

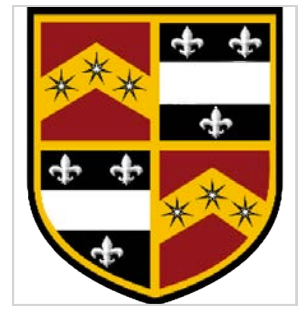


Carre's Grammar School

Key Stage 4 Curriculum and
Options Information 2026



Welcome



Dear Student

Choosing the subjects for Year 10 is one of the first big decisions that you have to make in your school life. Some of you will already have a good idea of which subjects you are best at, and which ones you enjoy. Some of you may already have ideas about future careers, but for most of you it will take careful thought before choosing what to study. You do not need to decide what you want to do for the rest of your life, but it helps if you have some idea. You can always change your mind later and it is never too late to learn something new. If, later on, you need to study another subject for your career, you can take additional courses. People carry on studying and learning throughout their working lives, to open up new choices and career options.

National guidelines stipulate that certain subjects have to be studied but there are then four choices that you can make. Within these four choices you must ensure at least two of these are a Creative subject, a Humanities subject or a Language.

Please read this booklet carefully. It contains a lot of useful information about courses, the process of choosing options and where to find careers guidance.

The options form will be completed on Microsoft Forms and needs to be filled out by Friday 6th February 2026.

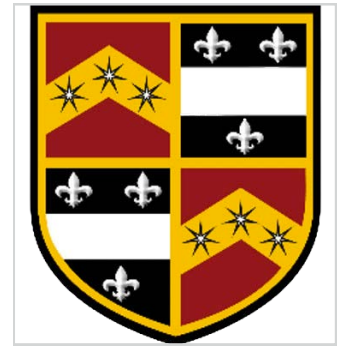
If you have any questions about the process please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr Jamie Holland

Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

Help and Support Available



I hope that this booklet will provide you with the information required about the subjects offered in this school in Years 10 and 11 so that you, in consultation with your parents and teachers, can make the most appropriate choices for your future.

It is important that you choose your subjects wisely, so in addition to reading this booklet, you should seek guidance from your:

Form Tutors

You can make use of tutor times to talk with your tutor group and share their thoughts.

Subject Teachers

Our teachers love their subjects and will speak passionately about why students should study their subject!

Subject Leaders

Perhaps you don't yet study a subject or still want to know more - you should not be afraid to talk to the Subject Leader. Our Subject Leaders will welcome the interest shown in their area of expertise.

Head of Year

The Head of Year has probably supported a lot of other students before in this process and they know your year group well. They can be an excellent source of support and information.

Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum

Mr Holland keeps on top of the whole process and will work with you if you have any questions or if you change your mind about what you want to study.

Other Students

Older students have been through this process and might be studying a subject you want to know more about. Our well-being ambassadors are available in the Student Support area most lunchtimes.

Broad and Balanced

All schools should deliver a broad, well-balanced curriculum to its students to help prepare them for the future.

To achieve this broad and balanced curriculum, students at Carre's must select their option choices carefully. Students get 4 option choices; at least two of these choices must include subjects from two of these three categories: Humanities, Languages and Creative subjects. The remaining option choices are totally free choice.

All student at Carre's are expected to study:



English Language and Literature



Mathematics



Science



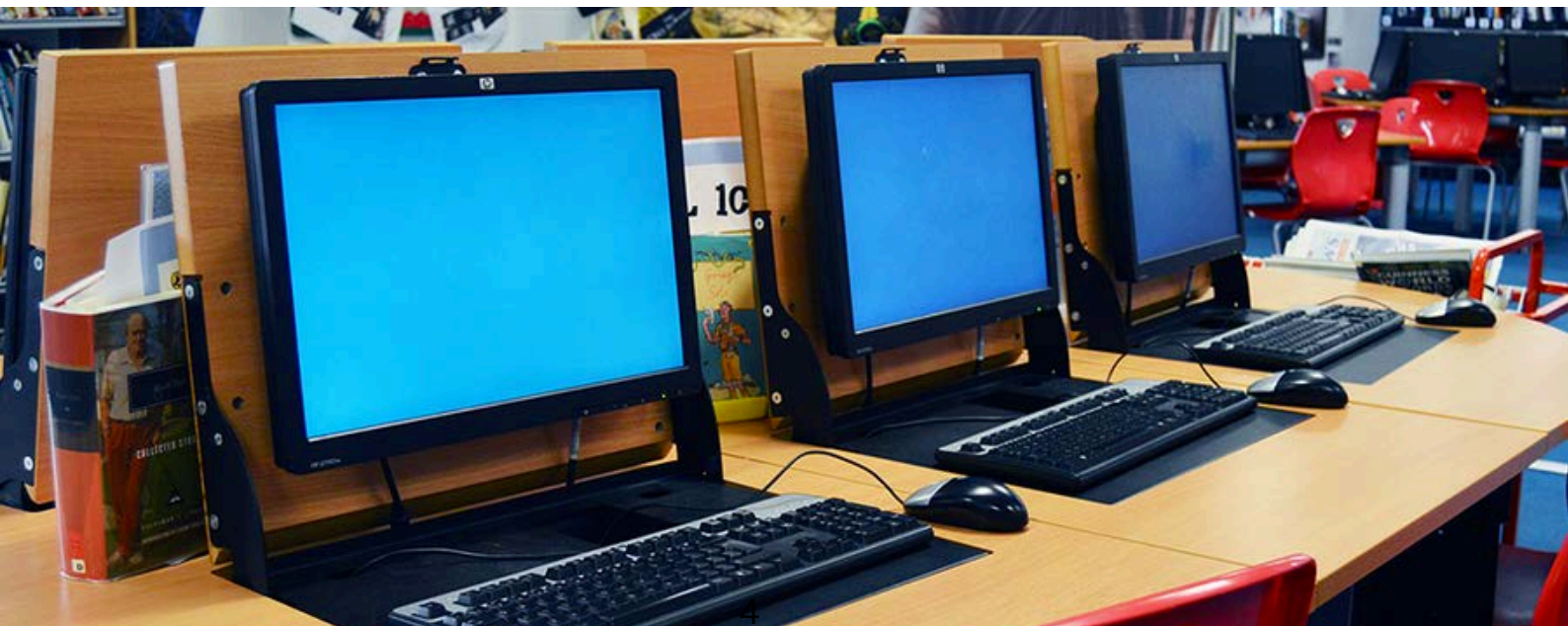
Core EP (non-examined)



