



**HEATHFIELD  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**



# **YEAR 9 CURRICULUM CHOICES**



**2017 - 2019**

# Contents

Page 1	Introduction
Page 2	Making your Choice
Page 3	Grading the New GCSEs in 2019
Page 4	KS4 – Curriculum Routes
Page 5	Routes
Page 6	Some examples
Page 7	Life in Years 10 and 11
Pages 8/9	Year 9 Information from Careers South West
Page 10	Curriculum Choice Subjects
Page 11	English - GCSE
Page 12	Mathematics - GCSE
Page 13	Science - GCSE
Page 14	Art, Craft & Design - GCSE
Page 15	Child Development – (Technical Award)
Page 16	Computing - GCSE
Page 17	Certificate in IT Application Skills (Level 2 ECDL)
Page 18	Dance - GCSE
Page 19	Design and Technology – GCSE
Page 20	Design Technology – Materials Technology (Technical Award)
Page 21	Design Technology – Fashion & Textiles (Technical Award)
Page 22	Food Preparation & Nutrition – GCSE
Page 23	Geography - GCSE
Page 24	History - GCSE
Page 25	Modern Languages - GCSE (French, German, Spanish)
Page 26	Music - GCSE
Page 27	Performing Arts - Drama - BTEC First Award
Page 28	Performing Arts - Musical Theatre - BTEC First Award
Page 29	Physical Education/Sports Science - GCSE
Page 30	Religious Studies - GCSE
Page 31	The Prince's Trust Award / Maths Plus / Guided Study
Page 32	The Choice is Yours!

# Introduction

## Dear Year 9 Students

Over the next few months you will be making some decisions about the courses that you will follow in Years 10 and 11. These decisions will affect your school life and, possibly, future career. Before you make those decisions, you must:

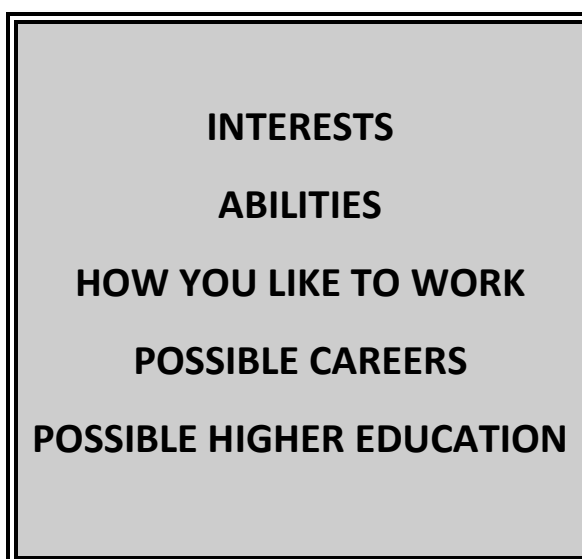
- Read (and make certain that you understand) the information in this booklet.
- In particular, make certain that you understand the subject information and the different routes that you can take.
- Talk to your parents/guardians about the courses and your suitability for them.
- Talk to your teachers about what the courses involve.
- Make an appointment to see the external Careers Advisor from Careers South West. They are available once a week in school. See Mrs Rand should you wish to make an appointment. You are entitled to independent and impartial careers advice.
- Talk to students in Years 10 & 11 about their experience of the courses (but remember that your courses may be quite different).
- **Ask questions** that will help you to make the right decisions.
- Consider all of the courses carefully and ensure that you have made the right decisions for **you**.
- Look at and use the comprehensive Careers section in the Learning Resource Centre.
- Full information to help students look at the future Careers aspects of their choices, and indeed future planning can be found on the Heathfield School VLE. Look here for the full information <http://www.heathfieldschoolvle.co.uk/year-9-options-planning-for-your-future/>
- Look at the Careers section in the Learning Resource Centre and the VLE and <http://www.heathfieldschoolvle.co.uk/career-websites-to-explore/>
- A number of useful websites for general careers information can be found on the VLE covering many popular areas of careers interest such as :  
[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com) & [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) - videos of actual people talking about their career  
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> - official listing of careers information and other advice for people  
[www.futuremorph.org](http://www.futuremorph.org) - information on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Careers  
[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) - The latest news and information on apprenticeships and schemes, including types of apprenticeship, apprentice employers and tips on how to apply for vacancies.

**REMEMBER, IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK!**

**MIKE BETTLES**  
Deputy Head - Curriculum & Assessment

# Making your Choice

In making your choice you should think carefully about your:



- **Interests** - You will tend to do better in a subject that interests you.
- **Abilities** - Look honestly at yourself and assess where your strengths really lie.
- **How you like to work** - Study the routes and the descriptions of the individual subjects carefully to see what best suits your needs.
- **Possible Careers** - Keep doors open - make certain that you use all of the careers information available. Make sure you choose a good balance of subjects.
- **Possible Higher Education** - Again, keep doors open for as long as you can.

## **AND REMEMBER . . . . .**

- do not choose a subject because your friend is choosing it - even close friends have different abilities and interests!
- that teachers change, subjects don't - choose the subject and not the teacher!

## How will my GCSE be graded when I get my results?

All of your results will be graded on a scale of 9 – 1 with 9 as the highest. Please see the table below for a clearer idea of how these numbers will correspond to the current grading system.

Grading the New GCSEs										
NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.</li> <li>Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieve an A and above.</li> <li>The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.</li> </ul>			
A			B	C	D	E	F	G	U	
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										

## KS4 CURRICULUM ROUTES - 2017

KS4 CURRICULUM ROUTES - 2017							
	CORE				OPTIONS		
Route	English (2 GCSEs)	Maths (1 GCSE)	Science (Double) (2 GCSEs)	Arts ♦ (1 GCSE)	1	2	3
<b>Route 1</b> (8 GCSEs)	✓	✓	✓	✓	One from the 'Blue Box' list of subjects	Free Choice One from the 'Green Box' list of subjects	Maths Plus or Guided Study
<b>Route 2</b> (9 GCSEs)	✓	✓	✓	✓	One from the 'Blue Box' list of subjects	Free Choice One from the 'Green Box' list of subjects	Free Choice One from the 'Green Box' list of subjects
<b>Route 3</b> (7 GCSEs)	✓	✓	✓	✓	Free Choice One from the 'Green Box' list of subjects	WRL Prince's Trust Award	
					Anyone choosing Spanish will need to commit to one extra after school session per week.		

