



# **Y8 OPTIONS GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS**

**KS4 from SEPTEMBER 2024**



Dear Y8 Students,

Our school aims say clearly that we expect “all young people to learn and to achieve success”. We know that all of our students are capable of being successful and we will do everything possible to support you in your efforts. After Key Stage 3 a number of different things contribute toward your success, and choosing the right subjects and courses is one of them. This is why we have a flexible KS4 Curriculum which will allow you to have opportunities to choose the subjects and courses that will suit your individual needs, interests, talents and abilities.

This booklet is designed to help you make choices that suit you, that will interest you and that ultimately will lead to your success.

This is an important and exciting time for Y8 students. You have the opportunity to take up interesting and challenging subjects, which will begin to inform your career and educational choices at 16+ and 18+. Make the most of these opportunities by choosing carefully and wisely; check out the advice from Sheffield Futures in the back of this booklet and ask your teachers if you require more information or help in coming to a decision.

High Storrs offers a wide range of very successful subjects in Key Stage 4 and your teachers are fully committed to helping you make the most of your abilities and interests. You can succeed.

Claire Tasker  
Headteacher

## Timeline

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Options lessons
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Subject taster presentations for students in lessons
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March 6-7pm	Options Information for Parents in the Hall
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 4.30-7pm	Y8 Online Parents’ evening
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Link to online options form emailed to parents
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March – Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Individual guidance where needed
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Deadline for submitting options online</b>

## The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Although there are some preparatory courses and some opportunities for enrichment, most of the KS4 curriculum is made up of courses that lead to specific qualifications. You may be aware that national qualifications use a number-based grading structure, that aligns with old letter grades which some parents may be more familiar with. The rough equivalence between the grading systems is shown below:

Current Number GCSE Grades	Old Letter GCSE Grades	Vocational Course Grades
9	A*	D2*
8		L2 Distinction*
7	A	D2 L2 Distinction
6	B	M2
5		L2 Merit
4	C	P2 L2 Pass
3	D	D1 L1 Distinction
2	E	M1
	F	L1 Merit
1	G	P1 L1 Pass

### Re-sits

Please note High Storrs' policy is that courses cannot be taken more than once and we do not offer opportunities to re-sit examinations

## KS4 CURRICULUM:

### CORE

Within the KS4 years of Y9 – Y11 all students will study the compulsory core curriculum including English, Maths, Science, PSHCEE, PE, RPE & ICT as follows:

- 4 periods a week of **English** in each year leading to 2 GCSEs for almost all students.
- 4 periods a week of **Maths** in years 9 and 10 and 3 periods a week of Maths in Y11, leading to 1 GCSE for all students.
- 4, 5 and 6 periods a week of **Science** in year 9, 10 and 11 respectively, leading to 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics OR Trilogy Science which is equivalent to 2 GCSEs and includes elements of all three sciences.
- 1 period a week of non-examined **ICT** during Y9.
- 1 period a week of non-examined **RPE** during Y9.
- 1 period a week of non-examined **PSHCEE** in each year. This includes elements of RPE in Y10 and Y11.
- 2 periods a week of non-examined **PE** in Y9 and 1 period a week in Y10 and Y11.

There are different pathways within English, Maths and Science, but these will be decided by the subject teams and these do not need to be considered as part of the Options process.

There is more detail in the pages that follow for all of the core and options courses.

**EXAMPLE OPTIONS BLOCKS FORM 2024-2027**

Name:

Form:

Tick one course in each of the Options blocks A - F. You cannot select the same course in more than one block.

In Blocks C and D place an R against one additional course as a reserve option.

Also add one R as a reserve course in Block E or F that is different from your first choices in either of these blocks.

<b>A Y9-11 Humanities Block</b> 2, 3, 2 hours a week in Y9, 10 & 11	
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Geography
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE History

It is possible to switch between History and Geography in Block A after Y9, if the alternative pre course has been taken in Block B.

If you wish to choose both, choose Geography in block A and History in blocks B & E or F.

<b>B Y9 Pre Course Block</b> 2 hours a week	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Computer Science <sup>2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geography
<input type="checkbox"/>	History
<input type="checkbox"/>	Music <sup>2</sup>

The choice in block B must be different from the choice in block A.

Only choose Comp Sci or Music, if you meet the entry requirements and are considering choosing these subjects in Blocks E or F.

<b>C Y9 Enrichment Block</b> 1 hour a week	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Art
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business & Enterprise
<input type="checkbox"/>	Classics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative Writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Design & Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drama
<input type="checkbox"/>	Film Making
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food
<input type="checkbox"/>	Music
<input type="checkbox"/>	Photography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	STEM

<b>D Y9-11 Languages Block</b> 3, 2, 3 hours a week in Y9, 10 & 11	
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE French <sup>2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE German
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Latin
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Spanish
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Art*
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Business Studies*
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE D&T*
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Food*
<input type="checkbox"/>	ASDAN*

\* These courses have only 2 hours a week allocated in Y9, the remaining hour is allocated for literacy support.

<b>E Y10 Option Block</b> 5 hours a week	
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Art
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Business Studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Computer Science <sup>1+2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE D&T
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Dance
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Drama
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Film Studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Food
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE History <sup>1</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Music <sup>1+2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE RE
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Sociology
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1/2 Creative iMedia
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1/2 Sport

<sup>2</sup> Check entry requirements!

<sup>1</sup> These courses require a pre course to have been taken in Y9 block B before they can be selected in Block E or F.  
However, there are exceptions for Music  
- see the Options Guidance booklet for details.

**Parent/Carer's Consent:**

I agree with my child studying the courses indicated here in the first instance, pending yearly reviews. I understand that the options are draft until confirmed by the school, that reserve courses may be included and that the courses may be swapped between blocks E & F to aid timetabling if needed.

<b>F Y11 Option Block</b> 5 hours a week	
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Art
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Astronomy <sup>2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Business Studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Classics
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Computer Science <sup>1+2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE D&T
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Dance
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Drama
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Film Studies
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Food
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE History <sup>1</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Psychology <sup>2</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE RE
<input type="checkbox"/>	GCSE Sociology
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1/2 Creative iMedia
<input type="checkbox"/>	L1/2 Sport

## OPTIONS

Students will need to consider and choose one course from each of 6 Options blocks. You cannot choose exactly the same course in two different blocks and you **MAY NOT RE-SIT ANY COURSE OR EXAM.**

**Block A:** In this block students need to choose either GCSE **Geography** or GCSE **History**. The time allocated for this block is 2 hours a week in Y9, 3 hours a week in Y10 and 2 hours a week in Y11. The GCSE exams are taken at the end of Y11. It is possible to switch between History and Geography in Block A after Y9, if the alternative pre course has been taken in Block B. It is also possible to choose both Geography AND History by choosing Geography in Block A and History in blocks B and E or F.

**Block B:** This is the pre course block. These courses run for 2 hours a week in Y9 and have been designed as an introductory step up to more challenging GCSE courses that are available in blocks E & F. It is possible to take one of these courses without choosing the subsequent GCSE to keep alternative pathways open for future review. Most students will choose Pre History or Pre Geography (whichever has not been chosen in block A), keeping open the possibility of changing their Block A option later. The Pre courses in this block for History and Geography are identical to the 2 Y9 hours a week in block A. If a student wishes to take GCSE Computer Science or GCSE History in block E or F, they **MUST** choose the corresponding Pre course in this block. Students wishing to take GCSE Music in Block E *may* need to take Pre Music in this block, depending on their existing musical abilities and experience. See the detailed Music guidance in the pages that follow and check with the Music teachers that know you to be clear about this. If you intend to choose Pre Music, you will need to be proficient in singing, or playing a musical instrument. If you intend to choose Pre Computer Science, you need strong reasoning and number skills – ideally you need to be in the top third of the performance range for Maths at High Storrs.

**Block C:** This is the Y9 Enrichment course block. You will choose a non-examined subject to study for 1 hour a week in Y9 only. You can choose subjects here just for the love of learning, or as a stepping stone to a GCSE course in the same subject later, or as a taster to help you make your final decision about a future GCSE option, or to add variety – you could choose something you enjoy, but can't fit in as a full GCSE later. You will also need to select a reserve course in this block (see why below).

**Block D:** In this block, most students must choose a **language** GCSE. The time allocated to a GCSE language is 3 hours a week in Y9, 2 hours a week in Y10 and 3 hours a week in Y11. The GCSE exams are taken at the end of Y11. It will be clear from your individual options form if you **MUST** choose a language because no other options will be available for you in this block.

However, there are alternatives available for some students if there are specific factors that indicate languages may be especially challenging for them. For the other options within the languages block, the time allocation is different. These courses have 2 hours a week allocated in Y9, 2 hours a week in Y10 and 3 hours a week in Y11. The extra hour remaining in Y9 is allocated for support in either literacy, EAL or dyslexia strategies as needed.

No student is excluded from studying a language if they wish to.

If you have been told you **MUST** choose a language, but you feel you have a very good reason why you shouldn't, you and your parents need to discuss this with Mrs Vaughan as soon as possible and before considering the rest of your options.

You will also need to select a reserve course in this block (see why below).

**Block E:** This is a full GCSE (or alternative) course block where you will have 5 hours a week in the chosen subject throughout Y10 and complete the course in one year, taking the exam at the end of Y10. You will be able to give significant attention to preparing for the exams in this subject since it will be the only course you are focusing on completing at the end of Y10. This also means there will be fewer exams to prepare for at the end of Y11.

**Block F:** This is a full GCSE (or alternative) course block where you will have 5 hours a week in the chosen subject throughout Y11 and complete the course in one year, taking the exam at the end of Y11.

In most cases, you will be in a class with a mixture of Y10 & Y11 students for your E & F Block subjects. It does not matter which year you choose the subject in, it will be the same course. **The order of your choices may be changed by the school at any point** in order to balance class sizes and ensure as many students as possible get to study their first choice of subjects.

You will need to choose one reserve course in either block E or F as well as one main choice from each (see why below). The reserve choice must be a third choice, different to both the subjects chosen as priority in E and F Blocks.

### **WHY CHOOSE RESERVE OPTIONS?**

We hope that we will be able to provide the subjects that you choose, but sometimes this is not possible. For example, we will only be able to run options that have viable numbers so we may have to withdraw some options if not enough people show interest in them. If we cannot provide a subject you want, we will replace it with your reserve choice. If there are any further issues we will talk to you about them, explore the alternatives with you and give you the opportunity to discuss them with your parents.

