

Y9 Options Booklet



Submit your Option Choices by Wednesday 26th February 2025
The form can be found on our website:

www.ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/year-9-options



Headteacher's Introduction



Dear Parents/Carers

Your son/daughter is about to embark on one of the most important and exciting stages of their educational journey so far.

The opportunities available to your child in the future will very much depend upon what they achieve during the next two years. For example, to be able to follow many sixth form and college courses they will have to gain at least five GCSE passes and the more passes they have the more opportunities are available to them. However, all achievements are important, from taking part in school teams to basic things like showing that they have excellent attendance and punctuality records, that they are well mannered and polite and that they are trustworthy and reliable. Employers are looking for many of these skills and also that they are able to work with other people, they can solve problems and they are prepared to continue to improve their own learning.

This booklet provides details of all the core and optional subjects available to our students in Years 10 and 11 together with the options process and timescale for choices to be made. We want each student to choose wisely having considered his or her own aptitudes and abilities and hope that parents/carers will be able to support their children in making these important educational decisions.

We recommend that families consider what lies beyond KS4 when making choices. Many of our students will progress to post-16 education and follow A-Level and equivalent subjects. Others will wish to move to work based learning at 16, so it is important to plan ahead when making choices for Year 10.

This booklet is one part of the process, we have also arranged opportunities for students and parents/carers to speak with individual teachers. Mrs Lucy Hyde, Deputy Headteacher will oversee the overall process and help students arrive at their final option choices.

This is a crucial period for your son/daughter and I cannot stress too strongly the importance of the decisions being made. The subject choices form must be completed no later than Wednesday 26th February and confirmation of choices will be made as soon after this as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher

Welcome



Welcome to our Year 9 into 10 options information booklet. The information in this booklet outlines the options process for 2025. It combines an overview of our Key Stage 4 curriculum and details of the range of courses on offer to you at Ridgeway Academy, with detailed step by step guidance and advice on the different factors to consider when making your options choices.

We offer a broad curriculum at Key Stage 4 with a wide choice of academic, creative, and vocational courses. All students follow a 'core' curriculum consisting of Mathematics, English, Science, PE and Personal development.

Alongside their core subjects, students are then able to select additional options subjects for study in Years 10 and 11. In recognition of the high status accorded to Modern Foreign Languages by universities and employers, we strongly advise that students capable of achieving a good pass in GCSE Spanish should opt for Spanish as one of their options choices. Students are also strongly encouraged to consider History and/or Geography.

In recognition of the significant importance of good quality passes in Mathematics, English Language and English Literature for our students, our Key Stage 4 curriculum model includes an increase in the lesson time devoted to core subjects.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum provides many opportunities for students to follow their interests and develop their strengths. Before students finalise their choices, it is important to consider which subjects or combinations of subjects might be necessary in the future for entry onto post -16 programmes of study. Most importantly, I cannot stress enough how important it is that students choose subjects that they will enjoy and will be successful in.

Support for students and parents/carers will be available throughout the options process. There will be a series of presentations about each subject given by the subject leaders available to view on our school website as well as a presentation explaining the full process. All students will have an individual interview with a senior member of staff to review, discuss and confirm their choices. This is an important time for your child and with co-operation between home and school, I am confident we will arrive at the best curriculum options for each student.

Good luck with your choices!

Mrs L Hyde
Deputy Headteacher

Reserve Choices and Timeline



Reserve Choices

In addition to their three options choices, students are asked to make two reserve choices. Whilst every effort is made to accommodate students' first options choices, it is not always possible to guarantee that individuals will be allocated places in their first three subjects.

This is because:

- Courses occasionally depend on demand and staffing availability so it may not be possible to run all the classes indicated on the option form if number of students requesting the course is very low
- Places in classes are limited (e.g. amount of space in Technology and Food Preparation & Nutrition) so if numbers are too high students may be assigned their reserve choice.
- Timetabling constraints mean some courses will be run at the same time so a timetable clash would occur for the student.

Timeline for the Year 9 Options Process

Date	Event
Thursday 23 rd January 2025	Year 9 Options Evening (on site plus video presentations available on the school website)
Friday 24 th January 2025	Options Form Applications Open
Monday 3 rd February 2025	Taster Sessions / Market Stalls (within School day)
February and March	Form Time Activities and Personal Development Sessions
Wednesday 26th February 2025	Options Form Deadline

Choosing your options in Year 9 is one of the first big decisions in life you will have to make, but don't worry, there are lots of people you can talk to for advice to help you.

Key Stage 4 options are an exciting prospect. You can choose to continue with those subjects which interest you the most and you can start some new ones. Your decisions will lead to a two-year commitment, so a lot of thought and discussion is needed. **Consider what you are good at, what you enjoy and which subjects you may need for the future.**

Why do I have to choose?