Core PE (non-examined)



Personal Development



Broad and Balanced



Humanities

- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies

Languages

- French
- German

Creative

- Fine Art
- Music
- Design and Technology
- GCSE PE

Others (Free Choice)

- Business
- Computer Science
- Engineering (CNAT)

To support future life chances whilst offering you the opportunity to follow your interests and passions, subjects have been grouped into categories.

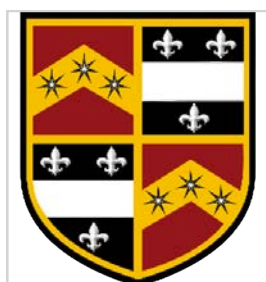
All students must **select at least two subjects from two of the three categories** of **Humanities, Languages** and **Creative** subjects.

Their remaining option choices can then be selected from any of the categories or from the 'other' free choices available.

Please note subjects may be withdrawn if there is insufficient interest at any stage in the options process.

It isn't all about exams...

Alongside the compulsory subjects and option choices you will also have lessons in PE, Ethics & Philosophy and Personal Development.



Personal Development

Personal Development sessions are designed around four key themes: Living in the Wider World, Health and Well-Being, Online Safety and Media and Healthy Relationships. You have the opportunity to debate topics, learn the fundamental values of British Society and explore pertinent issues regarding growing up and staying safe. This work is delivered in tutor times, timetabled lessons and 'drop-down' days.

Ethics and Philosophy

Topics in Ethics & Philosophy and Personal Development aim to develop you into responsible, respectful and active citizens in the modern world.

Careers

Careers lessons in KS4 cover topics such as applying for jobs including CVs and cover letters, employment rights, exploring post-16 options and the labour market. We also arrange an employer experience day at the end of Year 10

Clubs

Don't forget the great range of clubs on offer each lunchtime and after school.

N.E.A. (Non-Examined Assessment)

In some subjects NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) forms part of the final grade awarded. The type and length of assessments varies from subject to subject so you should read the subject descriptions carefully and consult your teachers if you want further information.

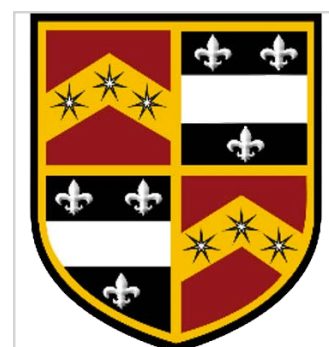
You will always be informed about the controlled assessment and its contribution to the overall assessed grade.

Work is moderated internally to ensure marking is consistent and the mark schemes set by the examination boards are accurately applied. It is then externally moderated to ensure that the marks awarded are in line with the expectations of the exam board.

You have the right to be informed of your centre assessed marks before they are submitted to the examination boards. This gives you a chance to request a review of the centre's marking if you think that mark schemes have not been accurately applied.

We strongly recommend that if you wish to request an appeal against an NEA mark it should be done as soon as possible - time frames are always tight and you cannot appeal once marks have been submitted to the examination board.

If you require any further information about controlled assessments, please contact the relevant Subject Leader.

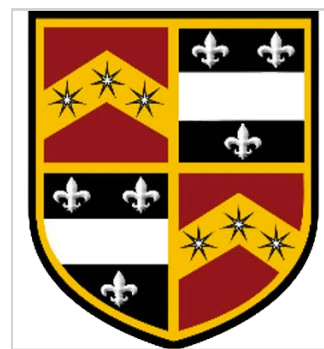


How much time is spent in each subject?

	Year 10	Year 11
English	7 hours	7 hours
Maths	6 hours	6 hours
Science	10 hours (Bi4, Ch3, Ph3)	11 hours (Bi3, Ch4, Ph4)
EP	2 hours	2 hours
Personal Development	1 hour	1 hour
Core PE	4 hours	3 hours
Option 1	5 hours	5 hours
Option 2	5 hours	5 hours
Option 3	5 hours	5 hours
Option 4	5 hours	5 hours
Total Hours	50 hours	50 hours

Remember - we have a two week timetable. Times shown here are split across the two weeks. In Year 11 PSHE is delivered using 'drop-down' days where often outside speakers and professionals visit the school to run workshops and bespoke lessons.

Deciding what to study



1. What should you consider when making your choices ?

- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- What are your learning strengths and skills and which subjects do these go well with?
- Which qualifications might you need for a career or courses in higher education that will interest you?
- Does the content and style of learning interest you?
- Does the balance between coursework and examinations suit you?

2. What should not be a factor when selecting options?

A subject should not be chosen because:

- you like the teacher - they may not be teaching the class next year.
- you know your friend is choosing it - you may end up in a different class to your friend.
- you think a subject will be an 'easy GCSE' - there is no such thing as an 'easy' subject at GCSE

3. Do some research

- Speak to teachers in school,
- Speak to students currently taking the course.
- Read about the subjects in this booklet.
- Discuss ideas with teachers, tutors, friends and family

The Options Process



Research and ask questions

Step 1

Learn about the subjects available at GCSE level. Speak to teachers in school, speak to students currently taking the course. Attend the school options evening and read about the subjects in this booklet.