### **FORBIDDEN COMBINATIONS**

There are some combinations of subjects that are not allowed because the courses cover similar content and would not represent a broad and balanced curriculum. You may not take both:

- L1/2 Creative iMedia AND GCSE Film Studies
- L1/2 Creative iMedia AND GCSE Computer Science

There are also some restrictions on taking Enrichment courses alongside similar D Block Options. Check the notes on the course pages for further detail.

### **REVIEWING OPTIONS**

In January of Y9, after a term of studying your Y9 courses you will be given the opportunity to review what you have chosen for Y10 and Y11. At this point, you may decide to swap your Block A option, or your Block E or Block F options. You will be given another opportunity to review your Block F option in January of Y10.

- You cannot switch to a course that requires a Pre course that you haven't studied in Y9.
- You cannot change your Block D option once your initial options are confirmed.
- You cannot change any course mid-year after it has already begun.
- You cannot change an option to a course you have already taken.

### **KS4 CLASS GROUPS**

Please be aware that when you move into Y9 you will be in new classes for all of your subjects and the groups you are in are likely to be different for each subject too. Choosing the same subject as a friend does not guarantee you will be in the same class as them, so don't use this as a deciding factor. Choose the subjects that are right for you. You will soon make new friends, as well as maintaining the existing ones!

## MAKING YOUR CHOICES

In order to make a decision about whether to study a subject, you need to be very clear about what is involved, e.g. some subjects may be new to you, so you cannot know what they are like. You can read a description of each course in the pages at the back of this booklet and these people will also be pleased to advise you:

- Older students in your form who have already studied or are currently studying the subject.
- Subject Specialist teachers, especially those who already know you.
- PSHCEE teachers for links to careers education.
- Careers advisor
- Head of House
- Mrs Lambert (SEND/CO)
- Mr O'Connor (Assistant Head – Inclusion)
- Mrs Vaughan (Deputy Head – Curriculum)

### Points to consider when you are deciding:

- What is the content of the subject? What will I learn, what will I know and be able to do by the end of the course?
- Does the course have an entry requirement? Do I meet it?
- How is the subject taught? In small groups? In the classroom? Will I have to read a lot of books? Will I have to write many essays? Will I need to do practical experiments? Will I need to make things? Will the subject involve me working closely with other people in the class? Will I be expected to find things out for myself? Will the subject involve trips out of school (field trips, projects, etc.)?
- How is the subject examined?
- What skills are needed to be successful in the subject?
- Which subjects am I good at and enjoy most?
- Which subjects do I like or dislike?
- What advice have my subject teachers given me?
- Which subjects do I need for any career I am considering?

### In making your decision:

- Choose courses which suit you.
- Choose subjects you are interested in.
- Make the most of your abilities.
- Think about your future pathways and try to keep all options open.
- Choose a balanced set of courses which will allow you a wide choice of careers.
- Ask for advice from a member of staff if you are not sure about anything to do with your choices - we are here to help you!

### A note about Cambridge National Vocational Courses (CNATs)

These courses are vocational courses that result in qualifications equivalent in value and challenge to GCSEs. They cover the full L1/2 grade range (See the table on page 2) and count in exactly the same way as GCSEs when applying for the next stages in education and employment. They are suitable for all learners.



## AND FINALLY.....

Make sure you have read the course descriptions carefully and selected courses that are definitely right for you (make a special check of any entry requirements you need to meet). When you think you have decided the courses you want to take, indicate them clearly on your individual options form for your own record:

- Choose ONE course in each block and put a small, clear tick in the box in front of it.
- Choose reserve courses in Blocks C and D and one reserve from Block E or F (a 3<sup>rd</sup> subject, different from first choices in E and F). Indicate this with a small clear 'R' in the box in front of the course chosen.
- Now you will need submit your choices. Your parent/carer must submit them **online** for you by following the **link emailed** to them on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- The online form must be submitted by **20<sup>th</sup> March** at the very latest, to ensure your options are processed and your choices can be met.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS




In the pages that follow you will find a description of each course included on the options form:

Page	Course	Page	Course
	<b>HUMANITIES (BLOCK A)</b>		<b>OTHER COURSES (BLOCK D, E &amp; F)</b>
9	GCSE Geography	23	ASDAN
10	GCSE History	24	GCSE Art
	<b>ENRICHMENT (BLOCK C)</b>	25	GCSE Astronomy
11	Enrichment Art	26	GCSE Business Studies
11	Enrichment Business & Enterprise	27	GCSE Computer Science
12	Enrichment Classics	28	L1/2 Creative iMedia
13	Enrichment Creative Writing	29	GCSE Classical Civilisation
13	Enrichment Dance	30	GCSE Design & Technology
14	Enrichment Design	31	GCSE Dance
14	Enrichment Food	32	GCSE Drama
15	Enrichment Drama	33	GCSE Film Studies
15	Enrichment Photography	34	GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
16	Enrichment Practical Film Making	35	GCSE Music
16	Enrichment Music	36	GCSE Psychology
17	Enrichment Physical Activity	37	GCSE RE
17	Enrichment STEM	38	GCSE Sociology
	<b>LANGUAGES (BLOCK D)</b>	39	L1/2 Sport
19	GCSE French		
20	GCSE German		
21	GCSE Latin		
22	GCSE Spanish		
<b>CORE COURSES</b>			
40	GCSE English	43	PSHCEE
41	GCSE Maths	44	CORE PE
42	GCSE Science	45	CORE IT
		45	CORE RPE

## GCSE Geography

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Geography <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE 9 – 1 Grades.
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	ALL STUDENTS must study either History or Geography in Block A
<b>Notes:</b>	<b>Fieldwork is a compulsory element of GCSE Geography.</b>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p><b>Geographical topics studied will include:</b></p> <p><b><u>The Challenge of Natural Hazards:</u></b> You will look at the causes and effects of different natural hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis.</p> <p><b><u>Physical Landscapes in the UK:</u></b> You will learn about the coastal and river processes that have made the UK landscape so unique.</p> <p><b><u>The Living World:</u></b> This section will focus on different ecosystems such as tropical rainforests and hot deserts.</p> <p><b><u>Urban Issues and Challenges:</u></b> You will explore the pressures faced by urban growth and change, and what can be done to manage our urban areas in a sustainable way.</p> <p><b><u>The Changing Economic World:</u></b> Apparently the richest 1% of the population has more wealth than everyone else put together. You will discover why this is – and why it matters.</p> <p><b><u>The Challenge of Resource Management:</u></b> We only have 2 years of coal left – so what's next for our energy supply? Nuclear power? Wind power? Or something else entirely?</p> <p><b><u>Fieldwork:</u></b> Fieldwork is an essential part of the course. You will develop a wide range of fieldwork skills over the year. This is a fantastic opportunity to get out of the classroom and start to see the world as a Geographer.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>This course will continue to build on the skills you've already started to develop in Geography. Skills include map and numerical skills, interpretation, evaluation and analysis, problem solving and decision making, communication skills such as debating and more.</p> <p>Geography requires an understanding of the world and the systems that operate in it. To support your learning you should keep an eye on the news and watch documentaries on relevant topics. Take an interest in local, national and global issues.</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	3 exams with a range of multiple-choice, short answer and extended prose questions.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level Geography, and a whole range of careers in journalism, tourism, urban planning, cartography, conservation, charity work, architecture, engineering, finance, and many other sectors!
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	A Level Geography can be taken without having done GCSE Geography but it is not advised.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Miss Remeikis or any Geography teacher.

## GCSE History

<b>Exam board information:</b>	Edexcel GCSE History <a href="http://www.edexcel.co.uk">www.edexcel.co.uk</a> GCSE 9 – 1 Grades
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	ALL STUDENTS must study either History or Geography in Block A
<b>What you will learn on this course :</b>      	<p><b>Year 9: Holocaust &amp; Slavery to the Civil Rights Movement:</b> You will cover modules with the theme of society and rights running through them. Although not part of the GCSE paper you will practice important historical skills needed to succeed at GCSE.</p> <p><b>GCSE Paper 1. Historic Environment: The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18:</b> You will explore the trenches of WWI and the injuries caused by this type of warfare. You will also learn about the medical innovations and treatments.</p> <p><b>Year 10 GCSE Paper 1: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present:</b> You will study: the Black Death and the Great Plague of 1665, the development of anaesthetics, fighting cholera in London, the formation of the NHS. You will learn about key individuals like Louis Pasteur, Florence Nightingale, Marie Curie and Dr John Snow.</p> <p><b>Paper 2. Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88:</b> Looking at the challenges faced by the 'Virgin Queen': religious extremism, revolts, plots and attempted invasion by Spain. You will also explore the nature of this 'Golden Age' through study of education, leisure, theatre and the early colonisation of the Americas.'</p> <p><b>Paper 2. Spain and the 'New World', c1490–c1555:</b> You will learn about Spain's expansion into the Americas. Columbus, the Conquistadors, destruction of the Aztec and Inca Empires. This course fits naturally with, Early Elizabethan England.</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Paper 2. 'Super Power Relations and the Cold War', c1941-91:</b> Looking at the takeover of Eastern Europe by the Soviet Union after WWII, and the deterioration in the relationship between Communism in the East and American democracy in the West. You will be thinking about how tensions rose but how total nuclear war was avoided.</p> <p><b>Paper 3. Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39:</b> You will study the chaos of Germany in 1918 and the challenges it faced trying to establish a democracy amidst the ruins of defeat. You will assess how Hitler and the Nazi Party were able to gain power and explore what life was like in the Terror State.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	This course will hone the skills you've already started to develop in History. You will become skilled at creating great explanations, analysing sources, evaluating interpretations of the past and building strong, well-substantiated arguments.
<b>Assessment:</b>	3 exams with a range of short and extended answers and questions on historical sources and interpretations
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level History and a wide range of careers including law, journalism, archaeology, work in tourism, museums and the heritage industry, accountancy, business, finance and education to name just a few! Just as importantly, GCSE History will also equip you with the skills to take your place in the world as an informed and questioning young adult. You'll never watch the news in the same way again!
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	A Level History can be taken without having done GCSE History but it is not advised.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mrs Smith or any History teacher.


