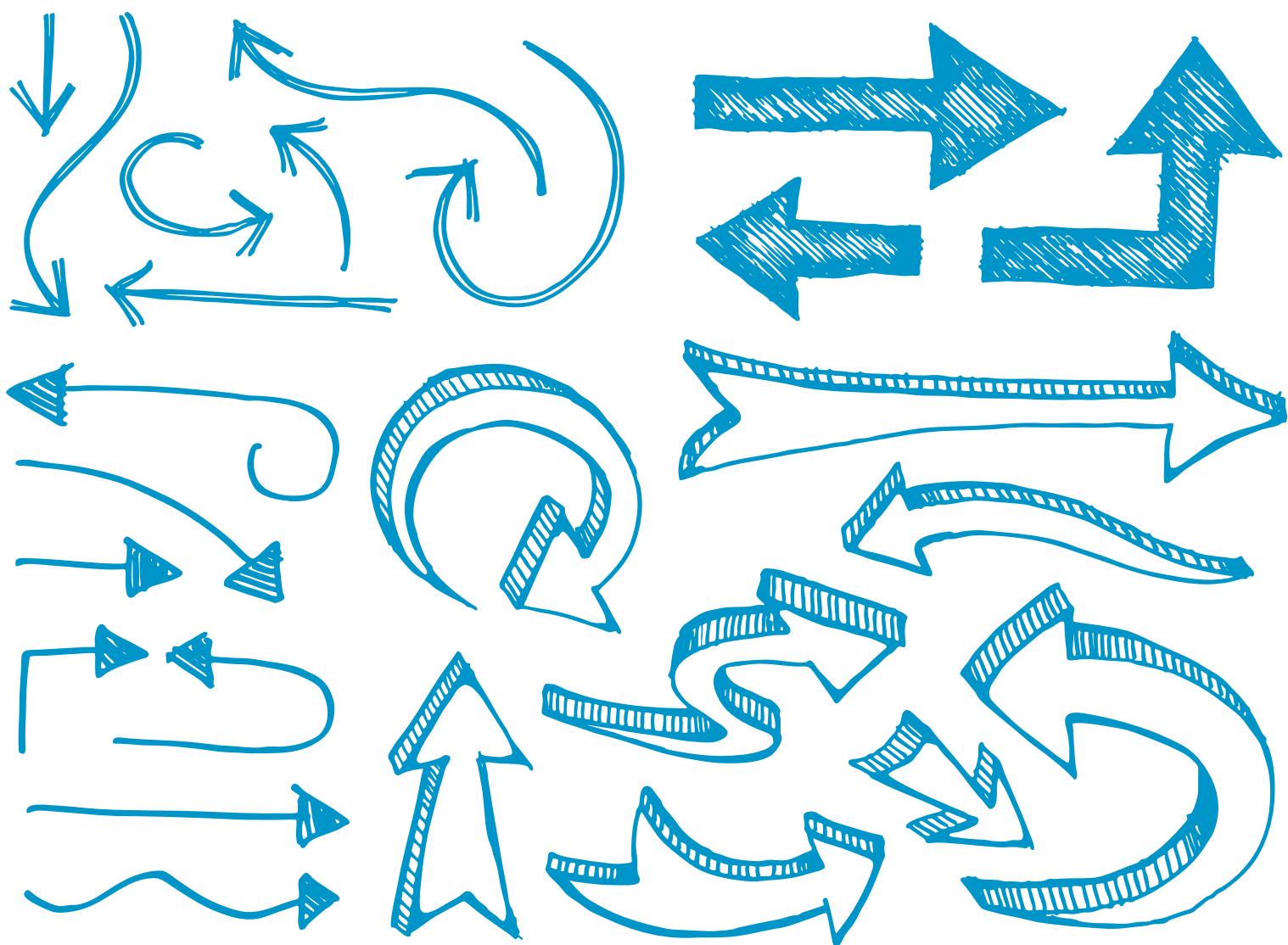


Work out which  
way to go next  
Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2026

Hove Park School



# Welcome to the GCSE options booklet

## Introduction

Welcome to the Year 8 subject options booklet.

Over the next few weeks, you can choose some of the subjects you will study when you are in Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11). You should make your choices based on three key factors:

1. Which subjects will support you with your future.
2. Which subjects you are good at; and
3. Which subjects you enjoy.

At Hove Park School we are fully committed to ensuring that every student can study subjects that will give them the greatest possible range of choices in the future.

## What do students study in Key Stage 4?

All students study the following subjects, which between them total 6 GCSEs:

- English Language & English Literature.
- Mathematics.
- Science (Combined Double Award, 2 x GCSEs).
- Humanities: either Geography or History.

In addition to these qualifications, most students also study:

- A modern foreign language.

All students then choose a further 2 courses from a list of options.

This makes 9 qualifications in total.

Some students may be directed to choose a third option course instead of taking a modern foreign language. These are usually students who do not currently study a language in Year 8. A small number of students may also be recommended not to study a Humanity subject (i.e. Geography / History).

In addition to the above, all students have Physical Education (PE) lessons and follow courses covering Philosophy and Religious Education (PRE) and Personal, Social and Health education (PSHE). These are not examined courses.

## What decisions do students have to make about what they study in Years 9, 10 and 11?

Students must make 3 decisions:

1. Whether to study Geography or History.
2. Which option subjects they want to study.
3. Which option subjects to list as reserve choices.

## The Options Application Form

Students complete an online Options Application Form detailing their choices, including priority order, and their reasons for making them. The form can be accessed on our website from the day of our Options Evening event, which is Thursday 12th February 2026:  
[www.hovepark.org.uk/options](http://www.hovepark.org.uk/options)

The form must be submitted by Friday 6th March 2026. A downloadable version that can be printed out will also be available on the website.

## How are options allocated?

We make every effort to offer students their first choices and will consult with them and their parents/carers if this is not possible.

## What modern foreign language will be studied for GCSE?

Students will study the same modern foreign language at GCSE level that they are currently studying in Year 8. It is also possible to study additional languages by choosing them as option choices. Some students may be directed to choose a third option course instead of taking a modern foreign language. These are usually students who do not currently study a language in Year 8.

## Information, Advice and Guidance

During the options process students should seek advice from as many people as possible – parents/carers, teachers, tutor, friends, brothers, and sisters. The school will also provide advice and guidance in tutor time and through a range of activities in school and in lessons. We recognise that this can be a worrying time. Students should talk to their tutor if they have any questions and parents/carers should contact the year team.