Complete the options form

Step 2

The options form is a survey of your interest to help us tailor the curriculum to this year group. It is completed on Microsoft Forms by you and your parents. This should be submitted by **Friday 6th February**.



Continue to work hard

Step 3

You should keep working hard in all your subjects. Students regularly change their mind about their option choices in Year 9 and Year 10 so it is best to maintain a high level of work in all subjects throughout Year 9



Confirmation of option choices

Step 4

Initial option allocations are published in writing to students and parents.

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What is the purpose of the options form?

To timetable lessons, options will be built into 'blocks'.

Option Blocks are designed each year to meet the preferences of the year group. To build the option blocks, we ask you to complete the options form. In the options form we will ask you to choose the subjects you would like to study placing them in order of preference along with a 'reserve' choice. When completing the form you will need to ensure that the subjects you pick meet the 'broad and balanced' criteria outlined on page 5.

You are not making a firm commitment to subjects at this stage but we need to check there is sufficient interest in a subject. We also need to try and build option blocks which meet the maximum number of students' subject combinations.

The options form is completed by a Microsoft Forms questionnaire and should be submitted by Friday 6th February 2026.

Please remember...



Once courses have commenced we would urge you to talk quickly with your Head of Year if you remain uncertain about your option choices.

Option swaps may not always be possible and for some subjects it is only possible to swap before the end of the first month of Year 10.

The final date for any option swaps to be considered will be the beginning of the last week of the first term. This is so that any catching up of work done in the subject a student moves into can be done over the October half term break.

Important things you should know:

- ⚠ Choices are not allocated to people who submit their forms first so please take your time to consider the options available.
- ⚠ Please consider the choices carefully as often it is not possible to change courses at a later date as many courses will be full or may be in different option blocks from each other
- ⚠ Sometimes it is not possible to allocate first choices. This is usually because courses are timetabled at the same time or a class is full. Every effort will be made to give you your first choices; however, if this is not possible then Mr Holland will have a meeting with you to discuss your options

Careers Support



As part of the Careers programme at Carre's, we subscribe to a Careers information website called UNIFROG that can be accessed either in school or at home. This has a wealth of information for all age groups and can help with your subject choices for Years 10 and 11.

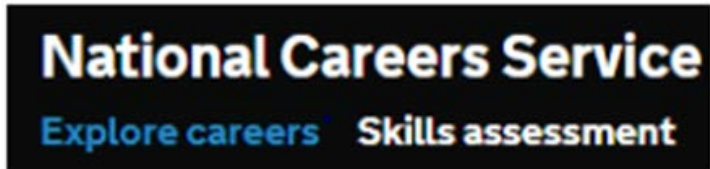
The websites below should also be useful in answering these questions:

- Where can I find out more about different jobs and careers?
- Where can I find information about the qualifications and skills that I might need for the jobs and careers I am interested in?



Course advice for post 16 and University and career options

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education>



<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>



<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>



<https://icould.com/explore>
Buzz quiz and careers information



<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

Subjects



English Language



Success in English is essential for entry to virtually all careers. We are part of an increasingly competitive global economy, so the range of skills developed in an English Language GCSE is highly valued by employers, colleges and universities alike. Specific careers that employ English skills include: law, journalism, management consultancy, media, publishing, public relations and teaching – in short, any with a premium on communication.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- AQA 8700
- Fiction and Non-Fiction texts, including texts from the nineteenth century
- Speaking and listening skills
- Creative writing
- Transactional writing

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

Successful English Language students are able to:

- Read, understand, respond to and evaluate a range of non-fiction texts
- Analyse and interpret a variety of prose with understanding and insight
- Write with accuracy and clarity for a variety of audiences and purposes
- Listen carefully and perceptively
- Speak confidently, with a mature and assured use of vocabulary and grammar, and with the ability to manage listeners' attention through a sophisticated delivery of ideas

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of teaching methods are used in English. Students participate in class and group discussions, produce presentations and annotate and analyse texts. The use of ICT is an integral part of the learning process.

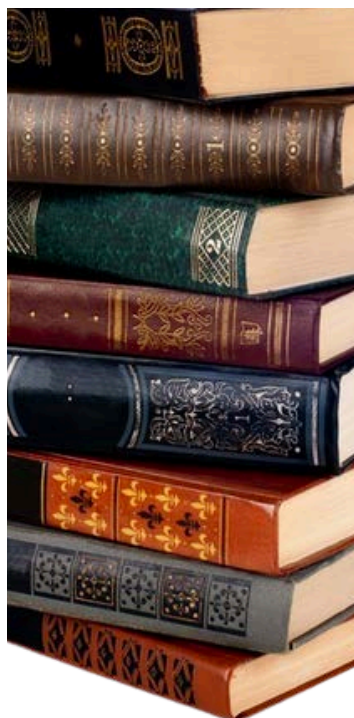
ASSESSMENT

There is no coursework. Students are assessed via two examinations at the end of the course. There is an 'unseen' element.

Compulsory Subject



English Literature



Success in English is essential for entry to virtually all careers. We are part of an increasingly competitive global economy and so the range of skills developed in an English Literature GCSE are highly valued by employers, colleges and universities alike. Specific careers that employ English skills include: law, journalism, management consultancy, media, publishing, public relations and teaching – in short, any with a premium on communication.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- AQA 8702
- A Shakespeare play
- A selection of pre-and post-1914 poetry
- A pre-1914 novel
- A twentieth century play

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

Successful English Literature students are able to:

- Analyse and interpret a variety of prose, poetry and drama with understanding and insight
- Relate texts to historical, social and cultural contexts and literary traditions
- Write with accuracy and clarity when analysing texts
- Write clear, accurate and organised notes
- Listen carefully and perceptively
- Speak confidently with a mature and assured use of vocabulary and grammar

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of teaching methods are used. Students participate in class and group discussions, produce presentations and annotate and analyse texts. The use of ICT is an integral part of the learning process.