♦ = Art, Dance, Music, Performing Arts - Drama, Performing Arts - Musical Theatre

Orange = Arts subjects

Yellow = Supported study

Blue = eBacc

Green = Other accredited course

Pink = Non-accredited course

Free choice subjects = See the list overleaf

## ROUTES : there are three routes that you can follow at KS4 :

### Route 1

- Study for **8** GCSEs.
- Opt for Maths Plus or Guided Study.
- Choose **ONE** subject from the Orange 'Arts' Box subjects.
- Choose **ONE** subject from the Blue Box subjects.
- Choose **ONE** from the Green 'Free Choice' Box subjects.

### Route 2

- Study for **9** GCSEs.
- Choose **ONE** subject from the Orange 'Arts' Box subjects.
- Choose **ONE** subject from the Blue Box subjects.
- Choose **TWO** subjects from the Green 'Free Choice' Box subjects.

### Route 3

- Study for **7** GCSEs.
- Choose **ONE** subject from the Orange 'Arts' Box subjects.
- Choose **ONE** subject from the Green 'Free Choice' Box subjects.
- Have Work Related Learning opportunities.
- Do tasks/assignments leading to the Prince's Trust Award.

SUBJECT CHOICES :	
<b>ORANGE BOX SUBJECTS : 'ARTS'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Craft &amp; Design</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Performing Arts - Drama</li> <li>• Performing Arts - Musical Theatre</li> </ul>

<b>BLUE BOX SUBJECTS :</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computing</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Modern Languages - French</li> <li>• Modern Languages - German</li> <li>• Modern Languages - Spanish *</li> <li>• Triple Science</li> </ul>
--------------------------------	---

<b>GREEN BOX SUBJECTS : 'FREE CHOICE'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art, Craft &amp; Design</li> <li>• Child Development</li> <li>• Computing</li> <li>• Certificate in IT Application Skills</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• Design &amp; Technology GCSE</li> <li>• DT – Materials Technology</li> <li>• DT – Fashion &amp; Textiles</li> <li>• Food Preparation &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Modern Languages - French</li> <li>• Modern Languages - German</li> <li>• Modern Languages - Spanish *</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Performing Arts - Drama</li> <li>• Performing Arts - Musical Theatre</li> <li>• PE / Sports Science</li> <li>• Religious Studies</li> <li>• Triple Science</li> </ul>
---	---

\* Any student opting for Spanish must be prepared to commit to one extra After School session per week.

## Some examples :

Megan has opted for Route 1. Like every other student she knows that she will be studying English Language and English Literature; Maths and Double Science.

She has opted for Art as her Arts subject and for German from the Blue Box. Her Green Box choice was Fashion & Textiles and she has also opted for Maths Plus, which means she will have one extra Maths lesson per week and one Guided Study lesson per week. **In all, she will be taking 8 GCSEs.**

\* \* \* \* \*

Like every other student Omer knows that he will be studying English Language and English Literature; Maths and Double Science. After that he has decided to opt for Route 2 with Music as his Arts choice. Triple Science is his Blue Box choice, whilst from the Green Box he has chosen Performing Arts - Drama and GCSE P.E. **He will be taking a total of 9 GCSEs.**

\* \* \* \* \*

After a lot of thought and discussion Freya has decided to go for Route 3 which means that **she will be taking 7 GCSEs.** In addition to the common core of subjects, Freya has opted for Dance as her Arts subject and Child Development as her other GCSE.

She will then be having a range of practical experiences leading to the Prince's Trust Award.



## Life in Years 10 and 11

At Heathfield we are convinced that your studies must be balanced by a whole range of other opportunities and challenges. This means that we will support you in achieving academic success but we will also ensure that you develop the personal qualities and skills so important in modern adult life.

The opportunities and challenges include the following:

- Learning Mentor to a Year 7 or 8 student
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Ten Tors
- Work Experience in Year 10
- Prefect Duties in Year 11
- International Links Projects
- Foreign Trips and Exchanges
- Enterprise Days
- Media Days
- Representing the school in a wide range of sports events
- Fieldwork
- Practical Work in Art, Dance, Drama, Music and Technology
- Working with primary school children (for example, as a Junior Sports Leader)

We are proud of what we offer and it is always a pleasure for us to see students develop in maturity and confidence as a result of seizing some of these opportunities. It's up to you to take advantage of what's on offer!

## **Year 9 Information from Careers South West**

### **Your Future - Helping you Plan - Options available Post 16**

#### **Raising the Participation Age (RPA)**

Young people who leave Year 11 in the Summer or later must continue in learning (education or training) until at least their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Staying in learning doesn't mean you have to stay in school; there are a number of options you can choose :

- Full-time education e.g. at a college or sixth form;
- An apprenticeship or traineeship;
- Part-time education, but must be alongside employment, self-employment or volunteering that is for 20 hours or more per week.

#### **Full-time Education**

Further education courses can be studied at a college or a sixth form. There are a wide range of courses available, these can be studied at different levels, each course will have a specific entry requirement. Typical qualifications offered at colleges and sixth forms include : A Levels only available at Level 3, BTEC Diplomas available in Levels 1, 2 and 3 and Foundation Learning. All further education establishments offer open days and evenings and many offer taster sessions.

#### **Apprenticeships**

An apprenticeship is where you are learning through hands on experience of a job and gaining a nationally recognised qualification (NVQ). You can apply for an apprenticeship while you're still at school. To start one, you'll need to be 16 or over. They consist of working towards a range of qualifications within the apprenticeship framework. They can take between one and four years to complete depending on the level studied. As an apprentice you will :

- Work alongside experienced staff;
- Gain job-specific skills;
- Earn a wage;
- Study towards a related qualification (usually one day a week).

If you feel you're not ready for an apprenticeship, a traineeship can help to prepare you for one.

#### **Foundation Learning/Entry Level programmes/pre-apprenticeship options**

There are a variety of courses available for young people not yet ready for one of the options above or for those with additional needs. These courses are individually tailored to learning needs, and aim to improve skills so that goals can be achieved and progression to one of the above options, or employment can take place. These programmes are offered at further education establishments as well as some training providers.

## **Useful Careers Information**

Consider subjects you think you will be good at and will enjoy. You may wish to explore possible careers, however a balanced range of subjects will ensure as many options as possible are open to you. Ask yourself :

- Which subjects interest me?
- Which subjects do I like and why do I like them?
- Which are my best subjects and how do I know?
- What do my teachers say my strengths are?
- Would I prefer a course with exams or coursework?

Few employers expect specific GCSE passes with the exception of : English, Maths and Science.

Your GCSE subject choices and the grades you achieve can affect your ability to study some subjects at College and Sixth Form or an Apprenticeship.

In some subjects like History and Geography, it may be possible to study these at A Level without having first taken them at GCSE. However, this does not apply to all subjects, for example, Sciences or Languages.