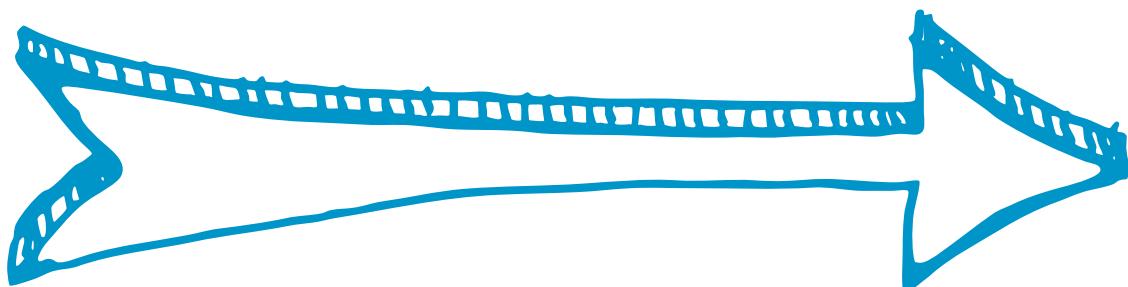
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## Key Dates

- Options Information Evening – Thursday 12th February 2026
- Completed options form - Friday 6th March 2026

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support as a parent/carer. The next few weeks are very important and will help every Year 8 student be successful in their GCSEs. We look forward to celebrating their success in the future with you.



# Art GCSE

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

## Qualification

Single GCSE qualification, graded 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in Art and Design?

Students will learn to develop approaches on how to respond to various artistic methods and artists within a cultural and historic framework. With careful guidance students will learn to evaluate and improve practical skills, art history knowledge and personal responses.

## What skills do students develop in Art and Design?

A full programme of techniques will support development of practical skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, print making and various methods of image recording. Students will develop personal response to projects using the practical skills acquired throughout the course and written annotation to explain ideas.

## How is this course organised across 3 years?

Component 1 is delivered across three years in the form of sketchbook work, loose work and finalised personal responses. Projects build on skills and practices in art. The course is organised as follows: Year 9- Food Drink, Portraits; Year 10 -Natural Forms, Story Telling; Year 11 - Mock Exam, Component 2, Exam.

## How is this qualification assessed?

Component 1: 60% of GCSE. Portfolio. Sustained projects and selected work. Coursework is evidenced in sketchbooks, on loose sheets of paper and also in sculpture work. All coursework is completed in class and at home.

Component 2: 40% of GCSE. Externally set assignment. 10 hour unaided supervised time, following a period of preparation. Although this is an exam, the preparatory time is like a coursework project. Students will be given a new sketchbook and have a period of time to fill their books and prepare to make a personal response. The final piece is completed in exam conditions.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Art and Design.

Art and Design is a requirement for studying Art and Design at A level. Art and Design is very useful for studying: Photography at A level, Textiles at A level, Graphic Design at A level, Art and Design BTEC Level 2.

## Course Leader Contact:

Mrs Rachel Benjamin, Deputy Head of Faculty Sports, Performing and Creative Arts  
- rbenjamin@hovepark.org.uk

# Business GCSE

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/business-subjects/gcse/business-8132/specification-at-a-glance>

## Qualification

GCSE Business (AQA 8132)

## What do students learn about in Business Studies?

Business is an interesting and diverse specification leading to a rewarding qualification. Students will look at real world business situations encountered by a wide range of small and large businesses. The course encourages students to look at the opportunities open to businesses and also to be aware of potential problems.

## What skills do students develop in Business Studies?

The knowledge and skills gained from this specification will provide students with a firm foundation for further study.

Subject content includes:

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Business operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

Students develop an understanding of how different sized businesses are impacted by various events e.g. a recession or increase in competition.

The AQA specification requires students to draw on the knowledge and understanding to:

- use business terminology to identify and explain business activity
- apply business concepts
- develop problem solving and decision making skills
- investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities
- make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data

## How is the course organised?

Lessons will commonly involve a variety of formats such as iPad, written and relevant visual content. The subject is very well resourced and run by experienced Teachers.

## How is the course assessed?

The qualification is assessed at the end of year 11 by two written exams of one and three quarter hours each. There is no coursework element.

Common pathways for Business students are:

- To study the subject further at A level and then possibly on to one of numerous degree courses at University.
- To seek employment (Business is known to be favourably looked upon by employers)
- Business is known to help students achieve places on a range of apprenticeships (from hairdressing to carpentry to engineering)



## Course Leader Contact:

Mr Simon Corrigall, Deputy Head of the Humanities Faculty - [scorrigall@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:scorrigall@hovepark.org.uk)

# Computer Science GCSE

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

## Qualification

Single GCSE grades 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in Computer Science?

You will enjoy this course if you like to:

- Learn about the fundamentals of computer systems, computer hardware, software networking, the representation of data in computer systems, programming and lots more!
- Have an opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used
- Work independently
- Develop computer programming and problem-solving skills
- Have an opportunity do some in-depth research and practical work
- Develop your already strong maths and logical thinking skills.
- Solve puzzles and logic problems!

It is also recommended that you attend weekly afterschool sessions to work independently using professional programming software and technologies required of the course. This is important!

## What skills do students develop in Computer Science?

- Problem solving
- Algorithmic & Logical Thinking
- Resilience

## How is this qualification assessed?

- 50% is 1 hour and 30 minutes written exam on computer systems.
- 50% is 1 hour and 30 minutes written exam on computational thinking, algorithms and programming.
- A programming project that consolidates the learning across the specification through practical activity (formal requirement)

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Computer Science?

Computer Science is very useful for studying Computer Science A-Level and for Computing, Engineering, Software/Web/Games development and ICT at Level 3.

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms J Robson, Assistant Head of Science & Technology Faculty, Head of Computing - [jrobson@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:jrobson@hovepark.org.uk)

# Creative iMedia (Level 2 Certificate)

Cambridge Nationals - Creative iMedia Level 1/2 - J834 - OCR

## Qualification

OCR Cambridge National Certificate Level 2

Level 2 grades: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\* (equivalent to single GCSE grades 5 - 9).

Level 1 grades: Pass, Merit and Distinction, (equivalent to single GCSE grades 4 – 1).

## What do students learn about in Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia is an exciting, dynamic and fast-changing aspect of our increasingly digital world. The creative media industries form a significant part of our national economy. You will enjoy this course if you are interested in working in web or publishing design, or perhaps in marketing or event management. This course is a good fit for you if you like to:

- Develop creative ICT skills to develop websites, graphics, digital games, images and digital publishing content
- Learn software that professionals use in the creative media industries e.g. Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Audacity, and HTML to name a few
- Learn about creative media industries
- Enjoy being creative with words, images and ideas!

## What skills do students develop in Creative iMedia?

- Ability to present a brief and portfolio of digital work to a client
- Resilience in becoming proficient using industry recognised ICT 'creative' software programs
- Problem solving in analysing and planning creative media content
- Ability to understand a target audience

## How is this qualification assessed?

- Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the industry. Assessment: Exam. 1.5 hrs 70 marks
- Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics: Coursework. 50 marks
- Optional unit: Coursework 70 marks

The majority of this course is coursework and is assessed by the teacher and the moderated by the exam board.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Creative iMedia?