ASSESSMENT

There is no coursework. Students are assessed via two examinations at the end of the course.

Compulsory Subject



Mathematics



Success in Mathematics is vital to access many learning and career pathways. A pass at grade 5 or higher is essential for many careers, including professional pathways. Mathematics studied successfully at a higher level is crucial for almost all scientific and technological university courses and careers, including engineering.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- AQA 8300
- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and Statistics

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- The ability to work with numbers confidently and accurately.
- The ability to reason mathematically, think logically, developing an argument, justification or proof using mathematical language.
- The ability to learn, fluently recall and apply mathematical concepts, ideas, and techniques.
- The ability to solve problems by applying mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through teacher explanation, modelling and exposition. Lessons are carefully planned and sequenced to support your learning. An emphasis is placed on fluency and recall of subject knowledge, and planned activities and tasks will seek to support your development in recalling fluently facts, concepts, and techniques.

Independent study is supported through Microsoft Teams and with Mathswatch, an online resource.

ASSESSMENT

Entirely by examination, there are three examination papers. The first paper is a non-calculator paper, and the other two papers allow the use of a calculator. Topic areas Number, Algebra and Ratio account for 65% of the assessment content, Geometry for 20% of the content and Probability and Statistics together account for 15% of the assessed content over these three papers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All students will need a scientific calculator, which they must bring to all lessons. Additionally, students should bring a ruler, protractor, and pair of compasses to each lesson.

Most students will be entered for the Higher Tier syllabus (grades 9 to 5). Some students may be entered for the Foundation Tier (grades 5 to 1). The decision of tier of entry, based on teacher consideration and assessment performance, is not made until after the Year 11 mock examinations and all groups in Year 10 follow the same Higher Tier programme of study

Compulsory Subject



Science



All students will gain a broad knowledge of relevant scientific issues, allowing them to be scientifically literate citizens. In the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form, students are able to go on to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics to A-level, and BTEC Applied Science. The skills and knowledge gained at GCSE also prepare students who wish to take college courses or embark on apprenticeships.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- We study GCSE (9-1) specifications that were introduced in September 2016 (AQA 8461/2/3/4)
- In both qualifications students will study key aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Separate science leads to three GCSEs, one in each science. Combined science leads to two GCSEs, with the grade decided by a combination of exams sat in all three sciences.
- A detailed breakdown of the subject content can be found on the AQA website (<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science>)

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- In addition to the skills of planning, data handling and analysis, students will research topics and evaluate information from a variety of sources.
- While there is no formal coursework, students will study and complete a number of required practical activities. As well as a requirement for GCSE sciences, these activities help develop students' understanding of the discipline of science and are also assessed within the exams.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

In science lessons, we learn through questioning, group work, class discussions and practical work. Scientific literacy and mathematical skills are developed through research activities and the use of the Science Faculty ICT Suite.

ASSESSMENT

All assessment is by externally set examinations at the end of Year 11. In Combined Science, there are six examinations, 75 minutes in length, each contributing 16.7% of the final mark. In Separate Sciences, students will sit two examinations in each Science (105 minutes in length), each one worth 50% of the final mark. In all qualifications questions on the required practical activities will feature in the final examinations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Science GCSE is taught as three separate subjects. The teaching of the GCSE sciences starts in Year 9 to give students time to develop their knowledge and understanding, constantly revisiting previous work as it is developed further at later points in the course.

All students begin studying for Combined Science at the start of Year 9. Upon starting Year 10, students that have made good progress and demonstrated a genuine passion and enthusiasm for Science will then be given the option of further extending their studies by working towards the Separate Science pathway.

Compulsory Subject





WHAT WILL I STUDY?

OCR J171. Art and Design students will follow a route that allows them to participate in various specialisms; including drawing, painting, printing, mixed media, new media, photography and sculpture/3D work. Students will be required to develop, experiment, record and present:

- Develop ideas through investigation. Use contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding. Investigate and research Art, Craft and Design. Respond to work investigated and show relationship between that and development of own ideas/work.
- Review and refine ideas through experimenting, selecting appropriate resources, materials, techniques and processes, assessing suitability for purpose, demonstrating clear development and modification of work.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response, realising intentions.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

Any student opting for GCSE Art and Design should be, first and foremost, creative, imaginative and passionate about art! It is also very important that individuals are just that – individual!

- A very independent approach will be required to get the best out of the course and its possibilities.
- Students will need to be self-motivated as the course requires a great deal of independent work to be carried out if higher grades are to be achieved.
- Potential candidates must be aware that coursework is ongoing from the start of Year 10 to the second term of Year 11. The exam takes place in March/April of Year 11; for that reason time management is crucial.
- A consistent approach, and therefore a very genuine interest in Art, is fundamental.

Please note that whilst good basic observational drawing skills are of course helpful and a great starting point – they are second to, and nothing without, the above qualities.

There is nothing in the world around us that isn't touched by art – Art is everything/Everything is Art. Successful students will be able to pursue anything from the creative design industries (i.e. Graphic Design, 3D Design, Architecture, Fashion/Textile Design, Illustration, Animation, Web Design, Theatre/Set Design) to Gallery Worker, Art Therapist, Teacher, etc to the more ambitious direction of 'Freelance Artist'. Job opportunities would be available for any students bold enough to pursue freelance work as 'Artist in Residence' within various settings from galleries and schools/youth groups to hospitals/care centres, in addition to simply producing and selling their own work.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

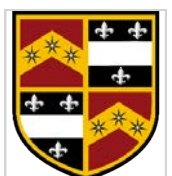
- Students will learn via demonstration/tuition followed by regular practice and constant participation in practical activities.
- Learning from others, outside of the classroom, is also important which is why the study of contemporary/practicing artists is beneficial.
- Students should seek out opportunities to observe/work with artists other than their teacher to broaden their experiences as much as possible.