## Enrichment Art

<b>Notes:</b>	Students will be asked to buy at least one sketchbook. Total cost up to £2.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	The Enrichment Art Course enables and encourages students to work in a variety of media developing their skills in a wide range of artistic styles. The course exposes students to a broad selection of techniques and subject matter. Students will work independently developing research skills and awareness of Art and Design within a global context which will help them realise their ideas and create their outcomes.
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	Most students starting the course will have been taught various art skills already such as painting, drawing, and 3D work, textiles and print making and researching. This course gives you the opportunity to continue developing these skills in order to produce designs and objects based on an artistic brief.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any of the Art teachers.

## Enrichment Business & Enterprise

<b>Notes:</b>	<b>You cannot take Enrichment Business &amp; Enterprise If you are taking GCSE Business in Block D</b>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	This programme offers students the opportunity to experience enterprise. From learning about team work and success, to making financial decisions and advertising.
<b>The skills that will be required on this course</b>	You will need a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business and its application to the everyday world, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	This enrichment course is interesting and valuable in its own right, but may lead you to consider taking GCSE in Business Studies.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Harrison, Mrs Bradley, or Mr Hurst


## Enrichment Classics

<b>Notes:</b>	You will need to have enjoyed the Y7 Classics course and be interested in studying the ancient world as a wider topic.
<p><b>What you will learn on this course:</b></p> 	<p>This enrichment course will build on the work you did in Y7 by giving you the opportunity to explore and appreciate further the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome. There will also be an opportunity to research a mythology from a different culture. The course will require you to develop your research skills.</p> <p><u>Topic 1: Minoan Crete</u> – Minoan civilisation on Crete is the earliest of the Greek periods of history. You will study the most famous myths associated with Crete, including the story of the Minotaur, find out what sort of people the Minoans were, study the world famous palace at Knossos, have a go at writing Minoan style and discover the tragic story of the destruction of Minoan culture by a massive volcanic eruption.</p> <p><u>Topic 2: Individual Research Project</u> – You will work on your own to research a topic from Classical Greece and produce a project on your chosen topic. Popular choices are the ancient Olympic Games, theatre, Sparta, the Persian Wars, Alexander the Great, the lives of women, clothes and fashion, art and architecture and Greek achievements in science, maths and philosophy.</p> <p><u>Topic 3: The Romans</u> – You will study the early legend of Rome's foundation by Romulus and Remus then move on to look at aspects of Roman life including houses, food and dinner parties and entertainment.</p> <p><u>Topic 4: Paired Research Project</u> – You will work with a partner of your choice to research a Roman topic and produce a project on your chosen topic. Popular choices include the baths, gladiators and chariot racing, the destruction of Pompeii, Julius Caesar, slavery, the army and civil engineering.</p> <p><u>Topic 5: Celtic Britain and the Roman Invasion</u> – You will study what life was like in Britain before the Roman invasion, the invasion itself, including Boudicca's revolt, and how the Romans changed Britain forever.</p> <p><u>Topic 6: Group Research Project</u> – You will work in a small group to produce a project chosen from a very broad list. Topics include any ancient mythology other than Greek or Roman, a mythological creature such as dragons, an historical figure from ancient times or an ancient culture other than Greek and Roman.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-management</li> <li>• Team working</li> <li>• Reflective learning</li> <li>• Creative thinking</li> <li>• Effective participation</li> <li>• Independent enquiry</li> </ul>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	GCSE Classical Civilisation and/or A Level Classical Civilisation.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Miss Johnson or Miss Allen.

## Enrichment Creative Writing

<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>Enrichment Creative Writing will provide multiple opportunities for you to write creatively in a variety of different forms, including: poetry, short stories, screenplays, monologues, autobiography...</p> <p>You will learn how to structure narratives, as well as employ a range of linguistic techniques that will enhance the impact of your piece.</p> <p>It also allows time to plan and draft pieces, to build worlds, and to write with the freedom of not having to hit specific criteria.</p> <p>Honing your skills will be beneficial not only within English but across all of your academic subjects, as effective communication is vital to success in every subject area.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>A love of language and an interest in reading for pleasure would be desirable, if not crucial.</p> <p>A willingness to respond to constructive feedback, and a willingness to provide thoughtful feedback to others will also be needed.</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<p>The Enrichment Creative Writing course would feed into the creative work that takes place in normal English lessons, increasing the likelihood of success.</p> <p>The skills developed in this course are also useful in many careers, including journalism and screenwriting.</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	<p>Mrs Henocq</p>

## Enrichment Dance

<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>Enrichment Dance develops physical, technical and expressive skills through creating, performing and appreciating dance through professional repertoire and choreographers, this not only builds your physicality and dance technique but also focuses on confidence and artistry of each individual. This is an essential preparation for GCSE Dance.</p> <p>The course also develops students' knowledge and understanding through a variety of choreographic concepts and develops the learner to explore choreography through which they are able to communicate ideas and themes to draw meaning and inspiration through a range of stimuli. This is explored through a range of different dance styles such as; Contemporary, Jazz, Street Dance &amp; Hip Hop, Physical Theatre, Neo-Classical, Social and National Dance.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>An interest and enthusiasm for Dance.</p> <p>Ability to work creatively as part of a group or as an individual.</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<p>The Enrichment Dance course is appealing and valuable in its own right, but could also lead to interest in GCSE Dance and/or a career in performance</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	<p>Ms Marsh or Ms Palmer</p>


## Enrichment Design

<b>Notes:</b>	<p><b>You cannot take Enrichment Design if you are taking GCSE D&amp;T in Block D</b></p> <p>We would highly recommend that if you are intending to study GCSE Design &amp; Technology in Block E or Block F that you take this enrichment course, we would especially recommend this course for those students not studying the GCSE until Y11.</p> <p>The course is also suitable for those who enjoy designing and making through project work. There is a minimal cost for materials used throughout the course.</p>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills that will prepare you for GCSE</li> <li>• Design &amp; manufacturing skills</li> <li>• Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing processes.</li> <li>• Sketching and Modelling skills</li> </ul>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You need an interest in working on practical making projects and learning about drawing and modelling skills along with CAD/CAM.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Vickers, Mr Haigh, Ms Parkin, Mr Hall


## Enrichment Food

<b>Notes:</b>	<p><b>You cannot take Enrichment Food if you are taking GCSE Food in Block D</b></p> <p>We would highly recommend that if you are intending to study GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition that you take this enrichment course, we would especially recommend this course for those students not studying the GCSE until Y11.</p> <p>The course is also suitable for those who enjoy learning about the food they eat, where it comes from, how to prepare dishes and understand the science behind Food Nutrition.</p>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills that will prepare you for GCSE</li> <li>• Technical Food Preparation skills</li> <li>• How Food and Science are linked</li> <li>• Understanding of Nutrition</li> </ul>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You need an interest in learning about Food Science, Nutrition, Learning about food preparation skills
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Ms Connnett or Ms Bates

## Enrichment Drama


<p><b>What you will learn on this course:</b></p> 	<p>Students will study and apply a variety of drama skills including; Performance, Improvisation, working from a script, devising and design.</p> <p>In this ever-changing world the skills needed to communicate, problem solve, think creatively and show empathy are more vital than ever.</p> <p>This course provides a great foundation to the GCSE in Drama but also serves to equip students with the confidence, insight and adaptability to thrive in an abundance of future pathways and the world of work.</p>
<p><b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b></p>	<p>An interest in Drama and performance is important. Enthusiasm, commitment, co-operation, focus and a willingness to experiment with different styles of performance and/or design. An ability to reflect on your own progress will also be very helpful.</p>
<p><b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b></p>	<p>Mrs Broughton or Mrs Hoey</p>

## Enrichment Photography

<p><b>Notes:</b></p>	<p>Students will need access to a camera for these lessons (EG camera on their smartphone and or a point and click camera)</p>
<p><b>What you will learn on this course:</b></p> 	<p>Enrichment Photography will give students the opportunity to explore aspects of practical image taking/making through a series of projects. Students will be introduced to a number of photographic principles to work with and use in the creation of their images.</p> <p>The use of software and digital manipulation will be part of the course, introducing students to a number of editing techniques.</p> <p>The course will allow students to explore, experiment and expand upon their photography skills and how they can use their devices to greater effect outside of the classroom.</p>
<p><b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b></p>	<p>Students need to have an interest in photography and image making. No prior knowledge is necessary to undertake the course.</p>
<p><b>What this course can lead to:</b></p>	<p>This enrichment course will allow students to access GCSE Art and would also be a good foundation for GCSE Film Studies</p>
<p><b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b></p>	<p>Mr Parker.</p>



## Enrichment Practical Film Making

<b>Notes:</b>	You will need to have a real passion for film, and film making.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b> 	<p>All aspects of the film making process.</p> <p>1 <u>Planning</u>: you will learn the best ways to plan your projects. Audio visual plans, storyboards and scripts will all be examined and tried. You will also learn about location scouting and casting performers.</p> <p>2 <u>Production</u>: you will learn techniques for effective filming, using a variety of different cameras ranging from handheld up to broadcast quality, sound recording, and basic lighting and set design.</p> <p>3 <u>Post - Production</u>: how best to edit your movies, use basic special effects and where to get your films seen by people.</p> <p>This course will be taught by Mr Hughes with inputs from outside speakers and industry professionals. You will learn through a series of short films that you will plan and produce!</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	The ability to follow instructions carefully, work as part of a team and be creative.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	This course can lead onto practical media courses such as BTEC at college or A level film studies in sixth form. You may even look to study film making or TV production at degree level, or you may just want to do it for fun. Many famous movie directors began their careers by undertaking these kinds of activity.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Hughes.

## Enrichment Music

<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	This course gives students opportunity to develop their skills in practical music making. Students will perform solo and in a band on their instrument as well as recording using the school recording studio and composing using music software. The course will build towards creating a CD of their work over the year and will give students the practical skills to continue making, recording and performing their music.
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>Students will need to have a basic level of ability on a musical instrument. It will help students to have a basic knowledge of notation and keyboard skills, but it is not essential.</p> <p>Students should have an interest in performing music with others, recording their performances and composing their own music.</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<p>This course can lead onto performing arts courses such as music and drama, as well as giving you the recording skills that would be relevant to media, film and sound technology courses.</p> <p>It will also give you more experience of performing with others, as well as giving you the skills to record your own music at home.</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Howell or Miss Brooks.