Possible pathways are A Level Media Studies, Level 3 Game Making, GCSE Graphics, or Digital Media Level 3. Although useful, it is not essential to have studied a Creative iMedia or ICT qualification for entry to these courses.

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms J Robson, Assistant Head of Science & Technology Faculty, Head of Computing - [jrobson@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:jrobson@hovepark.org.uk)

# Design and Technology GCSE

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

## Qualification

GCSE Design and Technology (AQA 8552)

### What do students learn about in this subject?

- Drawing techniques.
- Exploration of existing products and the work of other designers.
- Product manufacturing using a variety of materials.
- Computer software packages such as Photoshop, 2D design, Publisher.
- Taking a design idea into a finished product, from a 2D drawing into a 3D model.
- The use of computer aided design (CAD) and computer aided manufacture (CAM).

### What skills do students develop in this subject?

- Investigative, designing and making skills through a portfolio and initial prototype model.
- Presentation and layout skills in presenting your design portfolio.
- 2D and 3D outcomes, from initial ideas through to a complete working model.
- Investigating the use and application of modern and smart materials.
- Correct use of tools, equipment and machinery further developed from KS3.
- Application of material finishes, such as wood stains, varnishes, images etc.
- Correct ways to join like and unlike materials such as woods, plastics and metals.
- Investigation into designers and design movements both past and present.
- Written communication skills using correct technical vocabulary.

### How is this course organised over 3 years?

- Year 9-skills development through different projects.
- Year 10-development of core theory through focussed skills projects.
- Year 11-GCSE coursework.

### How is this qualification assessed?

- 50% Controlled Assignment (coursework portfolio and final outcome)
- 50% Written examination (2 hours)

### What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Design & Technology

There are a wide range of vocational courses post-16 where this course would be relevant, but not essential. These cover a variety of design disciplines: graphic design, product design, textiles, fashion, engineering, construction and might also form part of an apprenticeships programme.

### Course Leader Contact:

Mr S Page - [spage@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:spage@hovepark.org.uk)

# Drama GCSE

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/drama-2016.html>

## Qualification

Single GCSE qualification, graded 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in Drama?

Students can develop their drama skills from KS3. The course provides a creative outlet for those who are imaginative story tellers or natural performers, though these skills can be developed during the course. Students learn how to communicate their stories, as the course enables them to gain an understanding of various performance styles. They are encouraged to use a range of techniques such as physical theatre, exploration of theatre practitioners and use of performance skills. The course is mainly taught through practical lessons, but assessed through both practical and written work. Some lessons are classroom based and there is a written focus on writing in homework tasks. Lesson exploration will lead to two assessed performances - one devised and two from a play text. Students study a complete play, DNA by Dennis Kelly, and write about a theatre performance, visiting live theatre being integral to the course.

## What skills do students develop in Drama?

- Students will be challenged to develop an awareness of themselves and others, and this self-reflection improves their ability in devising, co-operation and analysis.
- Lesson topics expand their knowledge of political, historical and social issues, we explore such topics as BLM, Gender politics and responsibility and peer pressure.
- Acting and devising skills, including vocal awareness, physical theatre, characterisation.
- Communicating ideas and creative choices during class and group discussions.
- The ability to recognise and understand the roles and responsibilities of performer, designer and director, and understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed.
- Transferable skills: working in a group, public speaking, problem solving and resolving conflict.

## How is this course organised across 3 years?

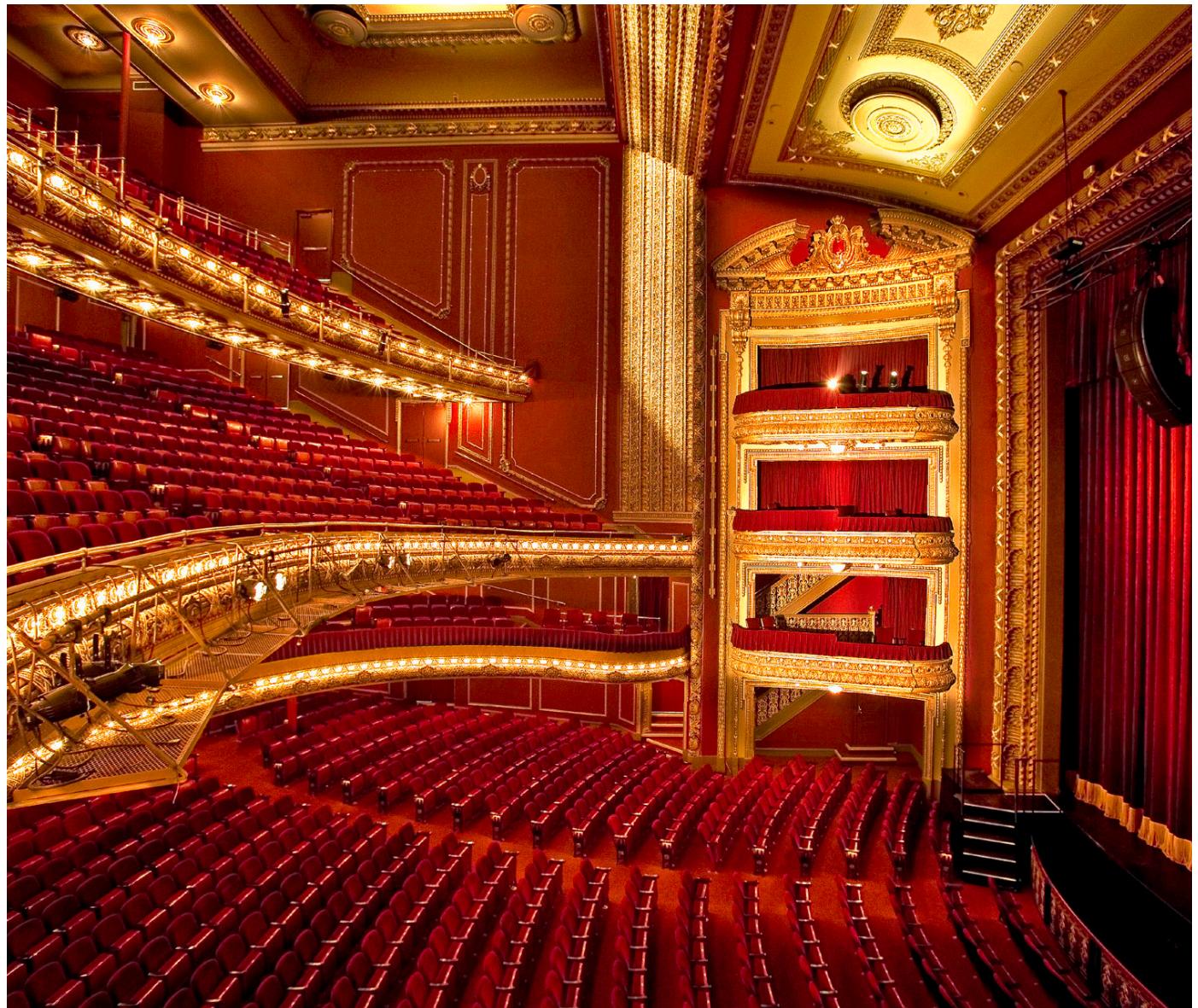
- Year 9 – Introduction to practitioner: Brecht in preparation for Component One: devised project; Practice text: “When They Go Low” which they perform extracts from as well as devising from thematic links, Component 3 introduction – DNA & Theatre visit.
- Year 10- Theatre practitioners- Brecht, Artaud & Berkoff. Component 1 Exam and Coursework. DNA recap and larger extract performance. Theatre Visit.
- Year 11- Component 2 Exam. Theatre visit. Revision for Component Three.

