional subjects to study during Key Stage 4. In order to support them in making these choices, we have created this booklet about each of the subjects we offer at GCSE.

We aim to ensure that the information and guidance provided will support your child through the options process. It is important that each student, with support from their parents/carers, understands their own strengths and weaknesses so that they can optimise their chances of success. We recommend that students select courses that they enjoy and that they may wish to study when they continue their education at either a college or sixth form.

Due to the number of exams students sit at the end of Year 11, we offer a one-year GCSE for two of the students' options. This means your child will study and sit one GCSE in Year 10 and then choose another GCSE option in Year 11 to study and sit.

All students will study GCSE French and will choose either GCSE Geography or GCSE History - French, Geography and History are two-year GCSEs. They will then make one 'open' choice and one 'reserve' choice to study in Year 10. At the end of Year 10, they will choose another 'open' choice and one 'reserve' choice to study in Year 11. The list of subjects they can choose from is shown overleaf.

All choices should be completed on the form provided at the back of this booklet. **Forms should be completed and returned to Mrs Howarth no later than Friday 27 February 2026.**

If you have any queries or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the academy on 01977 698000 or e-mail: admin@featherstone.academy

Important: Please note that the GCSE exam period runs from the beginning of May through until the end of June 2027. As in previous years, GCSE exams may be timetabled during our Summer Mid Term holiday which runs from Monday 14 June to Friday 18 June 2027 inclusive.

Yours sincerely

Ms Diana Townshend
Principal



Curriculum Structure

Core Curriculum (yellow section)

Students will study towards GCSEs in the following core subjects:

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Combined Science
or
GCSE Single Sciences

Option Subjects (purple and green sections)

Students will study the following subjects over the next two years:

GCSE French
GCSE Geography **OR** GCSE History

Students will study **one** of the following in Year 10:

GCSE Art and Design (AQA)
GCSE Business (Pearson)
Child Development (OCR National)
GCSE Computer Science (OCR)
Construction Tech Award (Pearson)*
Level 2 Hospitality & Catering (WJEC)
GCSE Media (WJEC)
Vocational Award Performing Arts Drama (WJEC)
Vocational Award Performing Arts Music (WJEC)
GCSE Physical Education (OCR)
GCSE Religious Education (AQA)

Please note: the list of subjects in the green box above are **not** guaranteed to be available to study in Year 11 and is subject to change

* Limited spaces across Key Stage 4

Get in contact: admin@featherstone.academy



English Language

All students in KS4 will study English Language. The course is 100% examination and will be assessed at the end of the two-year course. Students will explore a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th century to the present day. They will learn to write analytically, exploring the different ways writers create meaning. English Language will also offer students opportunities to write creative fiction and purposeful non-fiction texts. Alongside their reading and writing skills, students will have opportunities to develop their use of spoken language in a variety of formal and informal scenarios.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing

A study of fictional texts from across the ages. Students will analyse language choices, structural features and write an evaluative essay on an unseen text. They will apply this understanding to their own narrative or descriptive writing piece.

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

A study of non-fiction texts from across history and genre. Students will explore how writers express their ideas clearly and use language to impact a reader. In this element of the specification, students will learn to compare two texts, exploring their different attitudes and ideas. They will apply their understanding of non-fiction writing to their own non-fiction writing piece.

Course Structure and Assessment

English Language (AQA 8700)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2

- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (0%)

Component 3

- Spoken language
- Compulsory element of the course
- 5 minute presentation
- Teacher Assessed

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE English Language is a requirement for most post-16 courses, apprenticeships and jobs. The study of English Language will develop student skills towards all humanities based subjects – including sociology, psychology and criminology. The study of English Language itself at post-16 is a respected and highly-valued academic discipline.

English Literature

All students in KS4 will study English Literature.

This course is designed to offer students a wide breadth of experiences with challenging literature texts from across history. Students will explore how writers create stories to inspire, challenge and reflect their societies, ideals and beliefs. Students will learn to make their own interpretations, use evidence to support their arguments and develop coherent analytical essays.

What will be studied?