## Enrichment Physical Activity

<b>Notes:</b>	<p>This course gives you even more practical PE time!</p> <p>You will develop your practical skills alongside your coaching and leadership in a range of activities. This course is for students who love physical activity, and want to do more than just Core PE. You should already show commitment and demonstrate a positive attitude to learning in your KS3 PE lessons. This is a mixed gender lesson. You <b>ARE</b> expected to take part in practical PE lessons and therefore, you will need correct black High Storrs PE kit for <b>EVERY</b> lesson.</p>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>You will cover a range of sports and activities over the year such as: Football, Basketball, Badminton, Fitness, Tennis, Rounders and Cricket. The aim is to further develop your practical skills, building on what has been learnt in core PE. You may be expected to take more ownership of your learning in terms of planning and leading activities and improving your personal fitness. This is a good option if you are thinking of taking an examined PE course to strengthen your practical skills as well as your knowledge and understanding of various sports.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>An interest and enthusiasm for Sport and Physical Activity.          Ability to work cooperatively as part of a team or with focus as an individual.          You will need to demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and tactics in a range of sports. You will need to demonstrate leadership and communication skills with a variety of groups.</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	<p>Any PE teacher.</p>

## Enrichment STEM

<b>Notes:</b>	<p><b>You cannot take Enrichment STEM if you are taking GCSE D&amp;T in Block D</b></p>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. There will be an emphasis on designing and making, developing ideas, scientific experiments and mathematical challenges to create prototypes throughout four exciting pieces of project work.</p> <p>This course will combine your love for Design and Technology, Science and Maths. Developing on all the skills you have learnt in KS3, to show the connections between the different subjects, how they link together and are used in industry.</p> <p>Choosing STEM would be a great choice if you wish to continue your studies in Design and Technology in Y10/11 and will boost your skills in both Maths and Science. This would be a great addition for those wanting to pursue careers in product design, engineering and more</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>You will need an interest in designing and developing ideas both individually and in a group. Making projects that involve problem solving and high-level thinking using maths and science.</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	<p>Mr Haigh.</p>


**OTHER COURSES FOLLOW...**

## GCSE French

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE French <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE grades 9 - 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	You need to have studied French in Y7 & Y8.	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>This is a new GCSE course and you will be the second group of students to take the exams. All the assessments will test your knowledge of a set list of words, so it will be easier to revise, as you know what could be examined. In Y9, you will continue to deepen your knowledge of grammar and develop your vocabulary. Then in Y10 and Y11 you will study the GCSE course which has three themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People and lifestyle</li> <li>• Popular culture</li> <li>• Communication and the world around us</li> </ul> <p>You will find out about the French speaking world, alongside developing your spoken and written language.</p>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>The four skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening are equally assessed at the end of Y11, so are therefore regularly practised in class. You need to be able to communicate your ideas clearly. You need to learn how to memorise vocabulary effectively. You need to use dictionaries and verb tables to produce accurate French.</p>	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Final Examination:</b> 75% of total mark, 1 Reading exam, 1 Listening exam, 1 Writing exam.	<b>Non-Exam Assessment:</b> Speaking test: 25% of total mark.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level French.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to have achieved a grade 5 at GCSE French to take A Level French.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any French teacher: Ms Young, Mr Legallais, Ms Graham-Yooll, Mrs Eglinton, Mr Mills or Mrs Gibbs	



## GCSE German

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE German <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 - 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	None.	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>This is a new GCSE course and you will be the second group of students to take the exams. All the assessments will test your knowledge of a set list of words, so it will be easier to revise, as you know what could be examined. In Y9, you will start to learn German, moving quickly through the textbooks to discover the grammar and vocabulary of the language. Then in Y10 and Y11 you will study the GCSE course which has three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People and lifestyle</li> <li>• Popular culture</li> <li>• Communication and the world around us</li> </ul> <p>You will find out about the German speaking world, alongside developing your spoken and written language.</p>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>The four skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening are equally assessed at the end of Y11, so are therefore regularly practised in class. You need to be able to communicate your ideas clearly. You need to learn how to memorise vocabulary effectively. You need to use dictionaries and verb tables to produce accurate German.</p>	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Final Examination:</b> 75% of total mark, 1 Reading exam, 1 Listening exam, 1 Writing exam.	<b>Non-Exam Assessment:</b> Speaking test: 25% of total mark.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level German. Please note A Level German is rarely offered by sixth form providers and has not run at High Storrs in recent years.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to have studied GCSE German to take A Level German.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Ms Young or Mrs Eglinton.	

## GCSE Latin

<b>Exam board information:</b>	WJEC GCSE Latin <a href="http://www.wjec.co.uk">www.wjec.co.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	You need to have shown aptitude during the Latin taster section of the KS3 Classics course
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p><b>Language:</b> This course is based around the Cambridge Latin Course books 1 to 5. You will develop your ability to translate from Latin into English and to answer comprehension questions, in English, on Latin passages. You will do a small amount of work on English to Latin translation.</p> <p><b>Literature:</b> You will read some of the stories and poems the Romans wrote and answer literary style questions, in English. The literature is also accompanied by a prescribed selection of source material (e.g. paintings, mosaics, sculptures, buildings and graffiti) and you will be asked to analyse and respond to these sources, making connections between literary and archaeological evidence from the Roman world.</p> <p><b>Roman Culture:</b> This part of the course is entirely in English. You will have to analyse and respond to ancient source material (e.g. paintings, mosaics, sculptures, buildings, graffiti) on different aspects of Roman everyday life.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course</b>	<p>You will need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be a good linguist: you will probably be in a high set for French.</li> <li>• To be able to think logically and problem solve.</li> <li>• To be able to learn grammar rules and then to apply them.</li> <li>• To be able to learn and remember vocabulary.</li> <li>• To enjoy reading.</li> </ul> <p><b>STUDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THEY WILL NEVER BE EXAMINED IN SPEAKING AND LISTENING IN LATIN.</b></p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p><b>Examination:</b></p> <p>3 Exams</p> <p>50% Latin Language</p> <p>30% Latin Literature (open book assessment)</p> <p>20% Roman Culture</p>
<b>What this course can lead to.</b>	<p>A Level Latin, A Level Classics, Degrees in Classics, Ancient History, Latin, Greek or Oriental Languages.</p> <p>High Storrs is pleased and proud to be the only state school in Sheffield where A level Latin can be studied (if enough students choose it).</p>
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to have studied GCSE Latin to take A level Latin.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Miss Johnson or Miss Allen.

## GCSE Spanish


<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Spanish <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 - 1	
<b>Entry Requirements:</b>	None	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>This is a new GCSE course and you will be the second group of students to take the exams. All the assessments will test your knowledge of a set list of words, so it will be easier to revise, as you know what could be examined. In Y9, you will start to learn Spanish, moving quickly through the textbooks to discover the grammar and vocabulary of the language. Then in Y10 and Y11 you will study the GCSE course which has three themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People and lifestyle</li> <li>• Popular culture</li> <li>• Communication and the world around us</li> </ul> <p>You will find out about the Spanish speaking world, alongside developing your spoken and written language.</p>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>The four skills of Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening are assessed, so are therefore regularly practised in class.</p> <p>You need to be able to communicate your ideas clearly.</p> <p>You need to learn how to memorise vocabulary and passages effectively.</p> <p>You need to use dictionaries and verb tables to help produce accurate work.</p>	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Final Examination:</b> 75% of total mark, 1 Reading exam, 1 Listening exam, 1 Writing exam.	<b>Non-Exam Assessment:</b> Speaking test: 25% of total mark.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level Spanish.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to achieve a grade 5 at GCSE Spanish to take A Level Spanish.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Ms Graham-Yooll or Mrs Gibbs	

## ASDAN

<b>Exam board information:</b>	ASDAN Personal and Social Development – Entry Level <a href="http://www.asdan.org.uk">www.asdan.org.uk</a>
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	This course is for invited students only
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>You will work towards an award and certificate demonstrating you have the ability to become:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a confident individual who is physically, emotionally and socially healthy</li> <li>• a responsible citizen who makes a positive contribution to society and embraces change</li> </ul> <p>This is done through work around money management, environmental awareness, healthy living and developing employability skills</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	A willingness to be personally reflective, share thoughts and listen to others and have a go at a variety of activities.
<b>Assessment:</b>	On-going coursework
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Further awards and certificates from the ASDAN programme of study
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a requirement for any A-level courses.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mrs Lambert, Mr O'Connor or Miss Harrison






## GCSE Art

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Fine Art (3690) <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.	
<b>Notes:</b>	You need an enthusiasm for the subject interest in visual culture. Students will be required to buy up to two sketchbooks. Maximum cost is £18.	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	You will develop your skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculptural work and many other creative pursuits. You will be required to use photography within your projects and access to a camera is necessary. Researching into artist's work is also an element of the course and therefore, you will learn about a wide variety of Art and Design styles and genres that you enjoy from classical art imagery to contemporary art and design. Practical work is emphasised throughout the course and you will get many opportunities to produce images and objects in a variety of media of your choice. You will be amazed at what you can achieve in the time dedicated to art each week.	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>  	Most students starting this course will have been learning different creative skills and this course enables students to continue to develop those skills in more depth. Students interested in Art GCSE should take every opportunity to practice their artistic skills and techniques prior to starting the course. Students should aim to use Art in a variety of settings including taking the enrichment course if possible. As the GCSE course progresses students will be able to make choices about the areas of work they wish to focus upon. It is important that students are willing to work hard and continue to practise and develop their creative skills, be open to ideas and influences and have an interest in the broad context of Art and Design.	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Practical Examination:</b> 40% of total mark.	<b>Coursework:</b> 60% of total mark; one main project and sketchbook work.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level Fine Art or a vocational Art course in college.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to have successfully completed GCSE Art to take A Level Art.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any of the Art teachers	