## How is this qualification assessed?

Component 1: Devising and Coursework 40% (75% written coursework). Component 2: Practical Text Performance 20%, Component 3: Written Exam 40%

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Drama?

GCSE Drama is very useful for studying: AS and A Level Theatre Studies, BTEC Performing Arts, BTEC Musical Theatre and A Level English Literature or Journalism.



## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Vermeer, Head of Sport, Performing and Creative Arts Faculty - [evermeer@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:evermeer@hovepark.org.uk)

# English Language GCSE

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

## Qualification

GCSE English Language (AQA 8700);

## What do students learn about in English Language?

- You will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts – looking at how the author writes about style, setting and introduces information.
- You will also do a selection of creative writing tasks ranging from persuasive writing to descriptive writing using language devices and techniques.

## What skills do students develop in English Language?

- Examining how to identify new and different texts.
- Developing and extending new vocabulary and a range of grammatical features for effect.

## How is this qualification assessed?

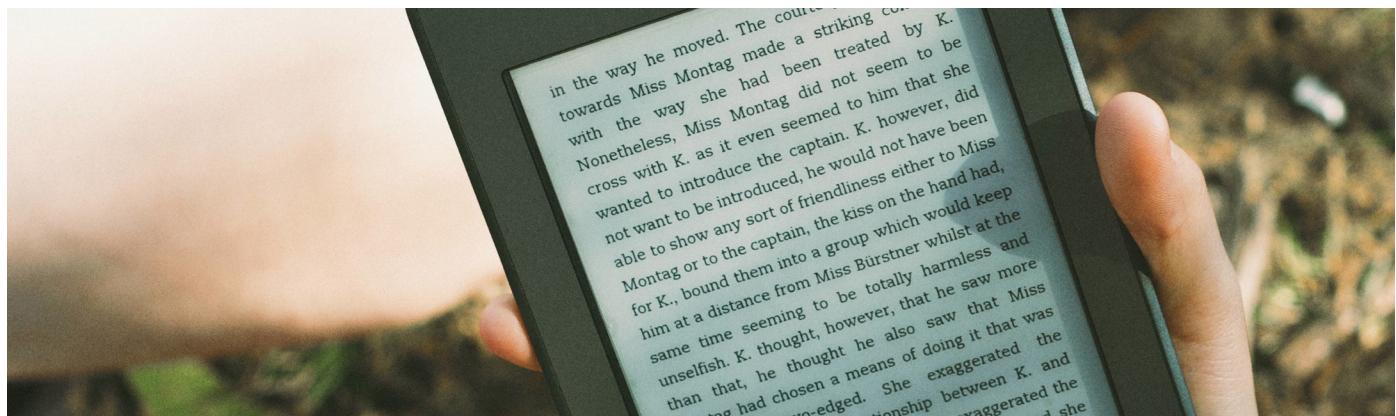
100% exam

## How is the course organised over 3 years?

The English language course is taught interspersed with English Literature and you will prepare for the two exams by reading a range of different sources and answering questions based on them. You will also study creative writing and how to use language devices and techniques.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying English Language?

You must have at least a grade 7 or above in GCSE English to apply for any of these courses:  
English literature, history, law.



## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Sorensen , Head of English Faculty - [esorensen@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:esorensen@hovepark.org.uk)

# English Literature GCSE

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

## Qualification

GCSE English Literature (AQA 8702);

## What do students learn about in English Literature?

- Texts studied will include Jekyll and Hyde and Macbeth
- Analysis of social and historical setting and background influences
- Examination of how authors represent characters, themes and ideas.

## What skills do students develop in English Literature?

- How to read different styles of fictional texts.
- Examining texts for further meaning and representations.
- Looking for insight on the writers and poets.

## How is this qualification assessed?

100% exam

## How is the course organised over 3 years?

You will read a range of literature texts, set by the exam board, over the 3 years. The study of each text will include reading and analysing the language, looking at the contextual ideas and linking the text to other works of literature.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying English Literature?

You must have at least a grade 7 or above in GCSE English to apply for any of these courses: English literature, history, law.



## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Sorensen , Head of English Faculty - [esorensen@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:esorensen@hovepark.org.uk)

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-subject/food-preparation-and-nutrition/>

## Qualification

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Food Preparation and Nutrition (J309)

### What do students learn about in this subject?

- The relationship between diet, nutrition and health.
- The chemistry of food.
- The reasons people make the choices they do and how their choices impact on the planet.
- How to keep food safe and the science behind what we do.

### What skills do students develop in this subject?

- The ability to plan, prepare and cook using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment in a safe and efficient manner.
- To use a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (including traditional British).
- To communicate effectively in writing.

### How is this qualification assessed?

- 15% scientific investigation (includes a report of 1500 words),
- 35% food preparation task (includes research, planning and evaluation as well as practical work)
- 50% written exam in the summer of Year 11

### What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This course is useful, but not essential, preparation for courses in catering and hospitality at Brighton Metropolitan College and at Northbrook.

### Course Leader Contact:

Mr Derek Donaldson - [ddonaldson@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:ddonaldson@hovepark.org.uk)



# Geography GCSE

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-a/>

## Qualification

GCSE (9-1) Geography A (Eduqas)

## What do students learn about in GCSE Geography?

1 - Changing physical and human landscapes

- Landscapes and physical processes
- Rural-urban links
- Coastal hazards

2 - Environmental and development issues

- Weather, climate and ecosystems
- Development and resource issues
- Environmental challenges

3 – Applied fieldwork enquiry

- Geographical skills and fieldwork assessment

## What skills do students develop in GCSE Geography?

- Extended writing
- Locational and conceptual knowledge of the UK and wide world
- Understanding of geographical processes and interrelationships between people and places
- Literacy and extended writing
- Numeracy and statistical skills

## How is this qualification assessed?

- 35% Paper 1 Changing physical and human landscapes 90 minutes
- 35% Paper 2 Environmental and development issues 90 minutes
- 30% Paper 3 Applied fieldwork enquiry 90 minutes

## How will the course be structured for the 3 year GCSE?

- 3 exams at the end of year 11

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying GCSE Geography?