Speak to friends, family and teachers about your plans. Listen to their advice.

Our website has lots of useful information and is a good starting point to help you make decisions about your next steps and future. For further personalised services and support visit [\*\*www.cswgroup.co.uk\*\*](http://www.cswgroup.co.uk).

Adviser on Line can help answer any careers related queries you may have. This is available Monday to Friday from 12noon until 6pm by visiting the Careers South West website [\*\*www.cswgroup.co.uk\*\*](http://www.cswgroup.co.uk) and clicking on the link.

You can find information on job areas and specific careers using the Careers Tools and the Job Profiles on the National Careers Service website.

Go to [\*\*www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService\*\*](http://www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService).

To view film and video clips relating to many career areas go to [\*\*www.careersbox.co.uk\*\*](http://www.careersbox.co.uk).

Whether you've got a career in mind or you haven't got a clue, Plotr can help you discover your future and guide you to careers you'll love. Go to [\*\*www.plotr.co.uk\*\*](http://www.plotr.co.uk).

If you are considering university or completing a degree course, then research and explore entry requirements before applying to College/Sixth Form. Go to [\*\*www.ucas.ac.uk\*\*](http://www.ucas.ac.uk).

[\*\*www.ukcoursefinder.com\*\*](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com) can be used to find out more about degree level courses.

# **Curriculum Choice Subjects**

## **2017-2019**

**The following pages give brief descriptions of the various subjects on offer. It is a really good idea to read them! After reading them get further information from your subject teachers and raise questions at your 'personal interview.'**

**Good reading and good luck!**

## English (GCSE)

In Year 10, you begin the study of two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature. You will get the chance to argue and debate, make presentations and develop dramatic techniques. There will also be the opportunity to develop your creative writing, study plays (including those of the great bard himself), poetry and novels. The emphasis will be on reading widely at a high and challenging level and your lessons will be both rigorous and imaginative.

### What do I have to do?

**English Language** - You will be following the new 9-1 GCSE. This is assessed by exam at the end of the course. The exams test reading and writing, and will cover:

1. Unseen reading tests on texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The texts will include fiction and literary non-fiction, and you will be expected to develop a critical understanding of how they work.
2. Creative and functional writing.

Speaking and listening is examined, but is reported by separate endorsement alongside your grade (so it is not part of the 9 - 1 grade).

You will develop the skills to explore unseen texts throughout the course, and it is expected that you will develop these skills by reading widely. You can prepare for this yourself by exploring both fiction and non-fiction (for example quality newspapers and magazines, travel writing and autobiographies) will be useful.

All English lessons start with 10 minutes reading, and you must bring suitable material. Please make use of the school and public libraries.

**English Literature** – You will be following the new 9-1 GCSE. This is assessed by exam at the end of the course. All exams are ‘closed book’, which means you will not have access to the texts in the exam. You will need to know them well, so we advise buying your own copies to allow you to revise properly outside of school. The actual texts will be chosen by your English teacher, but will cover:

- a Shakespeare text;
- a 20<sup>th</sup> Century British novel or play;
- a 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel
- a poetry anthology

As part of the poetry exam, you will also explore ‘unseen’ poetry.

There are no tiers for English exams. All students of all abilities will sit the same papers. This is in line with GCSE reform.

ASSESSMENT		
Tiers	Coursework	Final Exam
No tiers	No Coursework	English Language = 2 papers Paper 1 (1 hour 45mins) = 40% Paper 2 (2 hours) = 60%  English Literature = 2 papers Paper 1 (1 hour 45mins) = 40% Paper 2 (2 hours 15mins) = 60%

**Mike Wood - Head of English**

## Mathematics (GCSE)

All students have to study Mathematics and yet many of you will only use a fraction (!) of this Mathematics in your adult life - or so it might seem. Yes, you may not have a career that involves algebra or trigonometry, but you will have to think and Mathematics is the art of clear thinking. It trains you to deal with abstract ideas, to define concepts clearly and to reason logically. Many of us don't realise it but mathematics plays a very important part in our everyday lives. How often each day do we meet and use numbers?!

Think of Mathematics as your regular mental keep fit!

Your GCSE examination consists of three timed written papers. There are two tiers of entry at GCSE catering for different levels of ability.

Foundation GCSE Grades will be levelled from 1 to 5 and Higher from 4 to 9. As well as class tests, you will do a one hour assessed test in December and March and a mock examination in June of Year 10. Finally, you sit a full practice mock examination (three papers each 1½ hours long) during mock exam week in Year 11.

You will need to have a scientific calculator for your GCSE and a full Maths exam kit. Individual class teachers will discuss this with classes at the start of Year 10.

ASSESSMENT		
Tiers	Coursework	Final Exam
Two : Foundation (5 - 1) Higher (9 - 4)	None	100% three timed written papers - two calculator and one non-calculator

Helen Aries - Head of Mathematics

## Science (GCSE) – CHOICES AT KEY STAGE 4

You can choose between two different study routes in Years 10 and 11 :

### 1.) Combined Science (Double Award – 2 GCSEs)

This course will lead to the award of a Combined Science GCSE, which is worth two GCSEs.

ASSESSMENT		
Assessed	Coursework	Final Exam
You will be assessed by <b>six</b> examinations at the end of the course in the summer of Year 11 (two Biology, two Physics and two Chemistry exams)	No coursework element	100% Exam based  30% of exam questions will be an assessment of Mathematical skills. 15% of the exam questions will be an assessment of practical knowledge of Science experiments.

### Future study

GCSE Combined Science is the minimum qualification required for the study of A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### 2.) Triple Science – GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics (3 separate GCSEs)

This course follows a similar pattern to the Double Award although you will use up one more option choice. You will study each individual science as a separate subject. This will lead you to a full GCSE qualification in each of Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Studying Triple Science allows you the opportunity to study a **broader** range of Science topics and in greater **depth**. Students will also develop a greater range of practical skills by engaging in an increased number of practical investigations.

ASSESSMENT		
Assessed	Coursework	Final Exam
In each GCSE (Chemistry, Physics and Biology) you will be assessed by two examinations at the end of the course (a total of <b>six</b> exams).	No coursework element	100% Exam based  A percentage of the exam questions will be an assessment of Mathematical skills (30% Physics, 20% Chemistry, 10% Biology) 15% of the exam questions will be an assessment of practical knowledge of Science experiments.

### Future study

This is the best preparation if you are thinking about studying any science subjects at college and particularly if you are considering a career in medicine, health care, engineering, technology or any other science related career - such as those where science is applied in a vocational context.