## GCSE Astronomy

<b>Exam board information:</b>	Edexcel GCSE Astronomy (1ASO) <a href="http://www.edexcel.co.uk">www.edexcel.co.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	Strong ability in Science and Maths
<b>Notes</b>	This course will only run if there is sufficient demand.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	Most people are fascinated by the night sky and are interested in stories about our continuing exploration of our Solar System and Universe. This course has been developed to build on that interest and to give an introduction to the subject of astronomy. The course will enable students to understand our position in the Universe, the movements of planets and stars, the cycles in the night and daytime sky, and the way in which we use technology to observe and interact with space. Students will follow an incredible story of how scientists, from ancient civilisations to the modern day, have used their imagination and carefully recorded visual measurement to explore the Universe in which we live.
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	Curiosity in what makes up the Universe, how celestial systems work and how we are able to use technology alongside key Physics and Maths ideas to discover more about the Universe and our place in it. This course will also require students to make connections across the school curriculum. Astronomy will enable students to develop their mathematical and scientific skills, as well as their ability to analyse data and communicate observational finding and their importance. Students will be required to complete a minimum of two observational projects during the course.
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination: 2 Exams</b> Paper 1 – Naked-eye Astronomy - 50% of grade (1hr 45 mins) Paper 2 – Telescopic Astronomy - 50% of grade (1hr 45 mins)
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This course supports some A-level Physics content.</li> <li>• Careers in Astronomy, Physics, General Sciences, Engineering and Computer Science.</li> </ul>
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a requirement for any A-level courses.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Miss Armitage


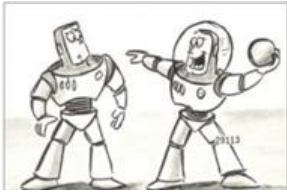
## GCSE Business Studies

<b>Exam board information:</b> 	Edexcel GCSE Business Studies <a href="http://www.edexcel.co.uk">www.edexcel.co.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.
<b>Notes</b>	<b>If you chose this course in Block D, you cannot also choose Enrichment Business and Enterprise.</b>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b> 	<p>Throughout Theme 1 you will learn how to spot a business opportunity and put a business idea into practice. You will explore the risks and rewards of setting up your own business. You will discover how to make a start-up business successful by carrying out market research and using technology to promote a start-up business online.</p> <p>In Theme 2 you will build an understanding of the finance, marketing and human resources operations within a business and how a business grows and develops on a national and global scale. This includes looking in to globalisation and trade, business ethics and marketing internationally.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course</b>	You will need a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business and its application to the everyday world, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Examination: 2 Exams</b> Theme 1 – Investigating Small Business 50% of grade (1hr 30 mins) Theme 2 – Building a Business 50% of grade (1hr 30 mins)
<b>What this course can lead to.</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS/A2 Economics and Business.</li> <li>• This GCSE is a good foundation of knowledge for most other AS/A2 subjects as it covers some areas of Geography, History, Accounts, Law, Marketing and Human Resources.</li> <li>• Work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a compulsory entry requirement for any sixth form Business/ Economics course.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Harrison, Mrs Bradley, or Mr Hurst


## GCSE Computer Science

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Computer Science (8525) <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You need strong mathematical ability to take Pre and GCSE Computer Science – ideally the top third to half of the ability range in KS3 Maths.</li> <li>You must have taken Pre GCSE Computer Science in Y9.</li> </ul>
<b>Notes:</b>	<b>You cannot take both L1/2 Creative iMedia AND GCSE Computer Science.</b>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An understanding of current and emerging technologies, how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts.</li> <li>Acquire and apply knowledge and an understanding and use of algorithms in computer programmes to solve problems using programming.</li> <li>To become independent and discerning users of ICT, to be able to make informed decisions about use of ICT, and be aware of the implications of different technologies.</li> <li>Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT in a range of contexts.</li> <li>Develop the skills to work collaboratively.</li> </ul>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	Problem solving, developing algorithm, designing suitable input and output formats, identifying suitable variables, structures and SQL.
<b>Assessment:</b>	<p><b>Examinations (all written assessments):</b></p> <p>Paper 1 (50%): Computational Thinking and programming skills 2 hour written exam</p> <p>Paper 2 (50%): Computing concepts 1 hour 45 minutes written exam</p> <p>Practical programming skills are assessed within the written content of the examinations and programming skills/techniques are taught throughout the course.</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A level Computer Science.
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	<p>This course is not an entry requirement for A Level Computer Science, but it is recommended.</p> <p>Students need to have attained at least a grade 6 in GCSE Computer Science and GCSE Maths to progress to A Level Computer Science.</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	<p>Mr Davies</p> 


## L1/2 Creative iMedia

<b>Exam board information:</b>	OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia J834 <a href="http://www.ocr.org">www.ocr.org</a> Grades D2* - P1 - Equivalent to 1 GCSE grades 9 - 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.	
<b>Notes:</b>	<b>You CANNOT take L1/2 Creative iMedia as well as GCSE Computer Science OR GCSE Film Studies</b>	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>This qualification is aimed at learners interested in working in the creative and digital media sectors. It provides them with the core skills for scoping, planning and creating products and assets for the sector and encourages creativity and originality with a vocational focus.</p> <p>The course is media sector focused, including film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and have IT at their heart. It provides knowledge in a number of key areas in this field, from pre-production skills to digital animation. The course has a 'hands-on' approach to learning.</p> <p><b>Course Units:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry (Exam based - 70 marks)</li> <li>• R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (NEA Coursework - 50 marks)</li> <li>• R096: Animation with audio (NEA Coursework - 70 marks)</li> </ul>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You must have competent written communication skills and good time management. You need to be able to plan a project and creatively use ICT applications to construct media products.	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 40% of total mark, 1 exam.	<b>Centre Assessed Units:</b> 60% of total mark, 2 units.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	BTEC Level 3 ICT/Creative Media related courses.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not an entry requirement for A Level Computer Science. However, students need to have attained at least M2 in Creative iMedia if they have taken it and grade 6 in GCSE Maths to progress to A Level Computer Science.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Davies or Mr Hurst  	

## GCSE Classical Civilisation


<b>Exam board information:</b>	OCR GCSE Classical Civilisation J199 <a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk">www.ocr.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.
<b>Notes:</b>	You need to have enjoyed the Year 7 Classics course and to have done reasonably well in the various tests you did. <b>YOU <u>DO NOT</u> NEED ANY FOREIGN LANGUAGES.</b>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>For both the exam topics you will learn how to answer exam comprehensions and longer, essay style questions effectively. The topics for study are <b>likely</b> to be as follows and represent a broad and balanced look at Greek and Roman civilisation from earliest times down to the classical period.</p> <p><u>Topic 1: The Homeric World</u></p> <p>You will study Homer's 'Odyssey'. This famous story from Greek mythology concerns the adventures of the hero Odysseus on his journey home from the Trojan War. He meets gods and goddesses, fierce tribes of warriors and man-eating monsters as he tries to return to his beloved wife, Penelope. Selected chapters are studied and students will be expected to understand the plot, the characters and their relationships, and the role of the gods.</p> <p>Also an in-depth study of the time period in which Homer's poems were set i.e. Mycenaean Civilisation. The Mycenaeans were an early Greek people living in the Bronze Age. The Trojan War took place towards the end of this period of civilisation. Our knowledge of the Mycenaeans comes from archaeological remains and you will study their citadels and palaces, their tombs and burials, their armour, weapons and methods of fighting, their system of writing and their decorative arts including frescoes, pottery, jewellery and sculpture.</p> <p><u>Topic 2: Women In The Ancient World</u></p> <p>An in-depth study of the position of women in both ancient Greece and ancient Rome. You will use literary, archaeological and artistic material to learn about Greek mythological figures such as Helen, Medea and the Amazons together with famous women from early Roman legend. You will consider the upbringing and education of girls, making comparisons between Athens, the military state of Sparta and Rome. You will discover how few political rights women had in comparison with men but also how important women were in religious life. You will consider male attitudes towards women and think about virtuous women in comparison with those who were considered unacceptable or even dangerous.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You will need a lively imagination, an ability to communicate both orally and in writing and an interest in the ancient world. You will need to be able to work collaboratively with other students and on an individual basis.
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 2 exams.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level Classical Civilisation, University degrees in Classical Civilisation, Ancient History, Classical Archaeology and other related courses.
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You do not need to have studied this course in order to do A Level Classical Civilisation.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Miss Johnson or Miss Allen

## GCSE Design & Technology

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Design and Technology 8552 <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.	
<b>Notes:</b>  	<p>The new GCSE for Design &amp; Technology has a core focus of iterative design i.e. going through the design process more than once during a project to solve problems and find solutions. This is to give students a more realistic approach to designing, developing and manufacturing products.</p> <p>Coursework has a strong focus on the “journey” that students embark on. Giving them opportunities to investigate a design problem and thoroughly develop a solution which may or may not include a fully finished final prototype. Student will spend time using a range of machines and processes to develop design ideas using materials such as timbers, polymers and metals.</p> <p>You need a keen interest in the design and manufacture process as well as writing up and recording your findings throughout the course.</p> <p>As you may appreciate this is a very expensive course to resource and run and we do ask that students contribute to the cost of materials. This is a one-off cost and allows us to provide state of the art resources and most materials that students require.</p>	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	Design and Technology is a practical subject, which requires the application of knowledge, understanding, planning, producing prototypes and evaluating them. This course will focus upon the design process and the manufacture of prototypes using a variety of manufacturing techniques, ranging from handcraft to computer aided design and manufacture. During this course students will produce a portfolio of work to highlight the skills that they have learnt.	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>The course requires students to be independent, original and creative whilst designing and making 3D prototypes. Students should have a sound understanding of the design process from KS3 and be capable of applying their knowledge and understanding to solve design problems creatively. Students should also be able to present their work and be comfortable in communicating their ideas.</p> <p>To be successful students will also need very good standards of written English and a firm grasp of Mathematics.</p> <p>During the course students will produce a portfolio of work where they will need to write about their thoughts, independent research findings, testing and development work and this element is essential to student’s success on the course.</p>	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 50% of total mark, 1 exam: Core Technical Principles, Specialist Technical Principles, Designing & Making Principles	<b>Coursework:</b> 50% of total mark, 1 piece: The practical application of Core Technical Principles, Specialist Technical Principles, Designing & Making Principles
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level D&T.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	Students wishing to study A Level D&T will need to have successfully completed this course or a similar course.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Haigh, Mr Vickers or Mr Hall	