- Studying Geography at GCSE level is desirable but not essential to study the following courses: A level Geography, geology, environmental science, economics, sociology, politics, law.
- Vocational courses include travel and tourism, business and marketing.
- Apprenticeships (Intermediate and Advanced) in agriculture and land based studies, construction, energy, engineering and electrical, hospitality and travel, marine and vehicles and transport.
- Geography is identified as a 'facilitating' subject for many degrees by the Russell Group of universities.



## Course Leader Contact:

M McKinney, Assistant Head of Humanities Faculty - mmckinney@hovepark.org.uk

# History GCSE

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

## Qualification

GCSE (9-1) History (Edexcel)

## What do students learn about in History?

- Crime and Punishment – 1000-2000 and the Whitechapel murders
- Germany 1918-1939
- Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991

## What skills do students develop in History?

- Knowledge of causes and consequences
- Debate and discussion of events and interpretations
- Explanation and comparison
- Critical analysis of sources

## How is this qualification assessed?

- 3 exams at the end of Year 11.

## How will the course be structured for the 3 year GCSE?

- Year 9 – Elizabethan England 1558-1588 and 20th Century, including WWI, Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939
- Year 10 – Crime and Punishment 1000-2000, The Cold War, Whitechapel murders source investigation
- Year 11 – More in depth study of Elizabethan England and the Cold War, revision of other topics.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying GCSE History?

Useful for the study of History, English, Law, Politics, Journalism, Economics, Business

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Bryan, Assistant Coordinator of Humanities Faculty, Head of History - [ebryan@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:ebryan@hovepark.org.uk)



# Languages GCSE: French, German, Spanish

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse>

## Qualification

Single GCSE grades 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in Chinese, French, German and Spanish?

The course covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers. Whilst all students study one language as a compulsory option there is also the opportunity to take a further language as an option. For example, if someone is doing German and they also want to do Spanish they can add it as an extra option. Or if someone is doing Mandarin, they may also take French, Spanish or German as an extra option. Mandarin is only available for students already on the course, however.

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 1 covers the following three topics

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 2 covers the following three topics

- Free time activities
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Theme 3 covers the following three topics

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

## How is this qualification assessed?

GCSE Language has a foundation tier (Grades 1–5) and a higher tier (Grades 4–9). Students must take all four exams and all at the same tier. Higher tier exams are typically between 5 and 15 minutes longer than foundation tier exams.

All question papers must be taken in the same examination period.

Each of the 4 skills is equally weighted for the awarding the final grade:

- 1) Listening – written exam.
- 2) Speaking – Teacher conducted exam: Role play – Reading aloud task and short conversation and a photo card task.
- 3) Reading – understanding and responding to written texts.
- 4) Writing – written exam – essay writing as well as translations and response to a photo-card for foundation.

## **What skills do students develop in languages?**

GCSE Languages are designed to meet the needs of an increasingly globalised work place. They are designed to challenge students to be resilient to new sounds and texts and not only draw parallels with English but also to look beyond UK horizons and embrace world cultures, literature and perspectives.

Key language skills are: The ability to read and listen for gist and context, the confidence to communicate in another language, to develop understanding of countries and cultures around the world, to develop a deeper appreciation of English language and world literature and to gain further literacy skills via comparisons to other world languages

## **What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying languages?**

A GCSE in the relevant language, with at least a grade 6 or better, is a requirement for studying the language at A Level.

## **What other languages are available?**

GCSE qualifications in home languages are currently available in the following languages: Arabic, Bengali, Greek, Gujarati, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, Welsh. It is not possible to provide additional teaching for these languages, but students will be supported with understanding the format of the exams and with access to past papers.

## **Course Leader Contact:**

Mr James Sandford, Head of Languages Faculty - [jasandford@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:jasandford@hovepark.org.uk)

Mrs Hilary Vivas, Head of KS3 Languages – [hvivas@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:hvivas@hovepark.org.uk)

Mrs Louise Gibb, Head of KS4 Languages - [lgibb@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:lgibb@hovepark.org.uk)

# Languages GCSE: Chinese (Mandarin)

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse>

## Qualification

Single GCSE grades 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in Chinese, French, German and Spanish?

The course covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

- Me, my family and friends, relationships with family and friends, marriage/partnership
- Technology in everyday life, social media, mobile technology
- Free-time activities, music, cinema and TV, food and eating out, sport
- Customs and festivals in countries/communities where the language studied is spoken

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home, town, neighbourhood, region, environment
- Charity/voluntary work
- Healthy/unhealthy living

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- School choices, careers and ambitions

## How is this qualification assessed?

GCSE Language has a foundation tier (grades 1–5) and a higher tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four exams and all at the same tier. Higher tier exams are typically between 5 and 15 minutes longer than foundation tier exams.

All question papers must be taken in the same examination period. Each of the 4 skills is equally weighted for the awarding the final grade: 1) Listening – written exam; 2) Speaking – Teacher conducted exam; 3) Reading – written exam; 4) Writing – written exam.

## What skills do students develop in languages?

GCSE Languages are designed to meet the needs of an increasingly globalised work place. They are designed to challenge students to be resilient to new sounds and texts and not only draw parallels with English but also to look beyond UK horizons and embrace world cultures, literature and perspectives.

Key language skills are: The ability to read and listen for gist and context; Confidence to communicate in another language; Developing understanding of countries and cultures around the world; Developing a deeper appreciation of English language and world literature; Developing literacy skills via comparisons to other world languages

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying languages?

A GCSE in the relevant language, with at least a grade 7 or better, is a requirement for studying the language at A Level.

## What other languages are available?

GCSE qualifications are currently available in the following languages: Arabic, Bengali, Greek, Gujarati, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, Welsh. It is not possible to provide additional teaching for these languages, but students will be supported with understanding the format of the exams and with access to past papers.

## Course Leader Contact:

Mrs Min Qiao, Head of Chinese – [mqiao@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:mqiao@hovepark.org.uk)

Mr James Sandford, Head of Languages Faculty - [jasandford@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:jasandford@hovepark.org.uk)

Mrs Hilary Vivas, Head of KS3 Languages – [hvivas@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:hvivas@hovepark.org.uk)

Mrs Louise Gibb, Head of KS4 Languages - [lgibb@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:lgibb@hovepark.org.uk)

# Mathematics GCSE

This is a core subject and is not chosen as an options subject.

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

## Qualification

Mathematics (Edexcel), 1MA1. Single GCSE grades 1 to 9.