ASSESSMENT

Controlled Coursework makes up 60% of GCSE grade. A second portfolio based on set titles and concluded in a 10 hour Practical Exam in Year 11 makes up 40% of final GCSE grade. All marking is carried out internally. An external moderation takes place at the end of the course to assess a 'sample'.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

GCSE Art and Design ends in April of Year 11! This, along with the fact it is a 100% practical subject, means that it requires a substantial time commitment to ensure success.



French & German



A qualification in languages is an asset for most careers, given that the jobs market is increasingly global. Even where the language is not directly relevant, employers for professional/management careers ask about languages. An increasing number of top universities are now insisting on a language GCSE as a basic entry requirement. Having the ability to get by, when in the target language country, is also very rewarding.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- AQA 8658 (French)/8662 (German)
- The three main topic areas are: people and lifestyle, popular culture and communication and the world around us
- Grammatical concepts to develop awareness of sentence structure and, in particular, verbs in past, present and future tenses
- The history, geography and culture of the French/ German speaking world

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- The four skills of listening (25%), speaking (25%), reading (25%) and writing in the target language (25%).
- The emphasis at GCSE is on communication as much as accuracy, so those who are prepared to 'have a go' generally do well and enjoy the subject.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

We cater for various learning styles, using the following:

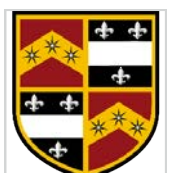
- authentic listening and reading materials to develop comprehension skills.
- conversation in class.
- role-play tasks to carry out transactions or to give and seek information.
- extended writing tasks (usually drafted and improved for later use in speaking tasks).
- rote learning of vocabulary and verb forms.
- use of GCSE mark-schemes to develop awareness of assessment criteria.

ASSESSMENT

Listening, reading and writing are assessed by means of terminal examinations. Speaking is also assessed by examination, but this will take place within a five-week window in April and May during the second year of the course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The standard required at GCSE is the same for both languages. Students are more than welcome to continue with both languages and become a dual linguist.



Business



In an increasingly complex and inter-dependent world, a knowledge of the practices and processes of business activity is an important part of the 'survival kit' of any citizen.

A course in business will provide a student with an extensive knowledge of the workings of businesses and the business world. Knowledge and understanding in both these areas are essential to a successful career in whatever field you wish to pursue. In a world that is now ever-changing and complex it is an essential course that will equip students with skills for life.

As well as its relevance to the preparation for a career and citizenship, this GCSE course provides a valuable groundwork for the Economics or Business A Level courses found in the Sixth Form.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Edexcel 1BS0
- All aspects of the workings of a business, plus those factors or events outside a business that have an impact upon it, such as the economy and the role of organisations such as the government
- Investigate types of businesses, business structures, marketing, finance, organising people, operations management and economics eg interest rates, exchange rates and unemployment
- Finding out how to think like an economist and learn how the economy functions, the government's role in the economy and its impact on business. You will also examine what causes businesses to fail and how businesses grow. You will study many issues within the world of business such as globalisation and ethics

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- A keen sense of enquiry and enthusiasm is essential to your success in this subject. You are already part of the business world as young consumers, so you can bring your own experience to this course
- You will be shown how to analyse and evaluate business decisions
- In addition you will be asked to keep up to date on current business and economic affairs, both analysing and evaluating

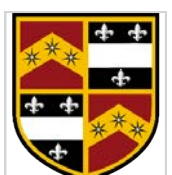
HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will compile a portfolio of written work on the different business aspects of the course. This will include investigations, exemplar exercises and case studies based on real businesses. Particular attention will be paid to any current national or local business events. There will be regular assessments based on utilising GCSE questions and current economic data.

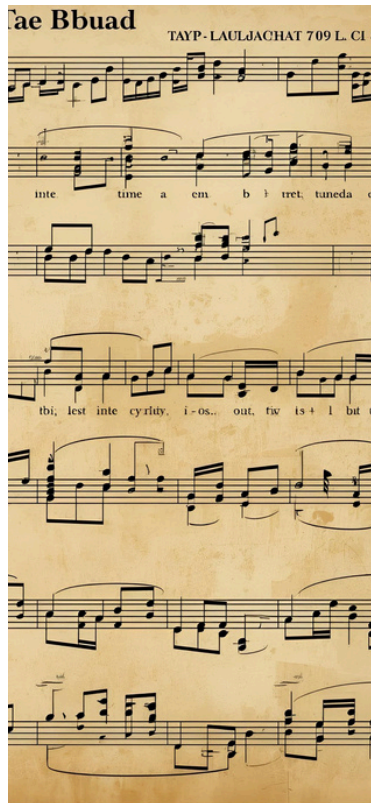
ASSESSMENT

There will be two formal examinations (making up 100% of the final grade) which assess learning of the four modules.

Free Choice Subject



Music



A qualification in Music represents diverse talents that are highly sought after by employers: creativity, problem-solving, listening skills, logic, presentation skills, commitment and perseverance. GCSE Music is an important qualification to those wanting to work in the music industry and media, in careers such as radio producers, music retailers, publishers, music therapists, performers, recording engineers, composers and event organisers. Even if you do not wish to follow a career in Music it is a highly-regarded qualification that recognises your diverse talents; it can lead to participation in the community through the development of a life-long interest in Music and it will support instrumental lessons at higher levels.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Eduqas C660QS - The course is based on four areas of study:

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- Performing skills: both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble. The GCSE course encourages you to perform music of your own choosing in any style. To take this course you must be committed to developing your skills on an instrument or voice
- Composing skills: you will have to compose two pieces of music. One will be to a brief set by Eduqas, the other will be a free composition of your own choice
- Appraising skills: you will develop your listening and appraising skills as you learn about the different areas of study and study 2 set works.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through listening to and studying certain pieces of music, performing, and experimenting with compositional techniques.