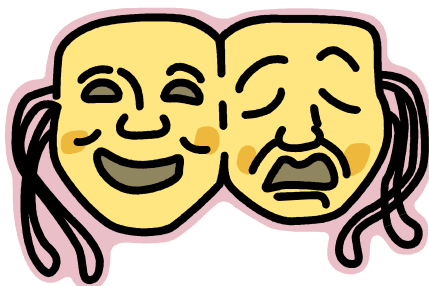
## GCSE Dance

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Dance (8236) <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1							
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.							
<b>Notes:</b>	You need to have an interest in Dance to consider this course. Dance lessons taken outside of school would be an advantage.							
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>GCSE Dance develops physical, technical and expressive skills through creating, performing and appreciating dances.</p> <p>The course also improves students' knowledge and understanding of choreography through which they are able to communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles.</p> <p>During lessons you will prepare for the following practical assessed units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn and perform two set phrases</li><li>• Duet/trio performed in any style of dance</li><li>• Choreograph your own solo/group dance in response to a stimulus</li></ul> <p>You will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, whilst critically appreciating your own work and professional works during theory lessons.</p> <p>The set professional works you will study are:</p> <table><tr><td>Phoenix Dance Company performing Shadows by Christopher Bruce in a contemporary style.</td><td>Boy Blue Entertainment performing Emancipation of Expressionism by Kendrick H2O Sandy in a Hip Hop style.</td></tr><tr><td>The Royal Ballet Company performing Infra by Wayne McGregor in a neo-classical style</td><td>Stopgap Dance Company performing Artificial Things by Lucy Bennett as inclusive dance</td></tr><tr><td>Rambert Dance Company performing A Linha Curva by Itzik Galili in a fusion of samba, capoeira, and contemporary dance.</td><td>James Cousins Company performing Within Her Eyes by James Cousins in a site-specific contemporary dance piece.</td></tr></table>		Phoenix Dance Company performing Shadows by Christopher Bruce in a contemporary style.	Boy Blue Entertainment performing Emancipation of Expressionism by Kendrick H2O Sandy in a Hip Hop style.	The Royal Ballet Company performing Infra by Wayne McGregor in a neo-classical style	Stopgap Dance Company performing Artificial Things by Lucy Bennett as inclusive dance	Rambert Dance Company performing A Linha Curva by Itzik Galili in a fusion of samba, capoeira, and contemporary dance.	James Cousins Company performing Within Her Eyes by James Cousins in a site-specific contemporary dance piece.
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<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge and understanding of performance and choreography</li><li>• Ability to work creatively as part of a group or individual</li><li>• Commitment in attending rehearsals during and after school.</li><li>• Confidence and excellent performing skills.</li></ul>							
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> Dance appreciation - 40% of total marks	<b>Controlled Assessment:</b> Practical - 60% of total marks						
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Following on from GCSE Dance there will be an opportunity to study an A level in Dance. The GCSE Dance qualification is useful in many different career paths relating to performing arts, from professional dance to musical theatre, TV, film, teaching, community dance, theatre production and design or directors and choreographers.							
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	To take A Level Dance you need to have successfully completed GCSE Dance.							
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Ms Marsh							

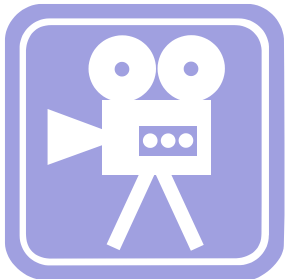


## GCSE Drama



<b>Exam board information:</b>	Edexcel GCSE Drama (1DRO) <a href="http://www.edexcel.co.uk">www.edexcel.co.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.	
<b>Notes:</b>	You need to have shown a keen interest in the subject at KS3 and be committed to making high quality drama. Students will be given as many opportunities as possible to see live theatre throughout the year. There is one <b>compulsory</b> theatre trip as the course requires students to write a review on one live performance.	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	GCSE Drama students will develop performance skills, self-confidence and understanding of how to use drama techniques to explore a chosen theme. Students will acquire strong analysis skills as they evaluate live performance work & learn how to explore a set play text in depth.	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	Enthusiasm, commitment, focus, maturity, excellent communication skills (written & verbal) and a willingness to take risks.	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination (60%):</b> 1 Practical exam – 20% 1 Written exam – 40%	<b>Coursework (40%):</b> A portfolio of written notes and two performances
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Studying Drama could lead to a variety of careers in the Arts, enhance the understanding and enjoyment of all kinds of performance and hopefully create a passion for theatre that students can take forward into their adult life. A good grade in GCSE Drama could lead to A Level Drama and Theatre.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not an entry requirement for A Level Drama and Theatre	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mrs Broughton.	



## GCSE Film Studies

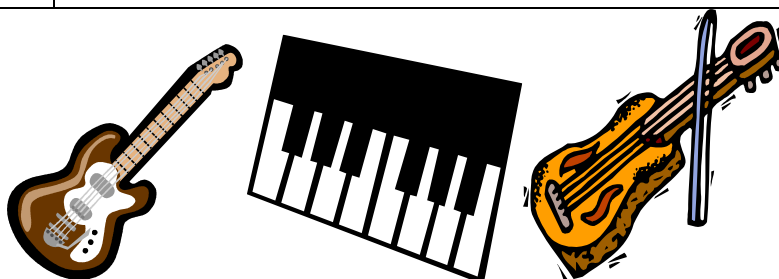
<b>Exam board information:</b>	WJEC GCSE Film Studies <a href="http://www.wjec.co.uk">www.wjec.co.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements	
<b>Notes:</b>	<p><b>You CAN NOT take both GCSE Film Studies AND L1/2 Creative iMedia</b></p> <p>You will need to have a keen interest in Film and priority will be given to any student who is able to produce a portfolio of film-related writing or actual film-making evidence.</p>	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b> 	<p>This is an interesting, challenging and rewarding course which explores the film medium. It will include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of a variety of films both Hollywood-based and from other traditions.</li> <li>• The option of making a short sequence from a film or writing a short screen-play.</li> <li>• Study of the film industry with a focus on audiences and aesthetics</li> <li>• Study of how meaning is created in movies.</li> </ul>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring films within their production contexts.</li> <li>• Creating film</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 70% of total mark, 2 exams.	<b>Controlled assessment:</b> 30% of total mark, 2 pieces.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level Film Studies.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a requirement to take A Level Film Studies.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Hughes	

## GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.	
<b>Notes:</b> 	<p><b>You cannot take both GCSE Food &amp; L1/2 Hospitality &amp; Catering</b></p> <p><b>You must be committed to abiding by health and safety rules and meeting deadlines set.</b></p> <p>All students require the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment for all food supplied and to be able to bring in food products when required.</li> <li>• Suitable containers to carry products home in.</li> <li>• Revision book.</li> </ul>	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b> 	<p>The new and exciting GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification equips students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety.</p> <p>This GCSE is a creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.</p>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>The course requires a strong theoretical knowledge of how food can be prepared and students will also be required to put this into practice through a variety of different practical techniques. It is vital that those wishing to study the course will need to understand the importance of Nutrition.</p> <p>A good level of scientific understanding (in particular Biology) will be needed along with outstanding personal hygiene, excellent organisation and creativity skills will also be required.</p>	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 50% of total marks, 1 exam.	<b>Controlled Assessment (NEA):</b> 50% of total marks, 2 pieces.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Post-16 college courses, degree level food courses and the many opportunities for a career in the food industry.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a requirement to take Post-16 Food courses.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Ms Connett or Ms Bates	

## GCSE Music

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Music 8271 <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	<p><b>You must have the ability to play a musical instrument or sing.</b></p> <p>You also need one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A proven ability in performing, composing and listening skills during KS3.</li> <li>• To have completed the Pre Music course in Y9 (Strongly recommended).</li> <li>• To have a proficiency and knowledge of basic theory.</li> <li>• To be grade 2 or above (or the equivalent ability) on an instrument or singing at the beginning of the course.</li> </ul>	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>Students will learn how to perform, compose, listen and analyse. These will be explored through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studying the Western Classical Tradition and Popular Music of the 20th and 21st centuries</li> <li>• Perform both as a solo and part of an ensemble.</li> <li>• Compose 2 pieces one a free choice and the other to a brief.</li> </ul>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You must have the ability to play a musical instrument or sing to Grade 2 or above (or equivalent) at the start of the course.	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 40% of total marks, Listening Exam 1 hour 30 mins	<b>Controlled Assessment:</b> 60% of total marks, Performance (30%) Composition (30%)
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A Level Music or Music Technology.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not an entry requirement for A Levels in Music or Music Technology, but is highly recommended for A Level Music.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Howell or Miss Brooks	







# GCSE Psychology

<b>Exam board information:</b>	OCR <a href="http://www.ocr.org">www.ocr.org</a> GCSE Psychology GCSE 9 – 1 Grades.
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	Strong KS3 performance in core subjects.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>Psychology is the science of human behaviour and experience</p> <p>You will be looking at famous theories and studies across a range of psychological topics. These will include:</p> <p><b><u>Criminal Psychology:</u></b> We will be looking at different type of crimes. You will be able to explain how people develop criminal personalities and the biological explanations of criminal personality.</p> <p><b><u>Development Psychology:</u></b> This includes how we develop from birth to adulthood. It focuses on the importance of learning and how our thinking patterns develop.</p> <p><b><u>Psychological problems:</u></b> Introduction to mental health issues, in general, with a focus on explaining the psychological and biological causes of schizophrenia and depression.</p> <p><b><u>Social influence:</u></b> This topic looks at why we conform and what happens when we are part of a crowd. It will also help you to understand obedience and why we obey those in authority.</p> <p><b><u>Memory:</u></b> This topic looks at how our memory works, including how we store and retrieve memories. This will give you an insight into how accurate these memories might or might not be!</p> <p><b><u>Sleep and dreaming:</u></b> Ever wondered why we dream or if our dreams ever mean anything? This topic tries to answer these questions and gives an overview of why sleep is so important.</p> <p><b><u>Research methods:</u></b> This is the 'science' bit but will give you a useful insight into how psychology research is conducted in real world (including conducting a few experiments of your own!)</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>This course builds on the skills you developed during KS3, including evaluation and analysis, mathematical skills, problem solving and decision making, communication skills and extended writing skills.</p> <p>You will need to be able to work independently and be willing to read around the subject.</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	<p>2 x 1 hour 30-minute exams.</p> <p>20% of the marks come from research methods</p> <p>10% from mathematical skills</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<p>There is nothing that psychology doesn't relate to in some way. The course provides a good base for A-level psychology. Future career paths often include the mental health field, professional psychology careers such as educational, sports or forensic psychologies and broader areas such as nursing, teaching or advertising.</p>
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	<p>This course is not a requirement for A Level Psychology, but if you have taken GCSE you will need to have been successful (Grade 4 or better) to be considered for A Level.</p> <p>You need a grade 5 or better in English to take A Level Psychology.</p>
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Ms Leigh or Mrs Clark