**Mark Tinkler - Science GCSE Coordinator**

## Art, Craft and Design (GCSE)

Can you see art and design all around you? Can you see the everyday 'ordinary' and visually design the extraordinary? Art and Design can help you to make visual communication through a variety of experiences and stimuli, making learning an enjoyable experience.

This GCSE will allow you to work with a variety of media including digital photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics alongside painting and drawing.

For some students there is a chance to run your own private shows, such as entering Somerset Arts Week. The big finale of the whole course is the Year 11 GCSE Art Exhibition in which you get the opportunity to showcase your work.

Trips are also offered to you during the course, and you may get the opportunity to visit Art Galleries in London and New York. When relevant, other outings to exhibitions and stimulus visits will become available to individual classes.

### COURSE STRUCTURE

ASSESSMENT		
One Tier	Coursework	Exam Project
Unit 1 – Sept to Feb (Year 10) = 20% Unit 2 – Feb to Sept (Year 10) = 20% Unit 26 – Sept to Jan – (Year 11) Mock = 20%  45 hours worth of work submitted as the best sample	60%	40%  January – May Year 11
<b>Lesson Preparation = 20 Art lessons</b> <b>Exam Outcome – 2 days making in April/May</b>		

To ensure you have access to materials the Art Department run a studio session on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtimes and after school (until 4.30pm). 1 hour homework per week is a minimum requirement.

It is our aim that you complete an exceptional Art and Design Portfolio, which is essential if you are planning to take the subject in further education.

Listen out for the Year 9 "Art and Design - is it for me?" presentations happening in your lesson time. See your Art Teacher for further advice or to arrange for you to chat to a current GCSE Art Student. Don't take our word for it - listen to the students.

**Clare Roberts - Head of Art and Design**



## Child Development (Technical Award) (Cambridge National Certificate – Level 1/2)

The aim of Cambridge Nationals is to prepare students for a vocational qualification, equipping students with a strong base for when they go on to study A levels, an apprenticeship or for the world of work. It endeavours to enable students to reach their full potential, equip them with the knowledge and skills they need for their future, and to recognise and celebrate their achievements. It is a focused qualification which complements a Key Stage 4 study programme alongside other vocational qualifications and GCSEs.

There are three units:

The first unit underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. All students will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. Knowledge gained would be of use for further studies in PHSE, Biology and other Child Development qualifications.

In Unit 2, students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. They will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices and will be given the opportunity to evaluate dietary choices.

In Unit 3, students will gain knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. This unit will include researching, planning, carrying out activities with children and observing and reviewing these activities, as well as an understanding of the development norms and the benefits of play in child development.

ASSESSMENT	
Coursework	Final Exam
Centre assessed tasks (coursework) 2 units, each 25%	Unit 1 – 50%

N.B. : For unit 3, the students will need to find a suitable child to study (under five years old). They will need to be prepared to plan activities, organise and manage their visits within a time-scale and observe the child.

**Jacqui Bettles - Child Development teacher**

## Computing (GCSE)

This GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work, how they are used, and to develop programming and problem-solving skills. You will also undertake some fascinating in-depth research and practical work.

This course is aimed at students who have a real desire to go into a computing based career, perhaps to become a computer programmer or a technician. This course requires keen attention to detail and a lot of independent motivation.

Students who achieve high grades in Maths and who may already have started to learn a programming language such as Python, Visual Basic or JavaScript are best suited to this course.

### Through this qualification:

- You will develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work.
- Look at the use of algorithms in computer programs.
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts.
- Develop computer programs to solve problems.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of computer technology in society.

### There are three core units in the course:

- **Programming project.** This unit focuses on creating a programming solution for a scenario provided by the exam board. In this unit students will cover programming techniques, analysis, design, development, testing and writing conclusions.
- **Paper 1.** This unit focuses on **Computer systems** and covers : systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies/protocols/layers, system security, system software, ethical/legal/cultural/environmental concerns.
- **Paper 2.** This unit focuses on **Algorithms and problem solving** and covers : algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, Data representation, translators and facilities of languages.

ASSESSMENT		
Programming Project	Paper 1	Paper 2
Programming Project (20%)	Computer Systems (40%)	Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (40%)

Edmund Ryan - Head of ICT

## Certificate in IT Application skills (Level 2 ECDL)

The ECDL provided by the British Computer Society is a popular course and is aimed at students who may not necessarily be considering a career in IT but wish to become proficient and efficient at using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint in their chosen vocation. This level 2 qualification is graded Pass to Distinction\*.

The ECDL allows you to demonstrate digital literacy skills and skills that are increasingly key to success in our technology-dependent society. With improved computer skills you will enjoy an enriched educational experience and are better prepared for life, work and further learning.

You will learn the content for this course using a mixture of online courseware and classroom activities.

### There are four core units in the course:

Each unit must be passed to achieve the full qualification.

- Improving productivity
- Word processing
- Presentations
- Spreadsheets

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>			
<b>Word processing</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>Spreadsheets</b>	<b>Improving productivity</b>
Online exam (25%)	Online exam (25%)	Online exam (25%)	Online exam (25%)

**Edmund Ryan - Head of ICT**

## Dance (GCSE)

**Increase your confidence when presenting, develop your skills when working in a team and be more assured when performing and communicating to people.**

Dance is about learning to express yourself in terms of movement, ideas and feeling. It is about responding to music, sound and silence. It is about switching yourself on to life in general. It is about pushing yourself physically and emotionally, and working with others to create original, skilful work.

If you choose this course you will be taught by the Head of Dance and you will learn in the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, using one of the finest dance studios in the country. There will be many opportunities for you to work with leading professional dancers and use the state-of-the-art performance facilities to put on shows.

Dance GCSE is a well-established qualification at Heathfield and continues to grow in popularity. The course is an excellent opportunity for you to extend your experience of the performing arts into a new area. Importantly the course will tie in with existing courses at The Space, Richard Huish College, Somerset College, and Bridgwater leaving scope for further development and qualifications if desired.

**Student Advice :** *“If you’ve enjoyed any of the various Dance sessions we’ve had this year then you should consider taking dance either as a first or second arts option. Dance goes well with any other arts option and will help improve your skills in these areas. You do not need to consider yourself to be ‘good’ at doing ‘dance’ in order to do this subject. What you do need is a willingness to have a go and lots of enthusiasm. To succeed and get the most from this subject, you need to be committed, self-disciplined and be a team player.”*

ASSESSMENT	
Coursework	Final Exam
Performance & Choreography 60%	Written Paper 40% based on students' own practice in performance and choreography

**Melanie Hoare - Head of Performing Arts**

# Design and Technology

If you have ever thought about studying Design and Technology then you have three options to choose from a GCSE in Design and Technology, a Technical Award in Materials Technology or a Technical Award in Textiles and Fashion.