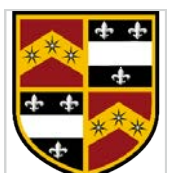
ASSESSMENT

30% performing: you will need to record two performances, at least one of which should be in an ensemble.

30% composing: you will need to compose two pieces (in controlled conditions).

40% listening and appraising: in a 75-minute exam paper you will be asked questions about the pieces of music that you have studied and other, unfamiliar pieces of music from the four topic areas.

Creative Subject



Geography



Geographical skills are transferable and highly sought after in the workplace. Geography graduates are among the most successful at gaining employment straight after a degree in the subject. The ability to collect, analyse and interpret data, to identify questions for research and write reports are essential for a huge number of careers. The use and interrogation of information technology such as Geographical Information Systems is becoming increasingly common in a number of career areas, and the relevance of environmental issues such as climate change are fields in which geographers can demonstrate their expertise. Specific career areas relate to engineering, business and industry, law, local government, education, media, town planning, tourism and environmental work.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- AQA 8035
- Physical Geography: Volcanoes and Earthquakes, Tropical Storms, UK Extreme Weather, Climate Change, Physical Landscapes: Rivers and Glaciation, Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments
- Human Geography: Population Growth, Urban Areas, Urban Growth, Urban Change in the UK, Economic Development and Resource Management: Food/Water/Energy
- Geographical Skills: Cartographic (map) Skills, Graphical Skills, Numerical Skills and Statistical Skills
- There will be at least two opportunities for fieldwork, investigating subjects from Physical and Human Geography

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- Effective communication through group discussion and written work
- Numeracy skills through collection, analysis and interpretation of geographical data, graphs and diagrams
- Ability to interpret spatial patterns such as those shown on maps
- An enquiring mind – to question the world around you and seek valid answers

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through discussion, geographical enquiry, research from textbooks and the internet, fieldwork, data collection and analysis, the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software, geographical TV programmes and fieldwork out of school.

ASSESSMENT

You will be assessed through three examinations. One examination is a 'Geographical Applications' paper where students answer questions on given resources and geographical fieldwork. This paper is worth 30% of the final grade. The other two examinations (worth 35% of the final grade each) are content-based, Physical and Human Geography papers based on the themes outlined above. There is no requirement for Controlled Assessment (coursework) in this qualification.

Humanities Subject



History



History is a subject that is highly valued by employers because of the broad range of skills it develops. Careers that employ Historical skills include the police, the armed forces, law, journalism, media, accountancy, local government, management, tourism, conservation work, town planning, museums, galleries, archives and teaching.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- OCR J411 - History from different eras: Medieval, Early Modern and Modern
- A blend of short depth studies of individual countries (eg. National Socialism in Germany, The USA, 1789-1900, British History 1065-1087), as well as a longer thematic study about the development of Crime and Punishment in Britain from c.1250 to the modern day
- A mixture of British and World History: a key theme of the course is centred around invasion and conquest
- A field work study about the development of Roman Lincoln which will examine historical change over time.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- Curiosity about the past and how it relates to the present.
- Understanding how people tick: what motivates them and what they think and feel.
- The ability to gather and select information from historical research.
- Analysing and evaluating evidence through reading and interpretation of sources.
- Effective communication skills through written and oral work.
- The ability to see and explain more than one point of view.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

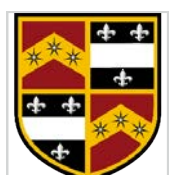
You will learn through a variety of different teaching methods including role play, group work, reading and analysing source material, written work, constructing timelines, evaluating visual evidence (including film and DVD) and trips. You will have the opportunity to utilise your ICT skills and there will be lots of opportunities for discussions and debate.

ASSESSMENT

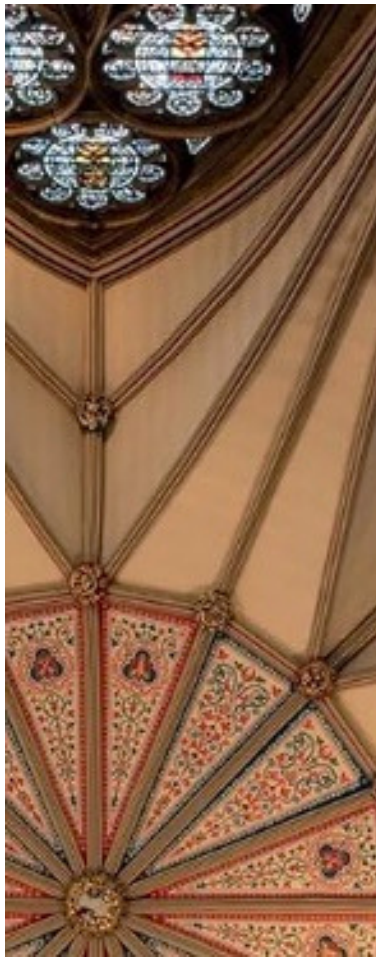
All courses will be assessed by examination at the end of Year 11. There will no longer be any coursework or controlled assessment requirements.

Exam questions will test various different skills and will be a mixture of interpretation questions, source questions, short-answer questions and the more traditional essay question.