Paper 1:

'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare
19th Century Novel – 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens

Paper 2:

Modern Text: 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley
Comparative Poetry: Power and Conflict Cluster – a collected anthology by fifteen poets

Course Structure and Assessment

English Literature (AQA 8702)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

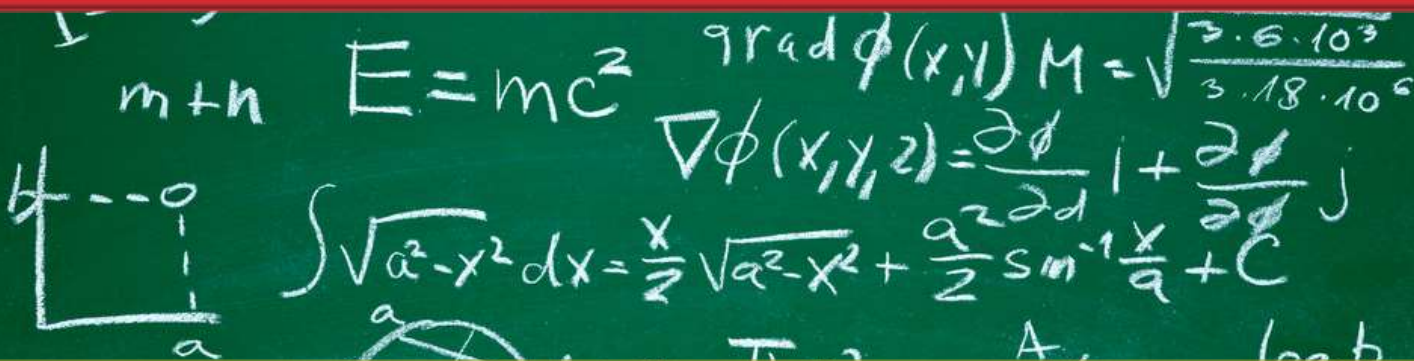
- Shakespeare
- 19th Century Novel
- 40% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2

- Modern Texts
- Comparative Poetry
- 60% of GCSE
- 2 hours 15 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE English Literature is a well-respected and valuable GCSE course; it is valued very highly by colleges and potential employers. The study of English Literature will develop student skills towards all humanities based subjects – including sociology, psychology and criminology. At post-16, A-Level English Literature, or English Literature degrees, offer a breadth of career opportunities like journalism, law, sales and advertising or marketing.



Mathematics

In Year 10 and 11, students build on the Mathematics they have studied in their education so far including work on number, algebra, ratio, proportion, geometry, probability and statistics.

All the examinations are taken at the end of Year 11. Students will take either the Higher or the Foundation tier.

What will be studied?

Number: Arithmetic, fractions, decimals, percentages, use of calculator, properties of numbers and indices.

Algebra: Algebraic notation, graphs, equations, inequalities, formulae and sequences.

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change: Applying percentages, using ratio and proportion, work with compound measures. **Geometry and Measures:** Properties of shapes, angles, symmetry, circles, area, volume, trigonometry, constructions and transformations.

Statistics: Collecting, representing, analysing and interpreting data. **Probability:** Theoretical probability, relative frequency and experiments.

Course Structure and Assessment

Mathematics (Edexcel 1MA1)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Non-calculator exam
- 33.3% of total marks
- 90 minutes

Paper 2

- Calculator exam
- 33.3% of total marks
- 90 minutes

Paper 3

- Calculator exam
- 33.3% of total marks
- 90 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Mathematics is a requirement for many jobs and post-16 courses. Further qualifications in Mathematics open many doors. Post-16 qualifications in Mathematics carry a lot of respect and will be valuable for many careers. You can study Mathematics or Further Mathematics at A-Level.



Combined Science

GCSE Sciences enable students to access Science at any level, whether they intend to study Science further or not. Most students will gain two GCSEs in Science.

What will be studied?

Biology - students will study topics such as how the environment affects plants and animals.

Chemistry – students will study topics such as how atoms interact and how these interactions affect reactions.

Physics - students will study topics such as how forces affect matter and the energy changes that occur during interactions.

Course Structure and Assessment

Combined Science Trilogy (AQA 8464)

Examination (100%)

Components

- Biology 1, Biology 2
- Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2
- Physics 1, Physics 2

- Papers 1 – 6 (16.7% each of 2 GCSEs)

- 1 hour 15 minutes each

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Sciences are a requirement for many jobs, and desirable for many post 16 courses. Further qualifications in Science open many doors. Post-16 qualifications in Sciences carry a lot of respect and will be valuable for many careers. Students can study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-Level, as well as applied science.



Triple Science

Separate Sciences enable students to access Science at a higher level, especially those who intend to study Science further after secondary school. It is also highly beneficial for any student as it shows a student is hard working and committed to studying more difficult content.

Most students will gain three GCSEs in Science – one in Biology, one in Chemistry and one in Physics.

What will be studied?

Biology - students will study topics such as how the environment affects plants and animals like Combined Science but in greater detail.

Chemistry - students will study topics such as how atoms interact and how these interactions affect reactions like Combined Science but in greater detail.

Physics - students will study topics such as how forces affect matter and the energy changes that occur during interactions like Combined Science but in greater detail.

Course Structure and Assessment

Biology (AQA 8461), Chemistry (AQA 8462) and Physics (AQA 8463)

Examination (100%)

Components

- Biology 1, Biology 2
- Chemistry 1, Chemistry 2
- Physics 1, Physics 2

- Papers 1 – 6 (50% each of 3 GCSEs)

- 1 hour 45 minutes each

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Sciences are a requirement for many jobs, and desirable for many post 16 courses. Further qualifications in Science open many doors. Post-16 qualifications in Sciences carry a lot of respect and will be valuable for many careers. Students can study Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A-Level, as well as applied science.



French

Students currently studying French in Year 9 will continue to study French in Year 10 as a two-year course. They will study the AQA French Full Course new specifications. The course encourages candidates to: develop their understanding of French in a variety of contexts, develop their language learning skills, develop the ability to communicate effectively in French and develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where French is spoken.

What will be studied?

Theme 1: People & Lifestyle – identify and relationship with others – healthy living and lifestyle – education and work.

Theme 2: Popular Culture – free time activities – customs, festivals and celebrations – celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us – travel and tourism including places of interest – media and technology – the environment and where people live

Course Structure and Assessment

French (AQA 8658)

Examination (75%)

Paper 1

- Listening Examination
- 25% of GCSE
- 35 or 45 minutes

Paper 3

- Reading Examination
- 25% of GCSE
- 45 minutes or 1 hour

Paper 4

- Writing Examination
- 25% of GCSE
- 1 hour 10 or 1 hour 15 minutes

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (25%)

Paper 2

- Speaking Assessment
- 25% of GCSE
- 7-9 or 10-12 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

By studying a language, students are able to enhance their future employment possibilities. They will have an in-depth insight into another culture and society which will help them, not only with their communication skills, but also their interpersonal skills. The course provides students with a sound basis for further study at AS and A2 level and also at University by developing their written communication and their independent learning skills.



Geography

Geography will help students to be more aware of everyday situations and issues faced by the people who live around them and in other parts of the world. They will study the AQA GCSE Geography (8035) specification. Geography is a highly topical subject; ever changing as world events unfold. When students see newspaper articles or television reports about a potential cataclysmic 'super-volcanic' eruption in the USA, then Geography will help them make sense of what is going by making balanced judgements.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: The Challenge of Natural Hazards. The Living World. Physical Landscapes in the UK. Paper 2: Urban Issues and Challenges. The Changing Economic World. The Challenge of Resource Management. Paper 3: Issue Evaluation.

Fieldwork - Students need to undertake two geographical enquiries and show an understanding of both physical and human geography.

Course Structure and Assessment

Geography (AQA 8035)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Living with the Physical Environment
- 35% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2

- Challenges in the Human Environment
- 35% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3

- Geographical Applications
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

Geography is a fantastic subject for being able to display to an employer a wide range of skills. Geography is increasing relevant in the workplace due to the increased movement towards sustainability in all lines of work. Geography would also be useful for geography-specific careers such as in town and transport planning, weather and climate, teaching, emergency management, natural disasters, engineering, tourism, nature conservation, local government, and many more. It is highly valued in both further and higher education as the course develops skills such as analysis and evaluation, extended writing and mathematical skills.

History

History is a popular option subject and will be of interest to any student who enjoys finding out about the past and how the past affects the world we live in today.

Throughout the course, students study a range of History and will develop their ability to investigate and analyse in a historical context. Key skills include, inference, source work, extended writing and debate.

What will be studied?

Students will study:

- Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship
- Conflict and Tension: The Inter-War period
- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Norman England, c1066–c1100, including specific site study

Course Structure and Assessment

History (AQA 8145)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Germany & Inter-War period
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours

Paper 2

- Health and the people & the Normans
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours

Progression beyond GCSE

History is a traditional academic subject with an excellent reputation with institutions of Higher Education and employers alike. History students are highly sought after by the legal profession, armed forces, management sector and even the entertainment industry due to the analytical skills developed by the study of the subject.

Option Subjects

Art and Design

Students will have the opportunity to study a variety of artists' work to inspire and develop their personal responses, usually from a given theme. Using a variety of techniques and materials will learn how to develop ideas into an individual outcome.

GCSE Art students are encouraged to make their research imaginative and exciting to promote independent work. There is a high degree of student selection.

All work completed in class, after school and at home counts towards a final grade.

What will be studied?

Component 1 is split into four requirements:

1. Initial project – we choose the theme of Abstract and there is a choice of artists including Kandinsky, Fedro, Jeanguanat and Karin Zeller.
2. Main project – again a choice of titles. Here a sketchbook will be used and many impact pieces will be made. Both 2D and 3D work (clay, models, paper mâché, etc.)
3. A "Natural Forms" mini project and timed piece
4. Final Interest project showcasing your skills.

Component 2:

1. A sketchbook on a theme set by the exam board.
2. The Art exam – 10 hours to showcase you as the Artist.

Course Structure and Assessment

Art and Design (AQA)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (100%)

Component 1

- Portfolios – 2 projects and impact pieces
- 60% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 2

- Externally set assignment – 1 research and development portfolio
- 40% of GCSE
- Portfolio preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time to make the final piece.

Progression beyond GCSE

Students can progress from GCSE Art and Design to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Photography at college or sixth form. Alternatively students could progress to art college and study a Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.



Business

This is a Business course focusing on both the theoretical and practical aspects of establishing and running a business. GCSE Business allows students to understand the external influences that dictate whether a business succeeds or fails, such as political, economic, financial or environmental issues. Students are encouraged to look beyond the classroom, putting themselves in the shoes of an entrepreneur looking for the next big business opportunity.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: Topics such as enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective, and understanding external influences on business.

Paper 2: Topics such as growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions and making human resource decisions.

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Business (Pearson)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Investigating small business
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2

- Building a business
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Business could lead to work in a Business-related profession such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing or the Leisure and Tourism industry. GCSE Business will support many jobs and post-16 course applications. Further qualifications in Business can open many doors and you can go on to study Business or Economics at A-Level.



Child Development

This is a two-year Cambridge National course launched in 2022. The qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Child Development. Covering all aspects from Pre-conception through birth up to 5 years old. The course is industry relevant and suits a wide range of learning styles.

What will be studied?

There are 4 Learning Objectives in RO57 they are:

- Pre-conception health and reproduction
- Antenatal care and preparation for birth
- Postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development
- Childhood illnesses and a child safe environment

In RO58 students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and demonstrate an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing equipment to use in a childcare setting. They will also gain knowledge of nutrition, dietary choices and hygiene practices for preparation of food suitable for babies and young children.

In RO59 students will complete a child study, observing and then planning appropriate activities to allow young children to demonstrate developmental norms. This will require knowledge about physical, intellectual and social development of children alongside types and benefits of play tasks.

Course Structure and Assessment

**OCR Cambridge National Level 1/2
Child Development**

**Unit RO57 – Written Examination
Health and Well-Being for Child
Development**

- 40% of qualification
- 1 hour 15 minutes

**Unit RO58 – NEA
Create a safe environment and
understand the nutritional needs of
children from birth to five years.**

- 30% of qualification

**Unit RO59 – NEA
Understand the development of a child
from one to five years**

- 30% of qualification

Students are graded on a pass / merit / distinction or distinction* basis at L1 or at L2 depending on their ability.

Progression beyond Level 2

Cambridge Nationals provide a strong base for progression to Further Education, whether it is onto Level 3 Cambridge Technical qualifications, other vocational courses, A Levels, apprenticeships or work. Careers that are linked to the qualification are Health Visitor, Midwife, Nurse, Doctor, Police Officer, Educational Psychologist, Teacher, Nursery staff or Child care.

Computer Science

Computer Science is a linear course; this means that both exams will be taken at the end of the course once all the content has been taught. Computer science is a technical course which requires skills such as logical and computational thinking to be developed as well as giving learners knowledge in how computer hardware processes data and instructions and how software uses the hardware. Learners will gain skills in problem solving while developing computer programs for a given scenario.

What will be studied?

Students will:

- Develop skills in current and emerging computer hardware & software
- Look at how the main hardware components of the computer work together to carry out tasks
- Look at how different types of software are used to perform different tasks to help run and allow the user to interact with the computer
- Understand how algorithms are used in the planning and creation of a computer program
- Develop computer programming skills to develop a program to solve a real world problem
- Test & Evaluate computer programs to identify and fix errors within the code and operation

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Computer Science (OCR)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Computer Systems
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2

- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Computer Science is designed to give students the opportunity to develop highly sought-after knowledge and skills, whether they're for the workplace or for everyday life. It gives students a stepping-stone onto Further and Higher Education courses such as Software Development, Games Programming, Website Development, System Analysis, Network Management and more.