The **GCSE** is aimed at students with an interest in all areas of design and would suit those keen to develop their skills to be a creative and innovative designer.

The **Technical Awards** focus more on the practical skills and knowledge of working with the materials they specialise in. Each new Technical Award is equivalent to a single GCSE and the award fulfils entry requirements for both academic and vocational study Post-16, just as a conventional GCSE would.

## Design and Technology (GCSE)

### Why Design and Technology?

This is an exciting new GCSE in Design and Technology. It will prepare you to participate confidently in an increasingly technological world. You will learn how to design for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise in all the areas of D&T that you studied at KS3.

### What will you study?

During this 2 year course you would study fabric, wood, metal and plastic as well as how to design and make imaginative products. You will gain knowledge of a wide range of materials and also learn about possible careers within the design industry.

You will undertake 1 non-examined assessment (coursework) over the 2 year course and these will make up 50% of your final award. This extended making project will showcase your skills and knowledge though investigating, designing, planning, developing, making, testing and evaluating a project of your choice. You will be able to **select ONE material** to complete this project in. The other 50% of the GCSE will be assessed in a more formal end of course examination that will be 2 hours in length.

### In summary:

Is this course for me? Are you excited about the technological world that you live in? Would you like to be the next James Dyson, Jonathan Ive or Vivienne Westwood? Are you creative, imaginative, like to solve problems and make things? If yes, then maybe a course in Design and Technology is for you!

<b>ASSESSMENT</b> <b>(for all Design and Technology subjects)</b>		
<b>TIERS</b>	<b>COURSEWORK</b>	<b>EXAM</b>
Single Tier	50%	One paper  50% 2 hour paper

**Deborah Smith - Head of Food Preparation, Nutrition and DT**

# Design Technology - Materials Technology (Technical Award)

## About this qualification

Our new Technical Awards are ideally suited to learners with a preference for practical, rather than theoretical learning and are brilliantly creative.

If you want to study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals and plastics you will really enjoy this course. It will enable you to work in a hands-on way to develop skills to make high-quality products.

This Technical Award in Materials Technology will help you to develop the knowledge, skills and experience required within manufacturing and could potentially open the door to a career in related industries. These vocational qualifications will fulfil entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16 just as a conventional GCSE would.

## What will you study?

You will undertake 3 non-examined assessments (coursework) over the 2 year course and these will make up 50% of your final award. The other 50% will be assessed in a more formal end of course examination that will be 1hr 30mins in length.

Throughout the 2 years you will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. You will gain knowledge of the applications and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals and polymers and also learn about related careers opportunities.

During your course you will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate your skills. You will also complete an extended making project that showcases the skills and knowledge you have developed through the course.

## In summary:

Is this course for me? If you are creative, enjoy making, like to work with your hands and have an interest in Technology and Resistant Materials then yes it is!

ASSESSMENT (for Technical Awards)		
TIERS	(NEA) COURSEWORK	EXAM
Level 1 & 2 (determined by outcome)	60%	One single tier 40% 1 hour 30 minutes paper

Deborah Smith - Head of Food Preparation, Nutrition and DT

# Design Technology - Fashion and Textiles (Technical Award)

## About this qualification

Our new Technical Awards are ideally suited to learners with a preference for practical, rather than theoretical learning and are brilliantly creative.

If you want to study Textiles and Fashion in a practical way whilst developing the core skills needed to manufacture fashion and textiles products then this course is for you. It will enable you to work in a hands-on situation to develop skills to make high-quality products.

This Technical Award in Fashion and Textiles helps learners develop the knowledge, skills and experience required within the industry and could potentially open the door to a career in fashion. These vocational qualifications will fulfil entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16 just as a conventional GCSE would.

## What will you study?

You will undertake 3 non-examined assessments (coursework) over the 2 year course and these will make up 50% of your final award. The other 50% will be assessed in a more formal end of course examination that will be 1hr 30mins in length.

Throughout the 2 years you will study the fundamentals of fashion and textiles and the industrial and commercial processes that exist within it. You will learn about materials and their properties and also about possible careers. You will experiment with a wide range of practical skills including surface embellishment, joining and finishing, combining materials and colouring fabrics.

During your course you will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate your skills. You will also complete an extended making project that showcases the skills and knowledge you have developed through the course.

## In summary:

Is this course for me? If you are creative, enjoy making, like to work with your hands and have an interest in Fashion and Textiles, then yes it is!

<b>ASSESSMENT (for Technical Awards)</b>		
<b>TIERS</b>	<b>(NEA) COURSEWORK</b>	<b>EXAM</b>
Level 1 & 2 (determined by outcome)	60%	One single tier  40% 1 hour 30 minutes paper

**Deborah Smith - Head of Food Preparation, Nutrition and DT**

## Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

This exciting GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course will equip you with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety.

### About the course:

Over the 2 year course you will learn about Food, nutrition and health as well as cook a selection of exciting dishes. You need to have a real interest and commitment to developing high level food preparation skills and enjoyment of cooking! Practical work will cover the whole range of dishes served in cafés and restaurants and you will be expected to supply ingredients to cook at least once a week. We also have a number of exciting visits and workshops during the course to ensure that the 'real world' experiences of careers in the food industry can be enjoyed.

### How it's assessed:

At the end of Year 11 you will sit one written exam which is 1 hour 45 minutes and worth 50% of the GCSE. In addition to this you will do two controlled assessment tasks which will include preparing, cooking and presenting a final menu within a set time. These tasks will make up the additional 50% of the GCSE final grade.

### In summary:

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a particularly valuable course if you are interested in healthy eating and the importance of having the correct diet. A qualification in this course could lead you to a career in catering, dietetics, or any aspect of the food industry. You will also acquire many transferable skills that are relevant in a range of different careers and life situations.

ASSESSMENT		
Tiers	Coursework	Final Exam
Single Tier	50%	One exam - 50%

Deborah Smith - Head of Food Preparation, Nutrition and DT



# Geography (GCSE)

*“Geography students hold the key to the world’s problems” - Michael Palin*

## Why choose Geography?

- Geography is a subject that is very much about the world we live in. It is a subject that is more than just colouring in or labelling places on a map. We study people (Human Geography) and landscapes (Physical Geography) and their interactions, both positive and negative, with an eye for the future.

## Do you have a curiosity for....?

- **Knowing how** our world has been **created**?
- **Knowing how** our world is **changing** and what **impact** we have on it?
- **Learning** about **people** and their societies, economies and cultures?