Humanities Subject



Ethics & Philosophy



This is an examination which is open both to those who have a religious faith and those who have none and is highly valued by employers due to the transferable skills it develops. Careers related to this subject are very varied. These include civil service, local government, personnel work, teaching, journalism, health service, medicine, law, psychology, probation service, social work, police force (forensic), armed forces, advertising, and public relations.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

GCSE Religious Studies (Full Course) AQA (Spec A) 8062
Four themes from the following religious, philosophical and ethical studies:

- Religion and relationships
- Religion and life
- The existence of God and revelation
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment
- Religion, human rights and social justice

Students are also required to have knowledge and understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices of two world religions - Christianity and Islam.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

The ability to:

- Recall, select, organise and deploy knowledge of the specification content
- Describe, analyse and explain the relevance of a religion or religions
- Evaluate different responses to religious and moral issues, using relevant evidence and argument
- Present relevant information coherently, employing structure and style to render meaning clear

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through reading, gathering and selecting relevant information, discussions, analysing and evaluating religious and non-religious approaches to moral and religious questions and issues.

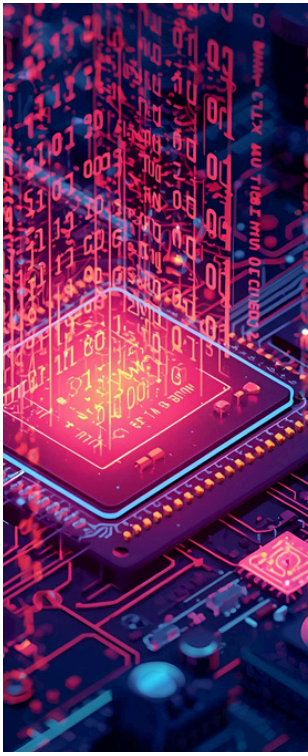
ASSESSMENT

Through two written examinations (100% of the marks).

Humanities Subject



Computer Science



The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. Technology has and will continue to become an important aspect of both our personal and professional and as a result, companies are looking increasingly to those with qualifications and skillsets within this area. Learners who have taken a GCSE in Computer Science and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.

In today's fast-paced tech-driven world, diving into the realm of computer science opens up a world of exciting possibilities and innovation. It's not just about coding; it's about understanding the nuts and bolts of technology that shape our daily lives. Computer science isn't just a skill; it's a way of thinking that equips you to tackle real-world problems with creativity and adaptability. Whether you're keen on crafting the next big software or delving into the mysteries of artificial intelligence, studying computer science locks opportunities in the real world in a range of different subjects.

The last section was written by Artificial Intelligence with human assistance – could you tell?

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Edexcel 1CP2
- You will develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, understanding of how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- You will acquire and apply a knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming
- You will use knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of computer technology developing the ability to make informed decisions about its use, and be aware of the implications of different technologies
- You will acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of Computer Science in a range of contexts
- You will develop computer programs to solve problems
- You will evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of and issues related to the use of computer technology in society

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- A logical approach to problem solving and mathematics
- The ability to develop programming skills both in-class and independently

HOW WILL I LEARN?

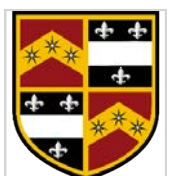
The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Learners will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of Y11 you will sit two exam papers. One is on paper in the exam hall and covers theory topics such as how computers work, networks, data representation and ethical and legal issues.

The other is an on-screen exam, you will sit at a computer for 2 hours and code Python to answer a series of questions. This is the only exam at GCSE that uses a computer and is a unique way to assess your programming skills. Past students have enjoyed the ability to run and test your code to see if it works.

Free Choice Subject



Physical Education



The skills and qualities that you will develop during the course are transferable, and highly sought in Higher Education and the workplace.

GCSE PE is the ideal preparation for A Level PE and for any sport-related vocational qualification. It is the perfect starting point for any student interested in a career in the Sport and Leisure Industry.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

AQA 8582

The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

Practical performance in physical activity and sport

- One assessment must be in a team sport or activity, one assessment must be in an individual sport or activity and a third can be from either an individual or team sport or activity

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- Effective communication through group discussion and written work
- Numeracy skills through collection, analysis and interpretation of health and fitness data
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Practical sports ability via individual performance.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

One lesson per week in the classroom learning about the theory topics

Three lessons (per two-week rotation) of practical based activity working towards your practical assessments

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport - 30% of total marks, 1 hr 15 minute exam - combination of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing questions

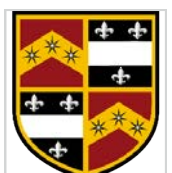
Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport - 30% of total marks, 1 hr 15 minute exam - combination of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing questions

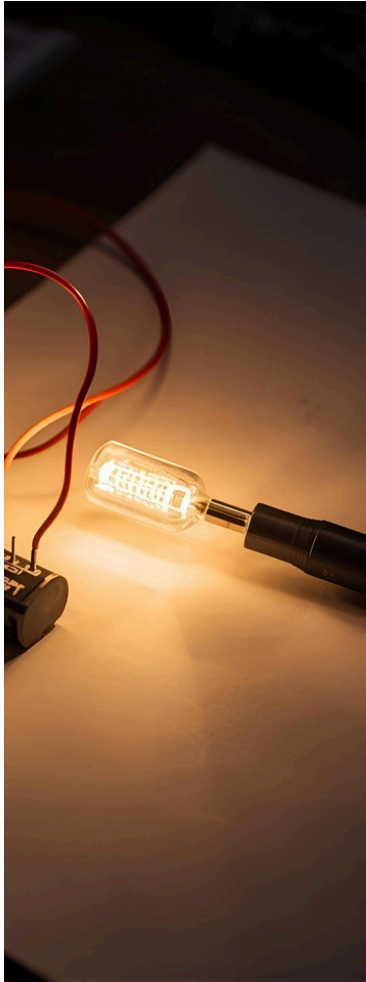
Practical Performance - 40% of total marks

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It is strongly advised that only people with a strong sporting background pursue GCSE PE. Weak practical performers will not be able to access the higher grades now that the list of practical activities has been reduced and students can no longer be assessed as a coach or official.