- It is time for you to have a say in what you are going to study
- There is not enough time to fit in every subject
- As work gets harder you will want to concentrate on your strengths
- You might want to take some of the new subjects available
- To aid you in making decisions about your future career prospects

Getting the balance right

Whatever your plans are for the future, the chances are you will probably change your mind a number of times over the next few years and have a number of different jobs/careers in the future. So it is important to try and choose a broad range of subjects now.

Choosing the subjects you enjoy, but also getting a good balance of subjects, will leave you with more options when you are choosing your courses and careers for the future.

So how do you choose?

First of all think for yourself:

- What are you good at, what are your talents?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Which subjects interest you?
- Do you need any specific subjects for your future education needs or the careers that you are interested in?

Next, find out as much information as you can:

- Talk to your Subject Teachers.
- What do the courses actually involve?
- Have you checked out your career ideas and/or the college/university courses you may be interested in and the qualifications you may need?
- How are the courses assessed? How much coursework/controlled assessment is there?

Advice for Students



Finally, talk your plans over with:

- Your parents or carers
- Friends and relatives who know you well
- Your Form Tutor and/or Head of Year

Ultimately the choice is yours!

A little extra advice ...

DO...

- Get as much advice as you can. If you don't know something **ASK!** Talk to your parents, Form Tutor, Head of Year or Subject Teachers.
- Find out as much as possible about the courses on offer: what will you learn and how you will be assessed?
- Try to choose those subjects you are **good** at or **enjoy**, these are the ones you are most likely to do well at.
- Decide yourself. It is **you** who will be studying your chosen subjects for the next two years. It is **your** future you are considering.

DON'T...

- Think you are expected to know at this stage what you want to do later in life. The curriculum is constructed to keep open as many doors as possible.
- Choose a course because your friend is choosing it. You may easily find yourselves in different groups.
- Choose a course because you like the teacher you have now. You may have a different teacher in Year 10.
- Worry if you can't fit everything in. Some subjects can be picked up again in the Sixth Form. **IF IN DOUBT, FIND OUT.**

Further guidance and contacts



Careers Guidance

When considering options choices, there is wide range of careers guidance available to students to encourage them to think about the right progression pathways for their future.

During KS4, students will have access to careers advice through Personal development workshops, extended learning days and one to one interviews with professional advisers.

Other useful sources of information for reference include:

- The Directgov website <https://www.gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers> provides lots of information for young people.
- Information about University Entrance is available on the UCAS website at www.ucas.com
- Students can look at <https://www.grows.ac.uk/resources/education-options/> to see what courses to study for careers in different industries.
- For a broad description of a wide range of careers together with details of preferred A-Level subjects visit <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles>
- Finally, the choice of GCSE options subjects can determine what subjects are available to students at 16 and 18. The Russell Group of universities has produced this helpful guide to help young people make informed choices:
<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5272/informedchoices-print.pdf>

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Subject Information

What will I learn in English?

- To study both English Language and English Literature
- To develop a clear understanding and appreciation of different types of reading material including prose and poetry
- To analyse and interpret both fiction and non fiction texts from 19th, 20th and 21st century.
- To learn how to write and speak clearly and appropriately for the intended audience
- To learn how to write creatively and informatively with clear purpose

What areas will I cover?

English Language:

- Unseen Fiction extract 20th/21st Century
- Narrative writing from stimulus
- Unseen Non Fiction text extracts
- Writing with specific purpose and viewpoint

English Literature:

- 19th Century novel: A Christmas Carol
- Shakespeare: Macbeth
- Modern Text: An Inspector Calls
- Poetry anthology Power and Conflict
- Unseen poetry

Speaking and Listening

- Use of standard English through individual presentations

How will I be assessed?

Assessment Method	GCSE Language	GCSE Literature
External examination at the end of Year 11	100% (across two exam papers)	100% (across two exam papers)
Spoken Language skills are assessed but reported separately and do not form any part of the qualifications awarded. These will take place before the Summer exam series begins.		

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

English Language GCSE

English Literature GCSE

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Students are taught in groups broadly banded by ability and target grade.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Director of English is Miss E Gray.

Your English Assistant Subject Leaders are Ms S Akhtar (KS3) and Mr M MacGuire (KS4).

What will I learn in Mathematics?

- To develop investigational skills
- To learn how to use and apply Mathematics in theoretical and real-life situations
- To develop confidence and competence in the use of numbers

What areas will I cover?

- **Number** - applying the rules of number in a variety of situations
- **Ratio and proportion** - dividing a quantity in a given ratio; best buys; direct and inverse proportion
- **Algebra** - Solving equations; drawing graphs, indices
- **Geometry and Measures** - recognising shapes and solids, calculating angles and lengths, converting between different units of measurement
- **Statistics and probability** - probability, statistical diagrams, conducting surveys and experiments and drawing conclusions
- **Using and Applying Mathematics** - investigational and practical tasks using the skills learned in the other area of study.