## By:

- **Discussing** current issues that are happening now – both locally and globally?
- **Putting forward** your **own** ideas and **problem solving**?
- Learning and developing **new skills**?
- Using **ICT** to research and present findings of your own?
- **Working** with **others** and being flexible?
- Being outside **“in the field”**, seeing **real life** Geography?

## Opportunities in Geography beyond GCSE

- You could go on to study AS and A Level Geography at college.
- Geography is one of the most employable degree subjects, second to psychology, due to the transferable skills above.
- Specific Geography related job sectors include: Weather, town / transport planning, demographics, GIS, Renewable energy, flood risk and coastal management, to name a few.

If you have any further questions, don't hesitate to ask your Geography Teacher.

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	
<b>Paper 1 : Living with the Physical Environment</b>	<b>Exam</b> (One paper for all – no Higher and Foundation Paper)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Challenge of Natural Hazards.</li> <li>• Physical Landscapes in the UK.</li> <li>• The Living World.</li> <li>• Geographical Skills.</li> </ul>	End of Year 11 1 hour 30mins 35% of GCSE 88 raw Marks (incl. SPGST)
<b>Paper 2 : Challenges in the Human Environment</b>	<b>Exam</b> (One paper for all – no Higher and Foundation Paper)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban Issues and Challenges.</li> <li>• The Changing Economic World.</li> <li>• The Challenge of Resource Management.</li> <li>• Geographical Skills.</li> </ul>	End of Year 11 1 hour 30mins 35% of GCSE 88 raw Marks (incl. SPGST)
<b>Paper 3 : Geographical Applications</b>	<b>Exam</b> (One paper for all – no Higher and Foundation Paper)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two field trips to encompass both Human and Physical aspects of Geography.</li> <li>• A portion of the exam to be on “The Fieldwork Process.”</li> <li>• The other portion : Issue Evaluation with a pre-release to analyse before the exam.</li> </ul>	End of Year 11 1 hour 15mins 30% of GCSE 76 Marks (6 SPGST)

**Heather Sperring - Head of Geography**

# History (GCSE)

Why should I study History as an option?

**Do you enjoy :**

- **Colourful characters** and stories from the past (we'll travel from the Stone Age, through ancient Greece and medieval Europe to the present day).
- Answering **big questions** (What was the 'end of history'?, When is a Doctor a quack?, What's murdrum?, Are the British government war criminals?)
- **Trips** (to the WWI battlefields and Auschwitz, as well as theatre "Hitler on Trial").

**Do you have :**

- **Ambition** (History is a subject valued in media, politics, journalism, law, business and finance - for example the leaders of 34/100 of the top UK companies have a History degree).
- **Empathy** (we study global stories and timeless issues).
- An **inquisitive** mind (history trains you to ask the right questions, at the right time, in the right way).
- **Roots** (History tells you where we've been and where we're going).

**What would I study on the course?**

KS4 OVERVIEW		
<b>Year 10</b>	<p><b>Medicine through time :</b> <i>We start with a journey through human history, with mystic cures from the dawn of humanity to the dazzling medical advances of our times.</i></p> <p><i>Along the way we meet Stone age shamans, Greek pioneers, Roman thieves, Medieval physicians and Victorian idealists. We study (literally) issues of life and death.</i></p>	<p><b>The Norman conquest :</b> <i>"So Will went conquering hither and thither until those Saxons were all of a dither."</i></p> <p><i>In 1066, England was invaded for the last time. We look at the country they invaded, how they did it and the reign of terror that William used to secure his winnings.</i></p> <p><i>We'll focus on the legacy that the Normans left behind, still visible in hundreds of churches, castles and the landscape itself.</i></p>
<b>Year 11</b>	<p><b>The war on terror:</b> <i>International terrorism is a sad reality of our times. This unit looks at the roots of conflict by examining war in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. This is the key fault line of 21<sup>st</sup> Century life - to solve it, we first need to understand it.</i></p>	<p><b>Germany :</b> <i>In the late 1800s Queen Victoria's grandchildren ruled over most of Europe. Her eldest Grandchild was Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany. We look at his time in power, how his decisions led to war and ultimately to the end of German's royal family. The Weimar republic was a time of chaos for Germany. From the chaos emerged the glory of Weimar culture, but also the trauma of the NAZI era.</i></p> <p><i>We examine how Hitler won the votes of millions of ordinary Germans and how he betrayed them.</i></p>
		<p><b>Revision:</b> <i>We then work hard to make sure you do the best you can. To see what we get up to check out : <a href="http://www.historyattheathfield.wordpress.com">www.historyattheathfield.wordpress.com</a></i></p>

**How will I be assessed?**

ASSESSMENT	
Paper 1	Paper 2
International : Germany & the war on terror	Britain : Medicine through time and the Norman conquest
<b>50%</b> - May / June exam, Year 11	<b>50%</b> - May / June exam, Year 11

**The History Department will offer :**

**OUTSTANDING CONTENT :** the AQA course is bang up to date, varied, international and well respected.

**SKILLS :** learn who to trust and how to persuade others to trust you.

**VARIETY :** you will learn through literature, music, film, ICT, artefacts, theatre, trips, architecture, poetry and fashion. We like a bit of tea staining and dressing up too!

**TRIPS :** we believe you should do more than read, watch or learn history- you should experience it.

**Wil Lowndes - Head of History**

## Modern Languages (GCSE) – French, German, Spanish

A language at GCSE is a skill sought after by employers and colleges - showing not only competence in a particular language but also an ability to learn another in the future. Having at least one language at GCSE will greatly assist with career opportunities in the future in an increasingly global economy and is also looked on very favourably by universities.

In the GCSE, we develop your skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing in a foreign language. For the new GCSE in June 2018, all skills will be assessed in a final exam in the summer term. You will take four papers, one in each of the areas : Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

### Students wishing to take 2 languages (or more) :

You should only consider taking two languages if you are a gifted linguist (by gifted we mean someone who is capable of getting at least a 'B' in both languages).

### It is possible to take French/German/Spanish in the following way :

You can opt to study 2 (or 3!) languages by choosing to take both of them on the full curriculum time (2 from Spanish, German and French). You would then have two years to complete both GCSEs. You will follow the new exam system for 2018.

It is also possible to take GCSE in Spanish. This can be done either in addition to another language or as the only language that you take. Either way you will need to commit to one extra after school session per week - this is essential if you are to get to a good standard in a language you are starting from scratch.