## GCSE Religious Education

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE Religious Studies A <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.
<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The GCSE course is optional, but ALL students take Core RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) in Y9.</b></li> <li>• Core RPE enables students to acquire necessary knowledge and assessment skills in order to be successful in GCSE RE should they opt to take the course.</li> </ul>
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>Are you interested in what other people believe and why? Do you love discussion and debate? Have you ever wondered if there are answers to big questions like if God really exists? Whether or not there is an afterlife? Do miracles happen? How we should make moral decisions? Why bad things happen to good people? Where do world faiths come from? What makes a family in today's society? Why do wars happen? These questions and many more are all tackled in GCSE RE.</p> <p>The course is split in to two different components;</p> <p><b><u>Component 1 – The study of Religion</u></b> The beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.</p> <p><b><u>Component 2 – Thematic Studies</u></b> Theme A: Relationships and families. Theme B: Religion and life. Theme C: The existence of God and revelation. Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>You will need enthusiasm and an open mind. You will also need to be understanding and to be able to show respect, empathy and tolerance. You will need to be prepared to listen and learn from the viewpoints of others and to be prepared to share and develop your own viewpoint.</p> <p>You will develop skills of critical analysis and evaluation along with skills in expressing and explaining your own opinions. You will also acquire the skills needed to be able to write extended answers both during the course and during the examination.</p>
<b>Assessment:</b>	<p><b>100% examination:</b> Two 1 hour 45 minute exam papers each worth 50% of the overall mark.</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<p>This course is an excellent preparation for any higher-level study as the skills of critical thinking and evaluation are transferrable.</p> <p>It is also an ideal preparation for any career in the caring profession (medicine, nursing, social care, police) or for further study in the area of Religious Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, English or History.</p>
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	<p>This course is not a requirement for A Level RE, but if you have taken GCSE you will need to have been successful (Grade 4 or better) to be considered for A Level.</p> <p>You need a grade 5 or better in English to take A Level RE</p>
<b>Further advice is available from:</b>	Mrs Collins, Mr Wakeman or Mrs White.

## GCSE Sociology

<b>Exam board information:</b>	<p>AQA GCSE Sociology (8192) <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> GCSE Grades 9 – 1</p> 
<p><b>What you will learn on this course:</b></p>   	<p>You will learn to become a sociologist. You will learn about concepts such as identity and culture, and you will understand how our social behaviour is influenced by a number of factors, such as the education system, family and peer groups. You will look in depth at a range of topics, and you will learn how to do social research. You will learn how sociologists study society.</p> <p>The specification contains the following parts:</p> <p><b>Unit 1: The sociology of families and education</b> Functions of families; forms of families: conjugal role relationships; changing relationships within families; criticisms of families; divorce; roles and functions of education; relationship between education and capitalism; educational achievement; processes within schools</p> <p><b>Unit 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification</b> Social construction of crime and deviance; social control; criminal and deviant behaviour; data on crime; functionalist theory of stratification; socio-economic class; life chances; poverty as a social issue; power and authority; power relationships</p> <p>In all areas students also apply sociological research methods, sociological theory and sociological concepts, and learn about processes and issues. Students learn about a range of methods and theory, and consider the research process, including design of research, practical issues and ethical issues.</p>
<p><b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b></p>	<p>You must be prepared to undertake a range of activities, and be prepared to work hard. This is an <u>academic</u> course, and requires you to write essays under time pressure. You need to be able to see more than one point of view on an issue, and to listen respectfully to arguments you may disagree with. You must be able to handle new concepts, and to keep aware of the news and current affairs. You need to be able to organise your work effectively, and keep to deadlines.</p>
<p><b>Assessment:</b></p>	<p><b>Examination:</b> 2 exams (1 ¾ hours each) – 50% each</p>
<p><b>What this course can lead to:</b></p>	<p>A Level Sociology, A Level Politics or other Humanities. Sociology is a good all-rounder for a number of future careers: teaching, police, journalism, law, politics and government, social work, medical professions, etc.</p>
<p><b>Required for a sixth form course?</b></p>	<p>This course is not an entry requirement for A Level Sociology.</p>
<p><b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b></p>	<p>Mr Williamson, Mr Nixon or Ms Eagle</p>

## L1/2 Sport

<b>Exam board information:</b>	OCR <a href="http://www.ocr.org">www.ocr.org</a> L1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science Grades D2* - P1 - Equivalent to 1 GCSE (grades 9 – 1).	
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	No requirements.	
<b>Notes:</b>	<p>You need to have a genuine interest in the theory behind Sport and Exercise and a positive attitude to learning in your core PE lessons.</p> <p>This is a very intense course covering a range of theoretical principles, so you need to be prepared to work hard, both in the classroom and independently. This is an <u>academic</u> course, which requires you to complete extended writing in the coursework and in the exam. It is recommended that you have a good work ethic and sound understanding across your core subjects, especially Science.</p> <p><b>There is NO physical practical assessment to this course and practical sessions are limited. The course focuses on the theoretical principles underpinning sport and exercise.</b></p>	
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>This course offers learners the opportunity to study key areas of sport such as Injuries in Sport, Nutrition, Physical response to exercise and Technology in Sport.</p> <p>Three of the following 4 units will be studied (Teachers choice of 3 or 4):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reducing risk of sports injuries &amp; dealing with common medical conditions</li> <li>2. Applying the principles of training and</li> <li>3. Nutrition and Sports Performance OR</li> <li>4. The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this.</li> </ol>	
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good organisation, an ability to work independently and meet deadlines.</li> <li>• Full engagement and commitment to all lessons.</li> <li>• A positive attitude, genuine interest and openness surrounding sport, exercise, and leisure.</li> </ul>	
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>NEA – 60%:</b> 2 coursework units (2 and 3 or 4 above).	<b>Examination – 40%:</b> One written paper (unit 1 above).
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Employment in sport, exercise and active leisure. Progress to other related general and/or vocational qualifications linked to Sport or healthcare.	
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a requirement for L3 BTEC Sport. It would, however, be advantageous to have studied an examined PE course in KS4 to support your development onto our L3 BTEC Sport course.	
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any PE teacher	







## GCSE English

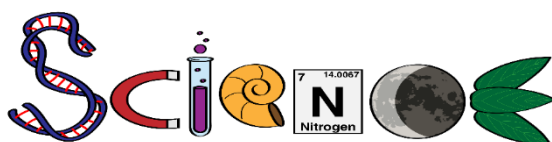
<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a> New GCSE Grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	All students take English GCSEs
<b>Notes:</b>	The English team will allocate students to appropriate ability bandings. Some students take GCSE English Literature at the end of Y10.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>These are interesting, challenging and rewarding courses which explore language and literature of both modern and more traditional forms and genres, as well as developing students' creative writing skills. Each GCSE is broken down into two exams:</p> <p><u>English Language</u> Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing. Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (non-fiction). Both papers are split evenly into reading and writing components</p> <p><u>English Literature</u> Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel. Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry.</p> <p>Speaking and Listening <u>must</u> be assessed to enable students to be entered for the GCSEs. However, the grades will not form part of the total marks for the GCSE.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	<p>The skills developed so far in school will be enhanced further with a focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading critically and retrieving information from both fiction and non-fiction texts.</li> <li>• Analysing and comparing writers' use of linguistic and structural devices and the effects of these on readers.</li> <li>• Analysing, exploring and evaluating how characters, themes and ideas are presented by literary authors.</li> <li>• Making connections between texts and their social, cultural and historical contexts.</li> <li>• Writing creatively for a range of purposes and audiences.</li> <li>• Developing practical, functional literacy skills and mastery of spelling, punctuation and grammar.</li> <li>• Presenting confidently.</li> <li>• Discussing and listening effectively.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> Both English GCSEs are assessed by 100% examination. Students will not be allowed to take their texts into the exams.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Reading and writing critically and creatively are essential skills for all A Levels, degrees and professions.
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to have been successful at GCSE English to take A Level English Language and/or A Level English Literature.
<b>Further advice is available from:</b>	Any English teacher.

## GCSE Mathematics






<b>Exam board information:</b>	Edexcel Mathematics (Linear) Syllabus 1MA1 <a href="http://www.edexcel.co.uk">www.edexcel.co.uk</a> New GCSE grades 9 – 1
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	All students study GCSE Maths
<b>Notes:</b>	There are two possible tiers of entry. We expect over half of the year group to take the Higher tier with access to grades 9 – 4 and the remainder to take Foundation tier with access to grades 5 – 1, but this will be reviewed and adjusted according to the ability profile of the year group. This decision is taken by the Maths team and is always dependent on the progress of individual students, not the group they are in. All students need their own scientific calculator.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>Students study number, algebra, ratio, proportion, rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. Students will be encouraged to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to think and communicate clearly, accurately and logically.</li> <li>• The ability to solve problems.</li> <li>• The ability to apply mathematics in other subjects.</li> <li>• A positive attitude to mathematics, including confidence, enjoyment and perseverance.</li> </ul> <p>A variety of teaching and learning methods are used and students will continue to be grouped according to their pace of work and the level of support needed.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You will need commitment and perseverance to solve mathematical problems.
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examination:</b> 100% of the total marks. 3 equally weighted papers of 80 marks, each one and a half hours long. Paper 1 - Non-Calculator Paper 2 - Calculator Paper 3 - Calculator Tier of entry will be decided by the Maths team.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Many post-16 courses require a particular grade of pass in GCSE Maths.
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	You need to have attained a grade 6 at GCSE Maths to take A Level Maths (but grade 7 is recommended) and a grade 7 take A Level Further Maths (Further Maths means studying 2 A Levels in Maths).
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any Maths teacher.