## What do students learn about in Mathematics?

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Statistics
- Geometry
- Problem Solving.

## What skills do students develop in Mathematics?

Problem Solving, applying learnt knowledge, basic language of computing and science.

## How is this qualification assessed?

100% exam

There are 3 exam papers, one is non-calculator. All papers are mixed topics. Students sit either Higher (grades 3-9) or Foundation (grades 1-5) papers.

## How is this course organised across 3 years?

The course will be taught over the three years using the Edexcel 3-year scheme of work, allowing us to develop students' understanding through a mastery approach.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Mathematics?

Due to the very competitive nature of the subject at post 16 education level it is essential to have at least a Grade 7 (preferably above) in GCSE maths to study the following A level courses: Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science.

Core Mathematics Level 3 Certificate is an alternative route for students to continue studying maths after GCSE. It is available to students who achieved a grade 5 and above at GCSE. This is a one-year course which is similar to a GCE AS Level and carries the same points for university entry. The course focuses on more practical application of mathematics in real world situations.

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms Hannah Boraster, Head of Mathematics Faculty - [hboraster@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:hboraster@hovepark.org.uk)

# Mathematics - Statistics GCSE

Students studying Mathematics in Set 1 will be given the option to study an extra Maths GCSE in Statistics. Depending on the Year group this will either be taught in class or as an additional after school class in year 11.

AQA (8382)

## Qualification

GCSE Statistics (AQA 8382). Single GCSE grades 1 to 9.

## What do students learn about in Statistics?

In addition to the statistics content from the mathematics GCSE:

- understanding the importance of careful planning
- a clear strategy for collecting, recording and processing data in order to address an identified question or hypothesis
- generating data and understanding the mathematics involved

## What skills do students develop in Statistics?

The main skill students learn is the ability to interpret data and the way that secondary sources have presented it.

## How is this qualification assessed?

100% Exam in 2 papers both mixed content.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Statistics?

A good knowledge of statistics will support study in a very wide range of post-16 courses, including geography, psychology, sociology, business, and economics as well as more traditional science subjects.

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms Hannah Boraster, Head of Mathematics Faculty - [hboraster@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:hboraster@hovepark.org.uk)

# Music GCSE

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-music-j536-from-2016/>

## Qualification

Single GCSE qualification, graded 1 to 9

Music is strongly recommended for students who learn a musical instrument or who would like to learn a musical instrument. Students are expected to practise at home, but are not required to have an instrumental teacher. Some theory knowledge is helpful, but not essential for the course. Students should be aware that the course includes theory and study of music from around the World. Students should also be willing to play and participate in performance in a variety of genres.

## What do students learn about in Music?

- You will make music!
- You will broaden your musical experience and interests - developing your imagination
- Topics include Rock Anthems, Indian Classical Music, Greek Folk Music, Music for Film and Television and Classical Music through the ages
- A variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing, composing
- Music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Genres, styles and traditions of music

## What skills do students develop in Music?

- You will develop performing skills individually and in groups
- You develop composing skills and learn to organise musical ideas
- You will gain the understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as a musician
- You will recognise links between performing, composing and appraising (listening)
- You will reflect upon and evaluate your own and others' music

## How is this qualification assessed?

60% controlled assessment, 40% exam. The controlled assessment includes a performance on the learner's chosen instrument and an ensemble performance. The exam involves listening to and appraising music.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Music?

GCSE Music is a requirement for Music A-Level and BTEC Level 3 Music. For A-Level the minimum grade for entry would be 7. GCSE Music is a useful qualification for courses linked to Performing Arts.

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Vermeer, Head of Sport, Performing and Creative Arts Faculty - [evermeer@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:evermeer@hovepark.org.uk)

# Photography GCSE

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

## Qualification

Single GCSE qualification, graded 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in Photography?

Students will learn to produce images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images.

## What skills do students develop in Photography?

Students will learn how to explore Film and Digital photography. They will develop skills and practices when manipulating images both in the dark room and Digitally. Students will respond to themes and projects, look at a wide range of artists and photographers and learn how to work independently to create personal responses of their own.

## How is this course organised across 3 years?

Component 1 is delivered across three years in the form of a sketchbook or digital portfolio. Projects build on skills and practices in photography and encourage students to develop independence when responding to themes and exploring creative ideas and processes.

- Year 9- Analysing Objects, Image and Identity
- Year 10 –Combining Images, Settings and locations
- Year 11 -Mock Exam, Component 2

## How is this qualification assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio Sustained projects and selected work. 60% of GCSE. Coursework is evidenced in sketchbooks, on mount boards or installation based. All coursework is completed in class and at home. Students will be required to work independently, taking lots of photographs and developing sketchbooks and portfolio work.

Component 2: Externally set assignment. 10 hour unaided supervised time following a period of preparatory time. 40% of GCSE. Although this is an exam, the preparatory time is like a coursework project. Students will be given a new sketchbook and have a period of time to fill their books and prepare to make a personal response.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Photography?

Photography GCSE is very useful for studying: Other creative subjects in further education such as Photography, Graphic Design, Creative media, Film, Animation and Digital art and Art and Design.

## Course Leader Contact:

Mrs R Benjamin, Deputy Head of Faculty Sports, Performing and Creative Arts  
- rbenjamin@hovepark.org.uk

# Physical Education GCSE

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

## Qualification

Single qualification, graded 9-1

### What do students learn about in this subject?

Students study many theoretical components of sport, including anatomy and physiology, sports psychology, training and coaching methods, nutrition for sport, drugs in sport, contemporary issues in sport. They also have the opportunity to improve their own performance skills in a variety of activities.

### What skills do students develop in this subject?

A broad understanding of many issues around sport, including how body systems work. Students will be able to link this to their own training in order to bring about improvement in performance. They will also have the opportunity to improve their leadership and communication skills, ICT and presentation skills, and skill acquisition in sport.