ASSESSMENT	
Tiers	Final Exam
Higher 4 - 9 Foundation 1 - 5	25% each for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing

Angela Cook - Head of Modern Languages

## Music (GCSE)

The study of music in Years 10 and 11 gives you an excellent opportunity to develop your interest in music. You will have a valuable academic qualification, widely recognised by employers as needing ability and dedication in its attainment. More importantly, you will have enhanced your enjoyment and appreciation of all types of music.

This exciting GCSE course rightly places a firm emphasis on creative and practical activities. You will work as a class, in groups and individually on the three basic musical activities of composition, performance and listening. These three activities are integrated as much as possible and all styles and aspects of music are covered through the four “areas of study”. These are “Instrumental Music”, “Vocal Music”, “Music for Stage and Screen” and “Musical Fusions”.

As part of the course you will be making extensive use of music technology, in particular using the “Sibelius” programme to compose and arrange music and in producing quality recordings of their work.

Although most students will probably take the course out of interest, there are a large number of jobs in the music industry (one of the country’s largest employers). GCSE music will also be an important asset for those considering careers in teaching or therapy. The course will be particularly suitable for you if you have a reasonable knowledge of written music and have acquired vocal or instrumental skills but a willingness to learn, work hard and step outside your musical comfort zones is a more important prerequisite.

Music is relevant to all our lives. It is part of our environment and can affect us deeply. Awareness and understanding of music can enrich and enhance the quality of life.

Homework will be set every week which may involve practical tasks to undertake at home using instruments/voices. It is strongly recommended that you have the means to work at home using keyboard, piano or guitar. In some cases the school is able to loan instruments if this is a problem. In addition, for some homework tasks, you will need to book an hour on the computers in school - either at a lunchtime or after school.

As part of the course all Music GCSE you will sing and play in school groups and perform regularly in school concerts.

ASSESSMENT		
Tier	Coursework	Final Exam
One	Composing 30% (Two compositions on CD)	Listening Paper 40% (Listening and written paper) (Based on set works)
	Performing 30% (Solo and group performance)	

### **Student Advice**

*Music GCSE is a well-established and highly successful course where much of the work is practical and fun. It is a good subject to take in conjunction with any other Arts GCSE. If you have succeeded with most of the performing and listening tasks in Years 7-9 then you need have no worries about taking this subject. It’s very common for Year 9 students to be anxious about the composing aspect of the course, particularly when they hear the outstanding work produced by the candidates in Year 11. You can be assured that much of the best work comes from students who felt exactly the same as you at the start of the course! The course is a lot of fun but you will need to work hard at areas which may be outside your musical experience. It is essential that, from the outset, you have sufficient vocal and/or instrumental skills to perform and to start composing (check this out with your music teacher) but you should see these skills develop beyond your wildest expectations as you mature as a creative musician – it’s a wonderful experience!*

## Performing Arts – Drama (BTEC First Award)

We are now in our tenth year of this course, and are really pleased with students' achievements so far, with a wealth of Distinction grades.

The course includes popular elements such as the full-length scripted and devised plays, and is continually assessed, without you having to undertake a final written exam. This frees us to work with you on the practical elements of Drama, such as developing your group/impro skills, learning how to play a character and staging full-length plays in a professional theatre setting which, we believe, lie at the heart of the subject. With The Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre we have second-to-none learning opportunities for you in the real world of theatre and the Performing Arts industry.

BTEC is fully recognised as a GCSE equivalent by all colleges and employers and we feel very excited at how this course is progressing in what is such a popular subject at Heathfield School.

If you take this course you will gain the equivalent of **a GCSE**.

### Students : Drama is a great practical subject :

- *It's recognised by all in Further Education and employment as promoting self-confidence, team work, ability and excellent communication skills which can be applied in any future employment setting.*
- *In terms of personal development, drama will enable you to become more confident, self-aware and to empathise with others. The sense of self-worth and self-esteem that you can gain is of immense value and performing a full length production on the Tacchi-Morris stage is often a big highlight of a student's Heathfield career. It's also a very motivating and fun lesson.*
- *It develops imaginative, creative and problem-solving abilities and gives you responsibility for yourself **and** the group, while working to real-life deadlines.*

The actual course is divided into units which include, for example :

- **ACTING SKILLS & TECHNIQUES** : You will engage in a whole range of exciting and meaningful activities which will improve and develop your acting and presentational skills, including in-depth characterisation.
- **DEVISING ORIGINAL WORK** : Really using your imagination and creativity in connection with others.
- **PERFORMANCE** : You will perform a full-length scripted play in the professional setting of the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre.

ASSESSMENT	
Tiers	Assessment
BTEC Award (equivalent to 1 GCSE)	Assessment is continuous via rehearsals, performance, log book, video diary and teacher's assessment.  There will be an externally moderated practical assessment which makes up 25% of your final grade.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS CANNOT TAKE BOTH**

**PERFORMING ARTS – Drama and PERFORMING ARTS – Musical Theatre**

**Melanie Hoare - Head of Performing Arts**

## Performing Arts - Musical Theatre (BTEC First Award)

This course is ideal if you have a passion for Musical Theatre (Drama, Singing & Dance) and would welcome the opportunity to work in a creative and highly practical way with a specialist team.

**Students:** *Our emphasis is very much on developing the three essential skills needed for Musical Theatre : Dance, Drama and Singing. You will explore different genres of Musical Theatre as well as creating your own devised “mini-musical” and, most excitingly of all, you will get the chance to perform in your own full-length show in the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre.*

BTEC is nationally recognised by Further and Higher Education and all employers as a GCSE equivalent which prepares you for life and all kinds of employment in a unique way. The confidence, communication and group-work skills, plus the ability to develop imagination and creativity are key benefits to be devised from any performing arts course. The sense of self-worth and self-esteem that you can gain is impossible to quantify. With the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre we have learning opportunities which, for our students, are second-to-none in terms of real-life theatre and Performing Arts industry experience.

You will be assessed continuously through a series of practical units, for example :

- ♦ Devising original work, which combines the art forms of Drama, Dance, Physical Theatre and Music.
- ♦ Musical Theatre - Performance in this exciting dramatic art form including a full-length show in The Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre.

<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	
<b>Tiers</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
BTEC Award (equivalent to GCSE)	Assessment is continuous via rehearsal, performance, log book, video diary and teacher’s assessment.  There will be an externally moderated practical assessment which makes up 25% of your final grade.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS CANNOT TAKE BOTH  
PERFORMING ARTS – Drama and PERFORMING ARTS – Musical Theatre**

**Melanie Hoare - Head of Performing Arts**

# Physical Education/Sports Science (GCSE)

## Is this the right subject for me?

The GCSE Physical Education course will appeal to you if you :

- Have a keen interest in sport and recreation and always look forward to your PE lessons.
- Take part in sport outside of class time.
- Want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through practical involvement.
- Want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise.
- Want to improve your own performance in a range of sports roles.
- Want to study a course that is active and that you will enjoy.
- Are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/higher education course.
- Are committed to taking part and improving performance in a wide range of sports.