How will I be assessed?

There are three examinations: one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers.

Foundation (Grades 1-5)	Paper 1 Non-calculator 1/3 weighting 80 marks	Paper 2 Calculator 1/3 weighting 80 marks	Paper 3 Calculator 1/3 weighting 80 marks
Higher (Grades 4-9)	Paper 1 Non-calculator 1/3 weighting 80 marks	Paper 2 Calculator 1/3 weighting 80 marks	Paper 3 Calculator 1/3 weighting 80 marks

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

EDEXCEL

Mathematics GCSE: Linear
1MA1
Foundation/Higher

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

This GCSE has a range of questions, some structured and some unstructured. The papers test the application of mathematics in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts. The use of a calculator continues to be of importance, although one of the written papers is a non-calculator paper. It is advised you have a standard Casio scientific calculator and a full geometry set for every lesson, which remains in good working order for the examination.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Director of Mathematics and Numeracy is Mr L Perry.

What will I learn in Science?

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the material, physical and living worlds.
- Develop their understanding of the nature of Science and its applications and the inter-relationships between science and society.
- Develop and apply their observational, practical, enquiry and problem-solving skills and understanding in laboratory, field and other learning environments.
- Develop their ability to evaluate claims based on Science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions.
- Develop their skills in communication, Mathematics and the use of technology in scientific contexts.
- Develop an understanding of how Science can be applied and used.

What areas will I cover?

Pathways are decided on a prior attainment and teacher assessment basis

Both Science pathways cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Students will study Combined Science or Triple Science. Both provide pathways to A level Science courses and careers. Students selected for Triple Science will study additional units and receive 3 GCSE grades.

How will I be assessed?

There are six papers in total, two from each subject specialism.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

Trilogy Foundation/Higher

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Science backgrounds can lead to a huge variety of different career choices. Some of the more obvious are: Medicine, Nursing, Teaching, Research, Engineering, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Computer Game Development, Music Technology, Animal Health, Forensics, Photography, Media and Astronomy.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Director of Science is Mr T Mortimer.

Your Assistant Subject Leader for Science is Mr D Burridge.

What will I learn in Core PE?

- To maintain and develop an enjoyment of active sport
- To develop individual and team skills
- To fully understand a healthy lifestyle through sport and exercise

What areas will I cover?

Over the years all students will receive two one hour lessons a week following a range of activities including:

- Trampolining / gymnastics
- Basketball
- Weight training
- Health Related Exercise
- Athletics
- Football / netball
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Aerobics
- Dance
- Rugby / hockey
- Tennis

How will I be assessed?

All students will have the chance to follow a leadership programme through core PE having the opportunity to work with students from the local primary schools. All students will have the chance to develop their skills of CPR and basic first aid. All students will have the opportunity for Inter and Intra sport leagues.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

Core PE is not an examination subject, but will be studied by all students.

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

As well as developing your health, fitness, strength and conditioning and vital first aid skills, core PE will of course help you work towards a career in the sports industry, such as PE teacher, Personal Trainer, Sports Business Management and Sports Coaching.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for PE is Mr J Chappell.

What will I learn in Business Studies?

Business Studies aims to provide students with the opportunity to study and explore the elements of the business world.

Throughout the course, students will look at areas such as what an entrepreneur is, the key areas of a business (Finance, Operations, Marketing and Human Resources) and external influences on a business.

The course will enable students to develop core skills such as organisation, time-management, numeracy, analytical and evaluative skills.

What areas will I cover?

The course covers two themes. Theme 1 is studied in Year 10 and Theme 2 is studied in Year 11. The topics that are studied are as follows:

Theme 1	Theme 2
Enterprise and entrepreneurship	Growing the business
Spotting a business opportunity	Making marketing decisions
Putting a business idea into practice	Making operational decisions
Making the business effective	Making financial decisions
Understanding external influences on business	Making human resource decisions

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed continuously throughout the course through classwork, homework, end of topic tests, end of year tests and mock tests.

To gain the GCSE qualification, students will sit two external tests at the end of Year 11. Both tests last for 1 hour and 45 minutes and are worth 90 marks. Paper 1 is based on Theme 1 and accounts for 50% of the qualification. Paper 2 is based on Theme 2 and accounts for 50% of the qualification.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

Edexcel

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Business Studies is now one of the most popular subjects in Higher and Further Education and offers many different pathways. It is a contemporary course that is relevant to real life scenarios and can equip students with the knowledge and skills to progress on to their next steps.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your subject leader for Business Studies is Mr P Flanagan

Computer Science



What will I learn in Computer Science?