### How is this course organised across 3 years?

Year 1 - Year 9

Paper 2- Healthy lifestyles, Diet

Paper 1 – Fitness and Training, Body systems (Bones and Joints, Muscles, Heart and Lungs)

Year 2 - Year 10

Written Coursework – evaluating and improving performance

Paper 2- Psychology of Sport

Year 3 - Year 11

Coursework completion

Paper 1 - Biomechanics

Paper 2- Contemporary issues in sport

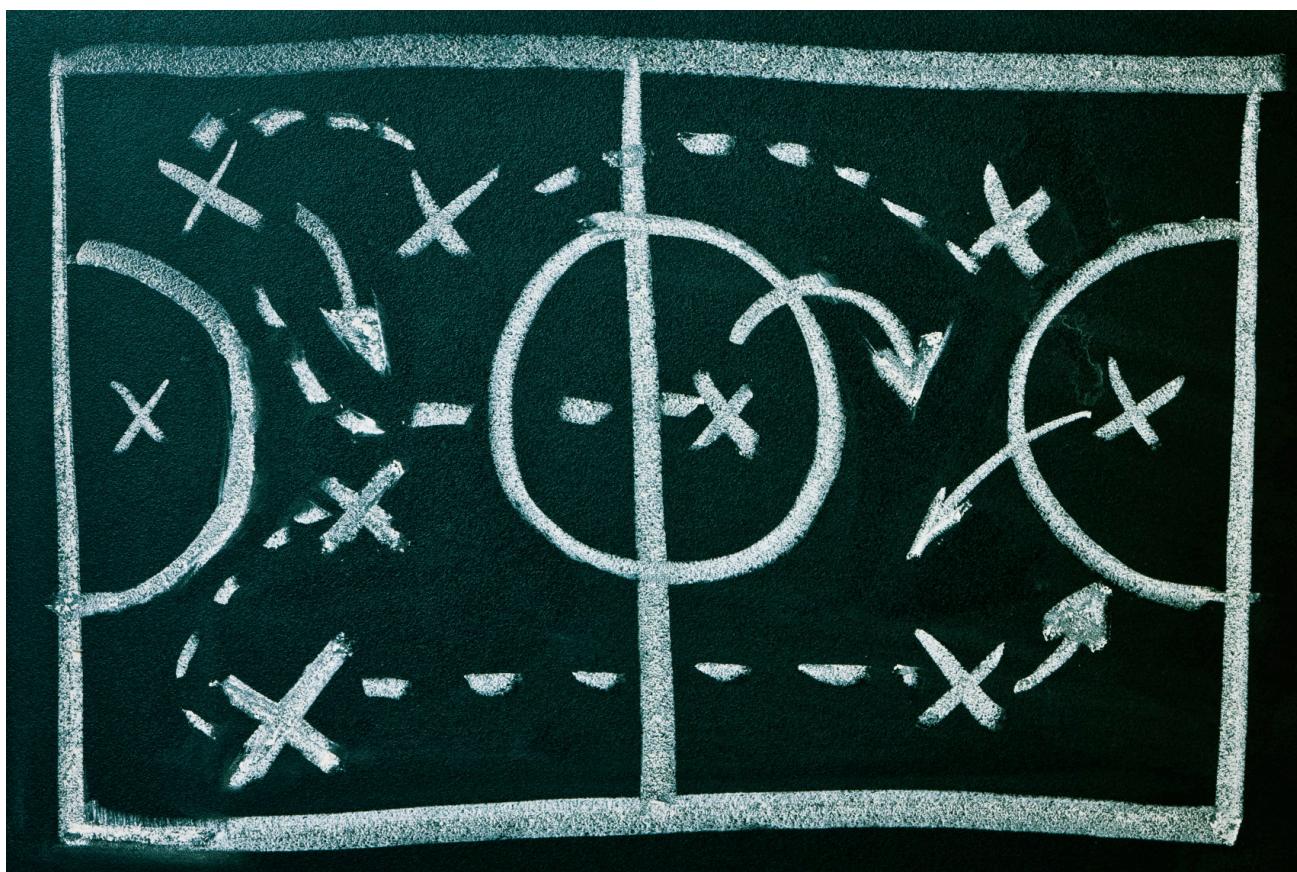
Revision of all course content

## How is this qualification assessed?

- Paper 1 Written Exam (30%): Applied anatomy and physiology; Movement analysis; Physical training; Use of data
- Paper 2 Written Exam: (30%): Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being, Use of data
- Practical assessment (30%): Practical performance in three different physical activities (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity)
- Written Coursework (10%): Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

## What Post-16 pathways are linked to this subject?

Sports coaching, PE teaching, Sports journalism, Physiotherapist, Physical trainer



## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Vermeer, Head of Sports, Performing and Creative Arts Faculty - [evermeer@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:evermeer@hovepark.org.uk)

# Physical Education (Health & Fitness) Tech Award

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness

Exam Board: NCF

<https://www.ncfe.org.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-level-12-technical-award-in-health-and-fitness-111>

## Qualification

Level 1/2 Technical Award; graded Level 1 Pass – Level 2 Distinction. This is equivalent to a GCSE course.

## What do students learn about in this subject?

Students study many aspects of anatomy and physiology, including the muscular and skeletal system, and the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. They will also learn about many aspects of fitness and training; including how to plan an effective training programme, as well as healthy lifestyles.

## What skills do students develop in this subject?

Students will be able to plan and implement their own training safely. They will also have the opportunity to improve their leadership and communication skills, ICT and presentation skills, and skill acquisition in sport.

## How is this course organised across 3 years?

### Year 1 - Year 9

Students will study short and long term effects of exercise; understanding of health and fitness; healthy lifestyles; health and skill related fitness; fitness testing; training. They will plan and implement their own training programmes.

### Year 2- Year 10

Students will learn about the skeletal system, muscular system, respiratory system, energy systems and the cardiovascular system. Students will complete the 22 hour coursework assignment.

### Year 3 - Year 11

Year 11 will focus on consolidation of knowledge of body systems, health, fitness and training in preparation for the exam.

## How is this qualification assessed?

The qualification has two assessments:

- 60% Non-exam assessment, which consists of an assignment with different tasks. Students complete this at school, it is marked by their teacher and then moderated by the exam board. It must be completed in 22 hours, plus 2 hours preparation and research time.
- 40% Written exam (1 hour, 30 minutes) which contains a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. The exam takes place in May/ June of Year 11.

## What Post-16 pathways are linked to this subject?

Level 3 Applied Generals, A-level PE, Level 3 Technical Levels, Sports coaching, PE teaching, Sports journalism, Physiotherapist, Personal trainer.



## Course Leader Contact:

Ms E Vermeer, Head of Sports, Performing and Creative Arts Faculty - [evermeer@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:evermeer@hovepark.org.uk)

# Science Combined Course GCSE

This is a core subject and is not chosen as an options subject.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

## Qualification

A GCSE course that equates to two GCSEs in science, graded 1-9.

## What do students learn about in Combined Science?

Students will cover a wide range of topics from each of the science disciplines biology, chemistry and physics. Students will also complete 21 required practical's across each of the 3 disciplines which link to the subject content and build on student's investigative skills. Please use the link above to the exam board for a detailed breakdown of the topics covered in each discipline.

## What skills do students develop in Combined Science?

- How to plan and carry out practical investigations
- How to perform risk assessments for practical work where potential hazards are involved
- Solving complex mathematical problems
- Developing excellent communication skills – written and verbal
- Developing graph skills – reading graphs and constructing graphs

## How will the course be divided across 3 years?

The topics above will be taught across the 3 years with students completing a topic from each discipline each term throughout year 9, 10 and 11.