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

- The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You should have an interest in PE and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

## What will I learn?

You will :

- Cover, in school, Badminton, Basketball, Handball, Athletics, Swimming, Hockey in GCSE P.E. lessons. Other sports - Netball, Rugby, for example will be assessed as well.
- Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities.
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance.
- Find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles.
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity.
- Appreciate the benefits of promoting 'sport for all.'

## How will I be assessed?

The GCSE course is assessed over two units.

ASSESSMENT	
COMPONENT	EXAM
<b>Component 1 : Fitness and Body Systems</b>	Is externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour and 15 minutes. This will contribute a maximum of 30% towards your total marks.
<b>Component 2 : Socio-Cultural Influences</b>	Is externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour and 15 minutes. This will contribute a maximum of 30% towards your total marks.
<b>Component 3 : Practical Performances</b>	Three practical performances in the role of either player/participant. You can achieve 30% of the marks from your three performances. One must be an individual activity and one must be a team game. The third is a choice from selected activities.
<b>Section 2 : Analysis of Performance</b>	This will be worth 10% of the marks and should include analysis and evaluation of your own performance in one of your practical elements.

**Mel Pattemore - Head of Physical Education/Sports Science**

## Religious Studies (GCSE)

Why should you take GCSE Religious Studies? Here is what Year 11's said was their favourite thing about the subject in response to this question:

“You can share your views and see what other people think”

“It's about opinions not facts”

“We have lots of discussions”

If you like the sound of this, then you will love RS at GCSE. You will be **thinking, questioning** and **exploring** ideas that are important to people around the world. It is a **challenging** course where you will be able to develop your skills of **evaluation** and **analysis**. You will also be able to **empathise** and **reflect** on the issues we look at. If you think you might want to work in job where working with people is important, for example the Police, Law, Teaching or Social Work, then a GCSE in Religious Studies would be really useful as it shows you have an ability to evaluate issues, concepts and ideas.

We will be following the AQA A GCSE course which includes Philosophy and Ethics topics as well as an in-depth study of the teachings and practices of two religions - Buddhism and Christianity. This means you will be able to explore some of the big questions in life from different perspectives. The kind of questions you will be looking at in the course include:

- Why do people believe in God?
- Should the death penalty be legalised?
- Does science disprove religion?
- What happens when we die?
- Is an embryo a human being?
- Is it ever right to go to war?
- Should we be able to choose when we die?

This course is designed to be relevant for all students, whether you are from a religious background or not, and whether you have a personal belief or none. You are encouraged to offer your own opinion and all responses are valued.

We live in a multi-cultural country in an ever changing world where the role of religion is changing and the debate about ethics, values and what is important to people continues. If you want to explore these ideas, then you should consider taking Religious Studies GCSE.

ASSESSMENT	
GCSE	100% exam consisting of two papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each taken at the end of Year 11.

**Mary Lockwood - Head of Religious Studies**



## The Prince's Trust Award

This course will be built very much around your needs as an individual student, but your activities will be centred around the Prince's Trust Award and will focus on the following areas:

- Personal, Interpersonal & Team Skills
- Active Citizenship
- Entrepreneurship
- Preparation for Work
- Enrichment Projects

The Prince's Trust Award aims to :

- Enable you to investigate your own potential.
- Encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning and development.
- Improve your motivation and self-esteem.
- Improve your attitudes and attendance.
- Recognise your achievement.

At the end of the course you will receive the Entry 3 award.

Please see Mr Edmunds for further details.

**Brian Edmunds - Alternative Provision Teacher**

## Maths Plus

This is not a separate GCSE. The course is taken by a specialist teacher and is designed to supplement your core study of Maths. If you opt for this course then you will be doing work that is closely linked to the work that you are doing in your regular Maths lessons .

You should opt for this course if, after having taken advice, you feel that your standards in this area need a boost. You might especially want to consider the course if you feel that you are not likely to achieve a level 4 (speak to your Maths teacher about this).

Opting for Maths Plus means that you will have one extra Maths lesson per week and one Guided Study lesson per week.

The course will also run as after school sessions and you may want to consider this as an option if you are taking Route 2 or Route 3.

## Guided Study

If you opt for guided study, please do not think that you are taking a soft option.

Guided Study lessons will take place in a calm, working atmosphere. You will, for the most part, be studying independently – perhaps doing homework, some extra reading or maybe some consolidation work on English, Maths or another subject – and you will not be talking unless expressly given permission to do so. You will also usually be given access to a computer. Step out of line in these sessions and, just like in other subjects, you will find yourself in referral!

If used properly, the Guided Study lessons could be a really important part of your preparation for GCSE.

The sessions will start with an induction period (a few lessons in which you are given help on how to study independently) and, in general, lessons will have the following structure:

- You will fill in a task sheet in a booklet on which you will write down your aims for that lesson.
- This will be given to the teacher in charge who will approve it.
- You will do your work from the task sheet. A teacher will be on hand to provide some advice and support - they will also act as a mentor, monitoring and supporting you throughout the year.
- You will have two Guided Study lessons per week.

# The Choice is Yours!

Now the choice is yours! You will indicate your choice on the **Curriculum Choices Form**. This form tells you in detail what subjects you can take depending on the Routeway that you choose.

Please remember the key dates in the Curriculum Choices Process:

- Monday 12 December 2016** - **Year 9 Curriculum Choices Evening - 6.00pm - 8.30pm**  
(parents, guardians and students)
  
- Wednesday 4 January 2017** - **Start of individual Curriculum Choices Interviews**  
You will have an individual interview.  
This will be with a member of SLT, Mrs Husband or your Form Tutor.
  
- Friday 13 January 2017** - **Last date for Curriculum Choices Forms to be completed and returned to Mr Bettles.**

Please don't rush through the whole thing - take your time and arrive at a carefully considered decision. Do not hesitate to contact me (my direct line is 01823 414152 e-mail : [mbettles@educ.somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mbettles@educ.somerset.gov.uk)) if you (or your parents) have any further questions.

\* To complete the Curriculum Choices Form **online** - students will need to log into the school VLE to be able to submit their choices :

- 1) Go to the VLE (<http://www.heathfieldschoolvle.co.uk>)
- 2) Click on "Year 9 Curriculum Choices" under the "Students" menu.

**MIKE BETTLES**  
**Deputy Head - Curriculum & Assessment**