Construction

*limited spaces

The construction industry is one of the UK's most important sectors. In 2018 it employed, directly or indirectly, around 2.4 million people and accounted for £117 bn of the value to the UK economy. The range of jobs available is large, covering traditional craft trades, large civil engineering infrastructure projects, housebuilding, design and consultancy, and the professions such as architecture, management and surveying.

What will be studied?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

- construction technology
- construction in practice
- construction and design

This Tech Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE Design and Technology by teaching additional and specific skills in either brickwork or carpentry and joinery, and by providing a more applied area of study when looking at the different types of technologies being used in a real-world setting for low-rise construction.

Course Structure and Assessment

Construction Tech Award (Pearson)

Component 1: Construction Technology

- External controlled assessment
- 1.5 hours
- 60 marks

Component 2: Construction in Practice

- Non-exam internal assessment: 8 hours supervised assessment
- 60 marks

Component 3: Construction and Design

- Non-exam internal assessment: 2 hours monitored preparation; 6 hours supervised assessment
- 60 marks

Progression beyond GCSE

Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for Post-16 progression in this vital sector.



Hospitality and Catering

This course will equip students with the knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering industry

What will be studied?

The qualification is made of two units.

1. The Hospitality and Catering Industry

You will learn about the Hospitality and Catering Industry – the many types of providers and about working in the industry. This will include Health and Safety – in the kitchens as well as food related causes of ill health.

2. Hospitality and Catering in action

This includes the importance of nutrition as well as cooking methods and techniques used in the industry. Students will learn to plan menus based on seasonality of foods, nutritional requirements and cost. Many dishes will be prepared and presented to the highest standard.

You will learn to write projects, cook to a high level, manage risk and above all take responsibility. Independence and time management are key parts of this course.

Course Structure and Assessment

Level 2 Hospitality and Catering (WJEC)

Examination (40%)

Paper 1

- The Hospitality and Catering industry.
- Including Health and safety, nutrition, menu planning and knowledge of skills used in Industrial Kitchens.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)(60%)

Task 1

- You will complete an assignment set by the exam board. It will involve planning, preparing and presenting dishes to fit the chosen brief.
- Evidence is:
- A. Written Portfolio and Practical exam.

Progression beyond GCSE

Hospitality and Catering is valuable in any career in this ever-growing sector of the economy. You could want to work in hotels, pubs, restaurants, market stalls or cafes. It covers front-of-house, health and safety, risk assessments and management. The qualification leads to catering college for future chefs at both New College and Wakefield College.



Media

Students will develop their understanding of the ways media shapes and forms our perception of the world, and how it simultaneously shapes society whilst also reflecting the context it was created in. They will study what media language is, how it functions, and how producers use media language to create representations. We will then consider how these representations influence and inform an audience. They will also explore the power of media industries.

What will be studied?

Learners study a range of media forms, exploring media language, representation, media industries and audiences. They will also learn the theories established in the media industry, and consider how they are used to influence and connect with audiences.

Areas of the framework are studied in the following way across the three components:

- Exploring the Media - understanding of the use of media language used to create meaning and representations in a range of print media texts. It also assesses pupils' knowledge of media industries and audiences for the following media forms: film, newspaper, radio, and video games.
- Understanding Media Forms and Products - all areas of the media framework: media language, representation, audience and media industry in relation to television and music videos.
- Creating Media Products - Pupils will create an individual media production in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board, applying knowledge of media language and representation.

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Media (WJEC)

Component 1:

Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
40% of qualification

Component 2:

Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
30% of qualification

Component 3:

Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment
30% of qualification

Progression beyond GCSE

This qualification would allow you to progress to study the AS Level in Media. Many students will then go on to university to study media or pursue a career in the media industry such as a journalist, editor, film maker or any other role within the film industry.



Performing Arts - Drama

What will be studied?

Unit 1: Repertoire Performance Students will perform a three-minute monologue selected from an existing play. This performance is supported by a written portfolio that documents their research, development process, and rationale for their artistic choices. Alternatively, students may choose to design a costume, set, or lighting concept in place of performing.

Unit 2: Devised Performance Working from a creative brief, students will develop an original piece of theatre. They will explore and apply a range of theatrical styles such as forum theatre, verbatim, and physical theatre, as well as techniques from influential practitioners including Bertolt Brecht and Frantic Assembly. Students may choose to perform or focus on design elements such as set, costume, hair and makeup, lighting, or sound. A written portfolio will accompany this unit, detailing their creative decisions and development journey.

Unit 3: Performing Arts Pitch In this entrepreneurial unit, students will take on the role of producer to develop a business plan for a performance of their own creation. They will learn how to manage a professional, industry-standard production and conclude the unit by pitching their concept to potential funders—an opportunity to showcase their work and demonstrate its appeal to a target audience.

Course Structure and Assessment

Vocational Award in Performing Arts - Drama (WJEC)

Unit 1: Performing

- Controlled assessment: 10 hours
- 30% of GCSE

Unit 2: Creating

- Controlled assessment: 10 hours
- 30% of GCSE

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

- External controlled assessment: 20 hours
- 40% of the course

Progression beyond GCSE

The course would be useful if you were considering a career in theatre performance or design, cultural industries or a job which requires you to present or speak to an audience. The course will support you studying Theatre Studies, Music, Dance and Performing Arts Post 16.



Performing Arts - Music

This course will encourage students to develop both their musical knowledge and performing skills .

Students will be able to react to a brief to write, arrange, perform and record their own musical pieces. They will be able to analyse the music of others in depth and discuss different styles and genres.

What will be studied?

The exam board sets the briefs each year that cover a wide range of musical genres.

Examples have included:
musical theatre, music through the years, wartime and festival music.

Students will prepare and rehearse for performances, understand and explain key musical terms and are required to complete all 3 units of assessment. Assessment will be in lesson time. Students will be expected to work individually and in pairs or even groups depending on what is called for.

Rehearsal time out of class will be an expectation of the course.

Course Structure and Assessment

Vocational Award in Performing Arts - Music (WJEC)

Unit 1: Performing

Controlled assessment: 10 hours
30% of qualification

Unit 2: Creating

Controlled assessment: 10 hours
30% of qualification

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

External controlled assessment: 20 hours
40% of qualification

Progression beyond GCSE

Whether you choose to study music as a potential career or as a stepping stone because it is a subject you love it has the potential to be an enjoyable GCSE. Post 16 institutions have music at all levels – performance and music technology open to our students as the next step into the multi billion pound music industry.



Physical Education

The initial theory aspect of the course will include an introduction to Physical Education looking at key processes, key concepts and the opportunities for participation. Students will participate in a range of individual and team sports to develop their basic skills, comprehension and tactics/awareness. To be successful, students will need to be competent at a wide range of sports. This will include entering the course with at least three sports that could be used for the practical assessment.

What will be studied?

Topic areas of study include:

- Bones and muscles
- Feedback, motivation and goal setting
- Media and sponsorship
- Participation
- Government initiatives
- Nutrition
- Injuries and hazards
- Healthy lifestyles

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Physical Education (OCR)

Examination (60%)

Component 1

- Physical factors affecting performance
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour

Component 2

- Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (40%)

Component 3

- Performance in physical education
- 40% of GCSE
- No time limit

Progression beyond GCSE

This qualification would allow you to progress to study the AS Level in Physical Education or the BTEC National Award in Sport. Many students will then go on to University to study Physical Education, Sports Science or pursue a career in the sport industry such as a PE teacher, sports coach, sports scientist, physiotherapist, sports psychology or fitness instructor.



Religious Education

GCSE covers a range of the major world religions, six contemporary ethical themes and two textual studies, ensuring you and your students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

What will be studied?

Students will study the religious views, practices and values of Christianity and Islam focusing on a variety of topics such as Life and Death, Conflict and War, Crime and Punishment and Human Rights.

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Religious Education (AQA)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- The study of Religious Beliefs, values and practices – Christianity and Islam
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 mins

Paper 2

- Thematic Studies
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Religious Education is designed to give students the opportunity to develop highly sought-after knowledge and skills, whether they're for the workplace or for everyday life. It gives students key life skills such as creating an argument, analytical skills and conflict resolution.

Year 9 into Year 10 Option Choices 2026-2028

Full Name: _____

Tutor group: _____ Date: _____

Open Options - Chose two options and one reserve choice
 Please make choices in order of preference. Please speak with your form tutors and subject teachers for any further guidance required.

This form should be returned to your form tutor no later than **Friday 27 February 2026**

Qualification	Choice		
Geography			
History			
Open Options	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	Reserve Choice
Art & Design			
Business			
Child Development			
Construction			
Computer Science			
Hospitality & Catering			
Media			
Music			
Performing Arts – Drama			
Performing Arts – Music			
Physical Education			
Religious Education			

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