## How is this qualification assessed?

The course is 100% exam assessed. Students will sit two exams for each scientific discipline. There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas. Each exam is 1hr 15min long.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying Combined Science?

Triple science is the best preparation for A Level science courses. However, it is also possible to do A Level biology, chemistry and physics after taking Combined Science. There are a variety of academic and vocational pathways in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, engineering, computer science.

## Course Leader Contact:

Mr D Donaldson, Faculty Leader for Science and Technology - DDonaldson@hovepark.org.uk  
Mr A Lyell, Head of Science - ALyell@hovepark.org.uk

# Science – Separate Science GCSEs – Previously known as Triple Science (Biology GCSE, Chemistry GCSE, Physics GCSE)

Biology - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

Chemistry – <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

Physics - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

## Qualification

Three single GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry & Physics), each graded 1 to 9

## What do students learn about in separate science?

Most of the topics covered in separate science are also part of the combined science course taken by all students, the depth of knowledge is greater in separate science and the questions present a significantly higher level of challenge. This option is very strongly recommended for students who intend to take any of these subjects at A level. Separate science helps to bridge the gap between GCSE and A-level science, making for an easier transition between the two. The separate science route has been designed to link with AS levels in 6th form and many of the topics studied will be covered in the A level syllabus.

## What skills do students develop in separate science?

- How to plan and carry out practical investigations
- How to perform risk assessments for practical experiments
- Solving complex mathematical problems
- Developing excellent communication skills – written and verbal
- Developing graph skills – reading graphs and constructing graphs

## How will the course be divided across 3 years?

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects. During year 9 they will be introduced to the fundamental ideas that support each of the sciences, building on knowledge from KS3. In years 10 and 11 students will cover the content required for Paper 1 (Year 10) and Paper 2 (Year 11).

## How is this qualification assessed?

The course is 100% exam assessed. Students will sit two exams for each scientific discipline. Six exams in total, each 1 hr 45 min in length and each worth 100 marks. The higher tier exam allows students to achieve a 4-9 grade. The foundation tier exam allows students to achieve a 1-5 grade.

## What post-16 qualification pathways are linked to studying separate science?

Separate science will prepare students well for A-level science making for a much easier transition into A-level biology, chemistry and physics. Due to the very competitive nature of the subject at post-16 education level, it is essential to have at least a Grade 7 (preferably above) as part of separate science or combined science and in mathematics. There are a variety of academic and vocational pathways in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, engineering, computer science.



## Course Leader Contact:

Mr D Donaldson, Faculty Leader for Science and Technology - [DDonaldson@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:DDonaldson@hovepark.org.uk)  
Mr Andrew Lyell, Head of Science - [ALyell@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:ALyell@hovepark.org.uk)

# Vocational Courses

These courses are only available to students who will not be taking a GCSE modern foreign language course at Key Stage 4. These courses focus more on vocational (work-related) learning and practical skills.

- Level 2 courses are equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4.
- Level 1 courses are equivalent to GCSE grades 3-1.
- Entry Level courses are foundational certifications below GCSE level, designed to build basic skills, boost confidence, and prepare learners for the next stage of their educational pathway.

There are 4 courses to choose from:

1. Retail Business (Level 1/2)
2. Travel & Tourism (Level 1/2)
3. Hospitality & Catering (Level 1/2)
4. Art & Design (Entry Level)



# Retail Business Level 1/2 (WJEC)

Retail Business is a Level 2 course for students who will be studying at Nevill in Years 9 to 11. In this course you will have the opportunity to study the retail sector (retail means shopping) and customer service. We also cover the different types of business and marketing (which means how a business promotes and advertises its products).

## Course structure

There are 3 main units:

### 1. The Business of Retail:

-We focus on the different types of shopping and retail businesses.

### 2. Customer Service:

-What is good customer service?

-How to give customers a good experience.

### 3. Merchandising and marketing:

-Design advertisements and promotional materials.

-The marketing mix

-Visual merchandising

There will be:

- 1 x Exam.
- 2 x Controlled assessments (here you will write up your work on computers, with access to your notes and information, but it will be in timed conditions).

designer, logo designer, multimedia specialist, packaging design, print publishing designer, social media developer, teaching, typographer, tv & film, university lecturer, user interface designer and web design.

## Grading

Pass, Merit, Distinction

## Course Leader Contact:

Mr McKinney, Head of Humanities Faculty - [mmckinney@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:mmckinney@hovepark.org.uk)

# Travel and Tourism Level 1/2 (NCFE)

This course is for students who enjoy exploring areas of learning such as travel, holidays, business, and customer service. The tourism industry (holiday industry) will be studied in the UK and in other parts of the world.

You can also study tourist attractions, how travel agencies work and the different types of holidays.

The course will run from Year 9 to 11.

## Course structure

Core units:

- Customer service in Travel and Tourism
- UK Travel and Tourism.

Optional units include:

Hospitality, organising an event and package holidays.

Assessment:

- No formal external written exam for the Award
- Internal assessment set and marked by your tutor or centre.
- External Quality Assurance (EQA) carried out by NCFE to check standards.
- Evidence is built into a portfolio for each unit studied.
- This means your work is assessed continuously as you complete each unit, rather than sitting a final exam.

## Course Leader Contact:

Mr McKinney, Head of Humanities Faculty - [mmckinney@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:mmckinney@hovepark.org.uk)

# Hospitality and Catering Level 1/2 (WJEC)

Hospitality and catering is a dynamic, vibrant and innovative sector delivering vital jobs, growth and investment in the heart of our local communities. The sector is a major contributor to the UK economy, employing 2.9 million people and generating £130bn in economic activity.

Employment can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers, and food technologists working for supermarket chains.

The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study.

## Specification at a Glance

- Subject Content Unit 1

Enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety.

- Unit 2

Enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

## Assessment Overview

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry

Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification 80 marks

Questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action

Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification 120 marks

An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website.

## Course Leader Contact:

Mr Donaldson, Head of Science & Technology Faculty - [ddonaldson@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:ddonaldson@hovepark.org.uk)

# Art & Design OCR (Entry Level)

This qualification is ideal to enable students of all abilities to access a qualification and grow in confidence. Students will have the opportunity to progress on to GCSE level.

There are two areas of assessment:

1. Portfolio
2. Externally set task.

Learners can progress at their own pace so that they can develop their knowledge and skills and be put forward for the assessment when they are ready. It is designed to be accessible and relevant, and to provide learners with recognition for their achievements.

Learners will develop:

- Creative and imaginative skills.
- Confidence when working with art, craft and design materials and techniques.
- Investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills.
- Safe working practices in art, craft and design.

## Course Leader Contact:

Ms Vermeer, Head of Sport & Creative Arts Faculty - [evermeer@hovepark.org.uk](mailto:evermeer@hovepark.org.uk)