Computer Science is a modern and a rapidly growing subject in terms of technicality and implications. The study of Computing enlightens students' curiosity about how the vast number of computers function alone, how they work together and how they interlink. As a result, the Computer Science curriculum aims to; firstly, embed technical understanding of Computing hardware and software to students across all key stages. Secondly, the curriculum aims to raise insight by equipping students with skills and competencies in an effort to heighten their chances of employability in the digital world. Learners will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators, facilities of computing languages and data representation.

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science will encourage learners to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What areas will I cover?

- Systems Architecture & Networks
- Systems Software and Security
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns
- Algorithms & Programming
- Logic and Languages
- Data representation

How will I be assessed?

There are two externally examined components (01 and 02) weighted at 50% each.

Written Paper 1: Computer Systems

This component will introduce learners to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software.

It is expected that learners will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

Written Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and Programming

This component incorporates and builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in Component 01, encouraging learners to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

OCR

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Employment in the field of Technical Computing and Programming. Potential areas for further study and careers include Computer Engineering, Information Systems, Software Engineering, Database Administrator, Network Engineer and Systems Analyst.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Computer Science is Ms A Zannides.

What will I learn in Dance?

Actively engage in the process of dance in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

- Develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of the contemporary style of dance through the process of performing, choreographing and appreciating dances
- Develop physical, technical and expressive skills in dance
- Develop a critical appreciation of dance through studying a variety of professional works
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of health, fitness and safe working practices relevant to performing and choreographing dances

What areas will I cover?

Unit 1 - Performance and Choreography (60%)

What is assessed

- Set phrases through a solo performance -1 minute dance
- Duet/Trio performance -3 minutes dance
- Solo choreography - 2 minutes 30 dance

Unit 2 - Dance Appreciation (40%)

What is assessed

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance
- Critical appreciation on own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

This is assessed during an exam paper of 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 80 marks

How will I be assessed?

You will be graded 1-9

- 1 written exam - 90 minutes
- 3 practical exams consisting of:
 - * 2 Set phrases
 - * Trio performance
 - * Solo or group choreography

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

GCSE Dance (9-1)

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

A Dance GCSE could open doors to become a Dance Coordinator, Dance Teacher, Dance Coach, Costume Designer, Professional Dancer, Gym Instructor, Choreographer, Stage/lighting/prop Designer, owning own business.

What else will I gain from GCSE Dance?

- Develop confidence
- Develop leadership
- Develop analytical skills
- Work with professional choreographers
- Taking part in productions
- Learn and perform in the style of Contemporary dance

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Dance Teacher is Miss N Wilson.

What will I learn in Product Design?

This GCSE Design Technology is an exciting course that will build upon the design-and-make skills used in Years 7-9, developing knowledge and understanding within resistant materials. Students will use and develop many key skills, especially communication, numeracy, problem solving and ICT, and become effective independent learners. It involves investigating, designing, planning and making quality products using a variety of materials. It provides students with the opportunity to develop communication skills, problem-solving and shows flair, imagination and creativity to design and make prototypes that solve real-life problems.

During the two-year course you will study a wide range of materials including papers and boards, timber, metals, and polymers. You will also develop an understanding of systems, programmable components and mechanisms to support any potential design solutions you may develop later on. This content reflects the importance of design & technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

How will I be assessed?

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 45 hours (60% of final grade)

Written exam paper: 2 hours (40% of final grade)

What exam board and specification will I follow?

AQA Design and Technology (8552)

Is there any additional information about this course that I need to know?

GCSE Design Technology is a demanding but highly rewarding subject. A lot of the work produced is completed at home.

The ability to design is an integral part of the course and students should be confident and skilled in this area. A GCSE in this subject could lead to a career in design, marketing, product design, architecture, manufacture, engineering, and advertising. The coursework is demanding, but the final products and portfolios give most students a sense of real achievement and satisfaction, as well as something to be proud of at home and in future interviews.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your subject leader for Design and Technology is Miss R Smith.

What will I learn in Drama?

- To develop a broad awareness of a variety of performing arts areas - including acting, production and backstage
- To produce, rehearse and perform a large scale production encompassing all areas of study

What areas will I cover?

Three units, including:

- Acting
- Devising theatre (with log book controlled assessment)
- Scripted Plays
- Lighting, Costumes, Backstage opportunities
- In-depth work on acting, performing and devising plays
- Live Theatre visit
- Written exam paper

How will I be assessed?

Students must complete all three units.

Component 1 is an externally marked written paper which is completed at the end of Year 11.
Component 2 consists of a devised practical performance to an audience which is supported by a written log.
Component 3 is performances of a scripted piece.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

GCSE

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

A GCSE in Drama could lead to a career as a Technical Operator or Designer, Stage Manager, Theatre Manager, Publicity/Marketing/Fundraising for the arts, PR, Director, Actor, Theatre in Education Practitioner or Drama Teacher.

Drama also offers transferrable skills such as confidence with public speaking, the ability to work effectively as a team, think creatively, understand commitment and the importance of meeting deadlines, flourishing under pressure and being able to identify strengths and weaknesses and how to develop.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Drama Teachers are Miss E Russell and Mrs A Dyson.

Enterprise and Marketing CNAT



Our Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing gives students the practical skills and applied knowledge they'll need in business. Practical elements build on theoretical knowledge so that students can put their learning into practice while also developing valuable transferable skills.

Students will be encouraged to; understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Enterprise and Marketing including characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, market research, financial viability, the marketing mix and factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise, develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations, think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically, develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the business and enterprise sector.

What will I learn in Enterprise CNAT?

Component 1: Enterprise and marketing concepts

Component 2: Design a business proposal

Component 3: Market and pitch a business proposal

What areas will I cover?

Setting up and running a business enterprise is an exciting challenge which lots of people embark on every day. In this unit you will learn about the key factors to consider and activities that need to happen to operate a successful small start-up business. This unit will provide you with the knowledge and understanding of key enterprise and marketing topics. You will then demonstrate and apply this knowledge and understanding within the activities assessed for units R068 and R069.

In this unit you will learn how market research gives the entrepreneur an insight into the wants and needs of its customers, so that products and services can be developed to satisfy them. It also complements other competing products and services on the market to ensure a financially viable business.

As well as understanding your target market's needs, you will learn how the marketing mix elements must be carefully blended to enhance business performance. You will examine each element individually and explore the decisions that an entrepreneur needs to make. You will learn about the types of ownership for an enterprise and sources of capital available. Running a successful enterprise can be tough, but there is a lot of support available, which you will learn about so that you can understand how to obtain timely and appropriate guidance.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Enterprise and marketing concepts - Exam

Component 2: Design a business proposal – Controlled Coursework

Component 3: Market and pitch a business proposal - Controlled Coursework

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

CNAT OCR

This course could lead onto further studies or vocations in:

Marketing, Business Management, Finance, Human Resources and Apprenticeships in Administration.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Enterprise and Marketing CNAT is Mr P Flanagan.

What will I learn in Art?

Art and Design enables students to be creative, increase their practical skills and improve their analytical, communication and research abilities. The skills they gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around us. It can help students with further study and prepare them for the world of work.

Students will develop ideas through investigations, learning to demonstrate critical understanding of sources. They will develop the skills to refine their work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes. They will learn how to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions as their work progresses. Working in an increasingly independent way, they will present a series of personal and meaningful responses that realise their intentions.

What areas will I cover?

The coursework is project based. Core areas will include:

- Contextual references including artist, movements and trends
- Drawing
- Painting
- Printing
- Collage
- 3D work

These will initially be introduced in a workshop format by your teacher and eventually develop into independent studies based on your strengths and interests.

How will I be assessed?

Art GCSE requires you to produce (over the two years) a personalised portfolio of artwork. This is made up of the following Components:

Component 1 Coursework:

A portfolio of work where the themes are determined by the teacher. This will start in Year 10 and is made up of sketchbooks, development sheets and final pieces. These will be selected, mounted and submitted by the student. 60%

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment:

A portfolio of work that includes a final piece, produced in a 10 hour monitored exam. Preparatory drawings and development work usually presented in a sketchbook. 40%

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Art is a demanding but highly rewarding subject. A lot of the work produced is completed at home. The ability to draw is an integral part of the course and students should be confident and skilled in this area. Students will develop strong independent learning skills that can be applied to other subjects and future learning experiences. Art & Design impacts many careers due to the visualisation element these include: Graphic design, Theatre designer, Animator, Video game designer, Illustrator, Museum curator, Photographer, Architecture, Product design, Ceramics, Advertising, Publishing, Hair and make-up design, Retail design, Exhibition design, Artist, Visual media or Teaching.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Fine Art is Mrs K Parsons

Food Preparation & Nutrition



What will I learn in Food Preparation & Nutrition?

This is a new and exciting opportunity to study food. Students will learn practical skills to make creative and delicious products that are good for the planet too. In addition to skills, students will study fascinating science behind their cooking, explore practical solutions to develop healthy and nutritious meals and learn about where food comes from and its environmental impact.

How will I be assessed?

There are two non-examined assessment tasks worth 50% of the GCSE. A food investigation task (20%) and an exciting practical task (30%) where students will prepare, cook and present their creative menu of 3 products.

There is a written exam which includes a series of multiple-choice questions and 5 longer questions. It is worth 50% of the GCSE.

What exam board and specification will I follow?

AQA Food Preparation & Nutrition (8585)

Is there any additional information about this course that I need to know?

Food Preparation & Nutrition pairs well with other subjects like PE. Achieving a qualification in this course can lead to a variety of career opportunities in the food industry, such as food technology, dietetics and sports nutrition, hotel and catering management, and retailing.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your subject leader for Food Preparation & Nutrition is Miss R Smith.

What will I learn in Geography?

- To learn about people and the environment through a home-based approach encouraging you to provide your own views and opinions
- To explore global sustainability by investigating economic, social and environmental issues that affect all our futures
- To be able to effectively debate; see all sides of an argument and make decisions
- To develop confidence in Geographical, ICT and GCSE skills

What areas will I cover?

For those interested in environmental, physical and human geography this course is motivating, relevant and up-to-date. It will equally be challenging and rewarding. This continuously evolving subject involves us all - it looks at the key global issues and raises awareness of how we behave, relationships between people in different countries and their impact on the environment. The course is taught through 6 key themes:

- Theme 1: Natural Hazards
- Theme 2: Physical Landscapes in the UK
- Theme 3: The Living World
- Theme 4: Urban Issues and Challenges
- Theme 5: The Changing Economic World
- Theme 6: Challenge of Resource Management

Each of these themes will provide the basis of the final exams taken at the end of Year 11.

Students will attend a residential field trip in Year 11 to support their learning for this course.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will take three exams:

Living with the Physical Environment (exam 90 minutes)	35%
Challenges in the Human Environment (exam 90 minutes)	35%
Geographical Skills and Fieldwork (exam 90 minutes)	30%

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

GCSE A (2016)

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Geography is a highly desirable subject for employers and is very flexible. Many geographers have successful careers in Economics, Environment, Advertising, Geology, Marketing, Sales, Business, Law and many more.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Geography is Mr M Broad.

What will I learn in History?

- To investigate key events and ideas from history
- To use and evaluate sources
- To identify how events and changes have multiple causes that are complex and interconnected

What areas will I cover?

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (1H10/10-12)

- Medicine through time, C1250-present.
- The British sector of the Western Front, 1940-18: injuries, treatments and the trenches.

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (1H10/20-290)

- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 ((26/27).
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 (B4).

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (1H10/30-33)

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

How will I be assessed?

There are three written exams.

Paper 1: 1 hour and 15 minutes exam **30%**

Paper 2: 1 hour and 45 minutes **40%**

Paper 3: 1 hours and 20 minutes **30%**

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in History

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

A History GCSE shows employers, colleges and universities that you have good analytical skills and can work hard. History can prepare you for a career in Law, Politics, Business or anything that requires the ability to analyse information and discuss ideas.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for History is Mr G Loftus.

What will I learn in Media Studies?

GCSE qualification (9-1)

The qualification will enable students to:

- Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision making and analysis
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of important media issues
- Develop appreciation and critical understanding of the media and their role, both historically and currently in society, culture and politics.

What areas will I cover:

Section A will focus on Television and Promoting Media. Questions in this section will test the following forms:

- Contemporary and historic television products
- Advertising and marketing
- Media forms of film
- Video games

Section B will focus on Music and The News. Questions in this section will test the following forms:

- Magazines
- Radio
- Music Video
- Online, social and participatory media

There is a non-exam assessment in the course which will be on creating media and for this students will create media products through applying knowledge and understanding of media language and media representations to express and communicate meaning to an intended audience.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Television and Promoting Media

Written exam : 1 hour 45 minutes - 70 marks - 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Music and News

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes - 70 marks - 35% of GCSE

Non Exam Assessment: Creating Media

30 marks - 30% of GCSE

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

OCR

This course could lead onto further studies in:

Advertising, Broadcast journalism, Editorial assistant, Event management, Film direction, Information officer, Magazine journalism or Market research.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Media Studies is Mrs T Yelland.

What will I learn in Music?

- How to compose music on a range of software.
- How to perform as a soloist as well as an ensemble.
- How to analyse music using key terminology.

What areas will I cover?

- Composition Techniques.
- Varying musical genres such as Jazz, Pop, Rock, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Bhangra, EDM, Musical Theatre and Film Music.
- Performance Techniques.
- Analytical skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of 3 components.

Performance (30%):

- A minimum of two pieces, lasting a total of 4-6 minutes.
- One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute.
- Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly.
- You can use any instrument or voice.

Composition (30%):

You have to write two pieces:

- One in response to a set brief – there are 4 to choose from each year.
- One free composition – ANY style you want to write in.

Appraising (40%) :

Listening examination:

- **AoS 1** Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work*)
- **AoS 2** Music for Ensemble
- **AoS 3** Film Music
- **AoS 4** Popular Music (including a set work)

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

WJEC Eduqas GCSE in MUSIC.

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Music is useful for any job that involves communication and expressive skills. It is also a good preparation for further musical study and solid foundation for sixth form opportunities in Music and Music Technology. Future jobs might include careers in the Music Industry, Publishing, Entertainment and Teaching. Creativity and initiative are necessary skills in all jobs and careers. Achieving a qualification in music, as in any other creative subject, provides you with a well rounded education that demonstrates a set of transferable skills that can be used in a variety of different careers. Universities and employers want to see that you have interests and hobbies and music can be a skill used for the whole of your life.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Music is Miss F Whitbread.

What will I learn in Philosophy and Ethics?

- To develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of Christianity and Islam
- To understand the effect of Christianity and Islam on life and society
- To evaluate different points of view, including your own, using evidence and religious argument to support your point of view

What areas will I cover?

The impact of religion in world affairs and on people's lives with specific references to Christianity and Islam

How will I be assessed?

Two 1 hour 45 minutes exams

Paper 1: Religion and Ethics through Christianity

Christian Beliefs
Marriage and the Family
Living the Christian Life
Matters of life and Death

Paper 2: Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam

Muslim Beliefs
Crime and Punishment
Living the Muslim Life
Peace and Conflict

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

Edexcel

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

This course could open up a career in the Police, as a Social worker, Journalist, in Medicine, as a Lawyer, Teacher or Youth worker

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Philosophy and Ethics is Mrs A Timpson.

Physical Education GCSE



What will I learn in GCSE PE?

The course has been designed to allow learners to study Physical Education (PE) in an academic setting, allowing you to critically analyse and evaluate physical performance and apply your experience of practical activities in developing your knowledge and understanding of the subject. The course will create confident, independent thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or as part of a team – all skills that will enable you to stand out and effectively promote yourself as you progress through life.

What areas will I cover?

GCSE (9–1) specifications in Physical Education will equip you with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being. This will require you to:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- Develop your ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into three sections:

- Two 1 hour written exam papers worth 60% of total mark
Papers consists of a mixture of objective response and multiple-choice questions, short answers and extended response items.
- Practical Performance worth 30% of total mark
Students choose three activities, including at least one 'team' and at least one 'individual' sport from the approved activity lists, all performed in competitive situations.
- NEA coursework worth 10% of total mark
The NEA will consist of a written task that must be produced under controlled conditions.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

OCR GCSE (9-1) in Physical Education (J587)

Is there any additional information about this course that I need to know?

The GCSE PE course provides a strong base for progression to Further Education, whether it is on to Level 3 Cambridge Technicals or A Levels or to apprenticeship or work.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your subject leader for the GCSE PE course is Mr J Chappell.

What will I learn in Sociology?

Sociology will encourage students to explore the world around them. Looking at systems in place that lead to social hierarchy and exploitation of groups within society that benefit the few. Students will look at a range of institutions used to govern society and learn to argue the very existence of these using genuine research findings to support their views.

There are 2 components to the course:

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

- Key concepts and process of cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Research Methods

Component 2: Understanding social structures

- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied methods of sociological enquiry

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 1 hr 45 mins

Understanding social process

- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Sociological research methods

Paper 2: 1 hr 45 mins

Understanding Social structure

- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied methods of sociological enquiry

This is a linear course with students sitting both exams in the summer of Year 11. These papers will consist of a mixture of short answer and essay style responses required in both papers.

What progression is there after this course?

A Level Sociology is offered in the 6th Form at Ridgeway Academy and alongside other A Level or Level 3 equivalent qualifications is a route into university.

Careers that stem from Sociology are varied and can include working in sectors such as; Politics, Councillors, Teaching, Social Work and Law based careers.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA Syllabus

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Social Science is Miss T Hennah.

What will I learn in Spanish?

- Students will learn to communicate effectively in Spanish, using the four skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening and within the boundaries of 1200 words for Foundation and 1,700 words for Higher.
- To develop a broad awareness of the country, its people, customs and culture.

What areas will I cover?

Students study the following topic areas:

- My personal world = family, friends, relationships, equality
- Lifestyle and wellbeing = physical and mental well-being, food and drink, sports
- My neighbourhood = places in town, shopping, transport, the natural world, environmental issues
- Media and technology = social media and gaming, music, TV and film
- Studying and my future = future opportunities (e.g. work, travel, school)
- Travel and tourism = accommodation, tourist attractions

How will I be assessed?

Speaking exam	25%
Listening exam	25%
Reading and translation exam	25%
Written and translation exam	25%

Speaking – Students have to read out a short passage in Spanish, describe a photo and answer 2 compulsory questions on the photo, there is then a short conversation about the theme in the photo e.g. sport and a role play.

Listening – Students listen to Spanish speakers and demonstrate their understanding by either writing in English what they understand or ticking the correct response in a multiple choice type activity. There is also a short dictation - students write down in Spanish what they hear on the recording. All recordings are played 3 times, and the speed at which the speaker speaks is slower than a natural speed.

Reading - Students respond to multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions based on texts. All questions are set in English and students produce all responses in English.

Writing - Students are assessed on their ability to communicate effectively in writing.

Foundation Tier • Question 1: Students write sentences describing a photo • Question 2 & 3 students write a short essay based on the topics we have studied in class • Question 4: translation into Spanish

Higher Tier • Question 1 & 2: Students write 2 essays in Spanish based on the topics we have been studying in class • Question 3: translation into Spanish.

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

The Spanish GCSE has had some significant adaptations made in order to make the exam more accessible to students. A significant change has been a reduction in the number of words that the students have to learn and all the words used in the exam come from this list of 1,200 words for foundation and 1,700 for higher. Students will already have learnt a significant number of these words at KS3. The list of words will be given to students in Year 9 so that they can start learning them. In the listening exam the extracts will be played 3 times for the students and the speaker will speak no faster than a 'moderate pace'. Currently the listening extracts are played only twice and the speed is at near normal speaking speed.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

Edexcel (1SP1)

Who should I speak to for further information?

The Subject Leader for Modern Foreign Languages is Ms M Lewin.

What will I learn in Textiles?

Textiles Art enables students to be creative, increase their practical skills and improve their analytical, communication and research abilities. The skills they gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Textiles Art is a way of responding to the textiles and fashion world. It can help students with further study in the field and prepare them for the creative industries.

Students will develop ideas through investigations, learning to demonstrate critical understanding of sources. They will develop the skills to refine their work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with thread and fabric. Experimenting with traditional and contemporary textiles techniques. They will learn how to record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions as their work progresses. Working in an increasingly independent way, they will present a series of personal and meaningful responses that realise their intentions in a functional or artistic way.

What areas will I cover?

The coursework is project based. Core areas will include:

- Contextual references including textiles artists/designers, movements and trends.
- Hand sewing
- Machine stitching
- Weaving
- Drawing with fabric and thread
- Adapting or constructing garments

These will initially be introduced in a workshop format by your teacher and eventually develop into independent studies based on your strengths and interests.

How will I be assessed?

Textile Art GCSE requires you to produce (over the two years) a personalised portfolio of artwork. This is made up of:

Component 1 Coursework:

A portfolio of work where the themes are determined by the teacher. This will start in Year 10 and is made up of sketchbooks, developmental samples and final pieces. These will be selected, mounted and submitted by the student. 60%

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment:

A portfolio of work that includes a final piece, produced in a 10 hour monitored exam. Preparatory drawings and fabric development work usually presented in a sketchbook. 40%

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

AQA

Is there any additional information about this course I need to know?

Textile Art is a demanding but highly rewarding subject. A lot of the work produced is completed at home. The ability to draw is an integral part of the course and students should be confident and skilled in this area. Textile Art & Design impacts many careers due to the visualisation element these include: Fashion design, Theatre designer, Museum curator, Fashion Photographer, Product design, Textiles design, Interior design, Fashion and media journalism, Hair and make-up design, Retail design, Jewellery design, Textiles Artist or Teaching.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Textile Art is Miss R Smith.

What will I learn in Health and Social Care CNAT?

Around 3 million people work in the health and social care sectors in the UK currently. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and social workers, to name just a few. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid employment in the UK.

Demand for both health and social care is likely to rise, so these sectors will continue to play a key role in UK society and the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase.

What areas will I cover?

There are 3 topics included to the course:

R032 - Principals of Care in Health and Social Care Settings

You will learn the importance of the rights of service users, person-centered values and how to apply them. You will also learn about the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for service users in health and social care settings and the procedures and measures used to protect individuals such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

R033 - Supporting Individuals Through Life Events

Learners will investigate using life like scenarios, how human development is affected by a range of factors and why people cope differently with life events.

R035 - Health Promotion Campaigns

You will have the opportunity to explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing and the importance of this to society. You will understand the factors affecting a healthy lifestyle so that campaigns can be designed to target different groups of people. You will also learn how to plan and deliver your own small-scale health promotion campaign and how to evaluate your planning and delivery.

How will I be assessed?

R033 and R035 are assessed through internal assessment.

Internal assessment is through assignments. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

R032 is assessed through examination in Year 11.

This course could lead onto:

This course could lead to the study of Level 3 Health and Social Care at our sixth form, which alongside other Level 3 or A Level qualifications creates a route into University, or Level 3 apprenticeships in a range of health and social care careers.

What examination board and syllabus will I follow?

OCR Cambridge National is the awarding body.

Who should I speak to for further information?

Your Subject Leader for Health and Social Care CNAT is Miss T Hennah.