## GCSE Science

<b>Exam board information:</b>	AQA GCSEs Grades 9 – 1 ( <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse</a> ) Triple Science - three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics <b>OR</b> Combined Science (Trilogy) – 2 GCSEs including elements of all 3 sciences.
<b>Entry requirements:</b>	All students study Science GCSEs. GCSE pathways and Tiers of entry will be decided by the Science team during Year 10, after review of assessment data up to that point.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>  	<p>Students will gain exciting new knowledge and skills from the three specialisms in Science - Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A sample of the content includes:</p> <p><b>Biology:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell Biology</li> <li>• Transport systems</li> <li>• Health, disease and the development of medicines</li> <li>• Photosynthesis</li> </ul> <p><b>Chemistry:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</li> <li>• Structure, bonding and the properties of matter</li> <li>• Chemical changes</li> <li>• Energy changes in Chemistry</li> </ul> <p><b>Physics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Forces and motion</li> <li>• Waves in matter</li> <li>• Space</li> </ul>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	Curiosity about the world around you to explore interesting questions. Participation in practical activities to develop high level problem-solving skills by working scientifically. Enthusiasm and resilience are also key elements for success!
<b>Assessment:</b>	<b>Examinations:</b> 6 exams at the end of Y11, all equally weighted. Two exams each for the Biology, Chemistry and Physics content. Practical skills will be included within written exams. Triple Science exams are each 1 hour and 45 minutes Combined Science (Trilogy) exams are each 1 hour and 15 minutes.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	A range of pathways including apprenticeships, A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, degree courses and beyond. Science is a highly regarded and valuable GCSE for future study and employment.
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	To study Science at A Level, you will need a grade 6 or better in the specific Science you wish to study, or 6-6 in Combined Science. For A Level Physics and Chemistry, you also need a Grade 6 in GCSE Maths. For Biology, you need a Grade 5 in GCSE Maths.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any science teacher



# PSHCEE

<b>Notes:</b>	All students study this course throughout KS4.
<p><b>What you will learn on this course:</b></p>     	<p><u>PSHCEE involves the study of the following areas:</u></p> <p><b>Personal Well Being and RSHE</b> – These units teach all students how to develop a healthy, safe lifestyle, how to identify the characteristics of good health and how to stay physically, emotionally and mentally healthy. Students will also be encouraged to assess and manage risks associated with personal lifestyle and how to develop good relationships with others. The main themes include: Conflict and personal conflict styles/conflict resolution, mental wellbeing, health, choices, impacts and consequences including diet, exercise and lifestyle cancers, relationship and sexual health education as well as covering drug, alcohol and substance abuse.</p> <p><b>Economic Well Being and Financial Capability</b> – These units aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to make the informed financial decisions.</p> <p><b>Online and media</b> – focus on the pros and cons of online activity and the media. Enabling students to question and reflect upon the impact of all types of media/</p> <p><b>Crime and Extremism</b> – This unit aims to develop an understanding of the role of the criminal and civil justice systems with an emphasis on youth crime, human rights and justice. This unit enables students to understand their own rights and the rights of others and also the consequences for their actions.</p> <p><b>Diversity and values and Global community</b> – looks at identity – our links to other parts of the world, life in local and global communities and the role of volunteering within our communities.</p> <p><b>Government, Politics &amp; Democracy</b> – Within these units of work students will explore the ways that the UK is governed and will debate and explore key issues. They look at governance in other parts of the world and bring into question Human rights and pressure groups.</p> <p><b>Careers Education</b> – Exploring different pathways post 16. Students reflect on personal skills and qualities and how this may influence their career choices.</p> <p><b>All units</b> aim to help students develop into informed, well-adjusted young adults who are aware of how to participate and enjoy a healthy adult life, equipped with the skills to take care of themselves and others.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b> – <u>Assessment in PSHCEE is continuous and varied</u> and it will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher observation of student skills</li> <li>• A2L self-assessment of skills and practise</li> <li>• Student self-assessment, peer and teacher assessment (e.g. during role-plays and group work)</li> <li>• Independent Research and Reflection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b></p>	<p>Discussion skills and group work skills.  Able to form and justify personal opinions.  To understand opinions that are different to their own.  To be knowledgeable about the World around them, keeping abreast of current affairs.</p>
<p><b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b></p>	<p>Mrs McManus or Miss Mason</p>

# CORE Physical Education

<b>Entry requirements:</b>	All students participate in Core PE lessons.
<b>Notes:</b>	You will need correct High Storrs black PE kit each lesson.
<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>Over the year, you will cover a range of physical activities both indoors and outdoors. Indoor activities could include; Badminton, Basketball, Fitness, Trampolining, HRF and Table tennis.</p> <p>Outdoor lessons could include Football, Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Outdoor Adventure Activities, Cross Country, Rounders, Tennis, Cricket, and Athletics.</p> <p>You will focus on the mastery of skills and fitness development, as well as tactics, decision making and outwitting opponents in all activities. In year 10 you will look to develop your knowledge and understanding within a game environment and in year 11 you will focus on building a foundation for lifelong participation, with the expectation you are as active as possible within your PE lesson.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	You will need to be organised and fully prepared; bringing the correct PE kit for all lessons. <b>Perseverance</b> and <b>resilience</b> will be needed to improve your skills when tasks get tougher. You will demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports. You will need a positive attitude to help you develop physically, socially and mentally.
<b>Assessment:</b>	<p>There is no formal assessment of Core PE, but activity based assessments by your teacher will take place.</p> <p>It is your physical, social and mental development which is important along with the promotion of lifelong physical activity.</p>
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	<p>A healthy lifestyle and participation in a wide range of Sporting activities outside of school.</p> <p>A Level or Level 3 BTEC in Sport.</p>
<b>Required for a sixth form course?</b>	This course is not a requirement for any post-16 Sport courses.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Any PE teacher



## CORE IT

<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	Students will work toward a High Storrs School certificate of achievement using of ICT based skills applied to a business themed project: Using ICT in a business context, students must develop a solution to a 'real-world' scenario, applying skills learnt using Microsoft Office
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	Students will be expected to learn technical skills in the form of using key features of different software to produce a successful product.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	The course supports learners' ICT vocational career-based use of technology.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mr Davies

## CORE RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics)

<b>What you will learn on this course:</b>	<p>The core RPE Curriculum in Y9 is underpinned by the 3 ways of knowing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first is "substantive" knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions – WHAT DO WE KNOW?</li> <li>• The second type is "ways of knowing", where pupils learn "how to know" about religion and non-religion – HOW DO WE KNOW IT?</li> <li>• The third type is "personal knowledge", where pupils build an "awareness of their own presuppositions and values about what they study" – WHAT DO WE THINK ABOUT IT?</li> </ul> <p>In using these key questions repeatedly, the Y9 RPE curriculum builds on what students have already learnt in Y7 and Y8, allowing the curriculum to be carefully sequenced in order to embed rich knowledge, developed understanding and powerful tools of evaluation that will prepare our students for further study at either GCSE or A level.</p>
<b>The skills that will be required on this course:</b>	An open mind, a willingness to share your own ideas and to learn about the beliefs of others.
<b>What this course can lead to:</b>	Full Course GCSE RE or A Level Philosophy.
<b>Further advice about this course is available from:</b>	Mrs Collins, Mr Wakeman or Mrs White





# Choices at 13+

From Year 9 (sometimes Year 8) you begin to have a say in what you study. If your school follows the National Curriculum, you'll still have to take certain (compulsory) subjects.

 English Science PE Maths  
Business Studies Computing Citizenship

You also have to take Religious education and Sex & relationship education, though you might not sit exams for them. Other subjects, such as a foreign language, may be compulsory too. The choice of subjects can vary so check your own school's options guide. If your school follows the National Curriculum, you may be able to choose at least one from these groups too:

- Humanities (e.g. History, Geography)
- Design & technology
- Modern foreign languages
- The Arts (e.g. Art & design, Dance, Drama, Music)



## Qualifications

Most of your studies will lead to GCSEs, which are graded from 9 to 1. The top grade is 9. You sit exams at the end (usually after 2 years).

Your school may also offer qualifications such as BTEC. These are also called 'vocational' or 'work-related' as they may involve studying an area of work, such as Health and Social Care or Engineering.

Vocational qualifications have different levels. Level 1 is equivalent to GCSE grades 3-1. Level 2 is equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4.

'Equivalent' means the qualifications are at the same level but the teaching and assessment may be different.

### University Technical Colleges (UTC)

UTCs teach work-related qualifications alongside GCSE and A Level. They take students from Y9 or after Y11. Check out Sheffield UTC: [www.utcsheffield.org.uk](http://www.utcsheffield.org.uk)

#### What's the National Curriculum?

A set of subjects drawn up by the government for schools to teach from ages 5- 16. It's not required, but most schools many follow it.

#### EBacc (English Baccalaureate)

A set of GCSE subjects that the government recommend that young people to study.

They are good choices for keeping options open. Subjects are: English language and literature, Maths, Sciences, History or Geography.



## Our top tips!

Pick a **balance** of subjects – this is what you need for most careers.



Pick subjects where you expect to do well – higher grades mean more **choices**.

Choose subjects that **interest** you – you're more likely to do well.

Look into **broad areas** of work ('work sectors') as well as specific jobs.

### Subjects and careers

Studying a subject at school won't train you to do a job but it can help you gain knowledge and skills that you will need when you start work.



#### English and Maths

English and Maths are needed for almost any career so aim for the highest grades possible.



#### STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Work sectors where STEM skills are in demand include everything from health care, engineering and renewable energy to food, fashion technology and sport. You may have a choice between studying Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. If you want to take science A Levels, seek advice about the best route from your school and careers adviser.



#### Modern foreign languages

Many businesses welcome staff who can speak or understand other languages and who are comfortable with different cultures, although they may set other requirements too.



#### Humanities

Humanities subjects, such as History, Geography or RE, develop skills in reasoning and understanding different points of view that are highly valued by employers.



#### Creative and performing arts

Subjects such as Art and Design, Drama or Dance develop creativity, imagination, and technical and communication skills. You need these skills in many kinds of jobs, not only creative careers.



#### Higher education

Most higher education courses expect GCSE grades 9-4 (sometimes 9-5 or 9-6) in English and, in some cases, Maths and sciences. If you apply to a selective university, you may be up against students with grades 9-7 or 9-8. If you're thinking of taking equivalent qualifications, check on [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) if they are accepted.



#### Other websites

[nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)  
[www.informedchoices.ac.uk](http://www.informedchoices.ac.uk)  
[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