Creative Subject





Students will have the opportunity to develop their skills at A Level.

Natural career progression into Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Electronic Engineering, IT, Product Design and Design Engineering.

Students cannot choose more than one Design and Technology pathway.

Creative Subject

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Edexcel 1DT0
- You will learn a core body of knowledge of the subject and understand its wide-ranging impact.
- You will learn the production processes and terms associated with electronics and systems.
- You will understand the basic principles of electronic components and realise they are part of a system.
- You will use computers to simulate circuits and use CAD-CAM to develop and refine ideas.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- You will have an aptitude in using graphics based packages on the computer.
- You will need to be creative and flexible in your approach to work.
- You will need to develop an independent style of learning and be self-motivated.

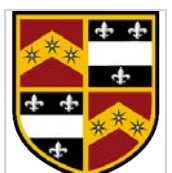
HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn by completing focused practical tasks using real world electronic circuits and computer simulations. Design and make assignments will be fundamental to the delivery of the course and will prepare you for the coursework element which will start at the end of Year 10.

ASSESSMENT

50% - Examination

50% - Non-Examined Assessment (coursework)



D & T : Graphic Products



Students may choose to move into the creative industries. Career possibilities could be Graphic Design, Packaging Design, Advertising, Architecture, Web Design.

Students cannot choose more than one Design and Technology pathway.

Creative Subject

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Edexcel 1DT0
- You will learn a core body of knowledge of the subject and understand its wide-ranging impact.
- You will investigate the use of modelling materials associated with Graphic Products and their impact on society, products and industry.
- You will understand the basic principles of graphic design and the packaging industries.
- You will use computers to develop and refine ideas and present information in a clear and concise manner.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- You will have an aptitude in using graphics based packages on the computer.
- You will need to be creative and flexible in your approach to work.
- You will need to develop an independent style of learning and be self-motivated.

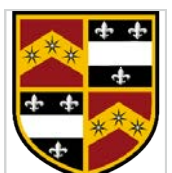
HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through completing focused practical tasks using traditional modelling methods and CAD-CAM. Design and make assignments will be fundamental to the delivery of the course and will prepare you for the coursework element which will start at the end of Year 10.

ASSESSMENT

50% - Examination

50% - Non-Examined Assessment (coursework)



D & T : Resistant Materials



Students may move into fields with practical outcomes such as Product Design, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, Structural Engineering, Building Industry (Management, Quantity Surveyor and Estimator), Joinery and Civil Engineering.

Students cannot choose more than one Design and Technology pathway.

Creative Subject

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- Edexcel 1DT0
- You will learn a core body of knowledge of the subject and understand its wide-ranging impact.
- You will learn about timbers, metals and polymers and how they can be used in products.
- You will investigate the use and development of a variety of products and their impact on society.
- You will understand the basic principles of industrial processes.
- You will use CAD-CAM to develop and refine ideas.

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- You will have an aptitude in using graphics based packages on the computer.
- You will need to be creative and flexible in your approach to work.
- You will need to develop an independent style of learning and be self-motivated.

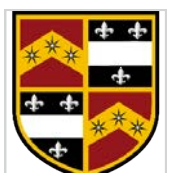
HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn through completing focused practical tasks using timbers, metals and polymers as well as CAD-CAM. Design and make assignments will be fundamental to the delivery of the course and will prepare you for the coursework element which will start at the end of Year 10.

ASSESSMENT

50% - Examination

50% - Non-Examined Assessment (coursework)



CNAT : Engineering



The Engineering National Qualification will give you the right skills to start a career in Engineering, or go on to university, college or other training.

Engineers work in health, entertainment, transport, construction, robotics, conservation, design, communications, disaster relief, in fact pretty much everywhere. Engineering offers a great choice in careers in all employment sectors.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- OCR Engineering Design J822
 - Principles of engineering design
 - Communicating designs
 - Design evaluation and modelling
-

WHAT SKILLS/QUALITIES ARE REQUIRED?

- You will need to be numerate and have a creative mind
 - You will be interested in developing your existing CAD-CAM skills
 - You will like solving practical problems through the use of tools and equipment
-

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will learn by engaging in each of the discrete modules. It is very much a “learn by doing” course. Kinaesthetic investigation is as relevant as academic enquiry in completing this course.

ASSESSMENT

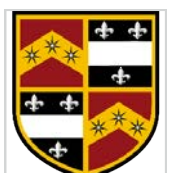
Through the completion of 2 internally assessed units (R039 and R040) each worth 30% of the final grade. R038 is an examined unit which will be completed at the end of the course which accounts for 40% of the final grade.

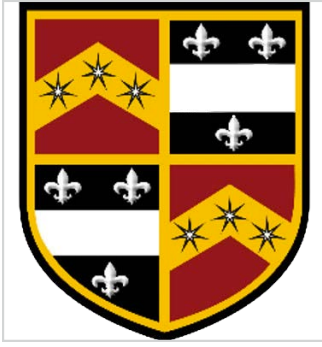
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The whole idea behind the course is to give you an insight into the varied world of an Engineering career. With this course you could start an Engineering apprenticeship at 16 or move onto additional study at either college or Sixth Form.

A career in Engineering could lead you into many and varied job opportunities, with the whole world needing Engineering and Engineered products.

Free Choice Subject





1 Progress Grades to parents
W/C 10 NOVEMBER 2025

2 Year 9 Careers in PSHE
TERM 2

3 Academic Parents' Evening
THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2025

4 Introduction Assembly
MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026

5 Options Booklet published
MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2026

6 Progress grades to parents
FRIDAY 23 JANUARY 2026

7 Options and Curriculum Evening
WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2026

8 Options Form submitted
FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2026

9 Confirmation of option choices
FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS