



Create Your Future



**KEY STAGE 4
OPTION CHOICES (Year 8)
FOR 2017**

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Introduction

Decisions about subject choices for Key Stage 4 are the most important educational decisions you have made so far. This brochure is designed to help in that decision-making process. These choices are not decisions to be made lightly. However, you are not alone because there are lots of people to help and support you. You should consult widely to help you make informed choices – for example with Subject Teachers, Academic Tutors, Heads of House and our Connexions Advisor. Parents also have an important role to play in advising students – after all they know you best of all!

Our options have been designed to give you maximum choice and flexibility whilst also ensuring that we equip you with the skills needed for your future careers. We recognise that each of you has differing strengths, interests and learning styles. Our curriculum offer reflects this and allows you to choose a pathway which suits your individual needs so that you can achieve your personal best.

Over the next few weeks read this booklet carefully and start to consider matching your strengths and interests with the subjects on offer. Consider what you will do at the end of Year 11 and how this may affect the choices you make now. Use your time in school to talk to Subject Teachers and your Academic Tutor. You will also have the opportunity for a one-to-one chat with your academic tutor to offer you further support and guidance.

Due to the importance of these choices, we are also organising an evening to share information with you and talk further about the options which are on offer. **Our Options Evening will take place on Thursday 30th March 2017 from 4.00pm – 7.00pm. There will be two presentations by myself and Mrs Minhas in the Somnium Theatre.** First presentation will start at 5.00pm and the second presentation at 6.00pm. This event will enable you to talk to Subject Teachers and current students about the different courses on offer.

After the Options Evening you will need to complete the Options Form and hand this in to your Head of House by **Tuesday 25th April 2017.**

It is an exciting time and we hope you find this booklet and whole process useful when making these choices about your future. Good luck in your decision making and remember we are all here to support you. We look forward to seeing you at our Options Evening and discussing your future plans with you.

Mrs J Fletcher - Headteacher

Mrs S Minhas - Deputy Headteacher

Overview of the Curriculum

In order to enable the school to fulfil the requirements of the curriculum, the teaching day will be divided into four lessons of 75 minutes each, giving a total of 20 lessons per week.

There are certain subjects that are statutory, which every child has to follow, to provide them with the foundations necessary to equip them with the knowledge and skills needed for their future career paths. This is referred to as our Core Curriculum which all students will experience. There are also a range of subjects which students can opt to do depending on their individual preferences, interest and aptitudes. These are referred to as our Option Subjects.

The curriculum structure below shows you the breakdown of the week and the time spent in core and options subjects:

Core Curriculum	Periods each week
English	3
Maths	3
Science	3
PE	2
Options Subjects:	
Options A, B, C, D	2 per option

One extra lesson per core subject will be allocated across the three years.

Most students will gain 9 full GCSE or equivalent passes.

Types of Qualifications

There are different types of qualifications available to you. Below is an outline of what they are.

GCSE qualifications

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most GCSE subjects are awarded a grade based upon a terminal exam. Very few subjects which are going to be exceptions will have a coursework element contributing to the overall grade. As a result of your three years' work, you will be awarded a grade based on a scale of 9 - 1.

- Grade 9 will be awarded to exceptional students which will be equivalent to current top A* grade
- Grade 8 the next highest standard
- Grade 7 will be equivalent to current grade A
- Grade 5 will be equivalent to current grade C
- Grade 1 the final pass grade will be equivalent to grade G
- Grade U Unclassified

All GCSEs will be delivering new specifications from September 2017 where students will be awarded 9 – 1 grades.

Vocational/ BTEC qualifications

BTECs are practical, work related courses. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. One unit of the BTEC course is externally set and assessed. This may be an exam or a controlled piece of assessment.

A BTEC First Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE. It introduces you to the employment area you have chosen and provides a good basis to go on to more advanced work-related qualifications.

Cambridge Nationals are similar qualifications with one unit externally assessed and the rest through coursework.

Core Curriculum Subjects

To fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum the following subjects will be taught to all students as part of our Core Curriculum.

- **English** will be studied by all students for three lessons per week.
Students will be prepared for the GCSE external examination in English Language and English Literature.
- **Mathematics** will be studied by all students for three lessons per week to prepare them for GCSE Mathematics.
- **Science** will be taught for three lessons per week.
It will be possible for students to obtain 2 GCSEs in the new GCSE Combined Science qualification. The course covers material in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
Science express Group (yr. 8) will study triple science and achieve 3 GCSEs ; one each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics during core time.
- **Physical Education** will be taught for two lessons per week.
This will include a wide range of indoor/outdoor sports appropriate to the season and weather. Some accredited opportunities will be available to students where appropriate.

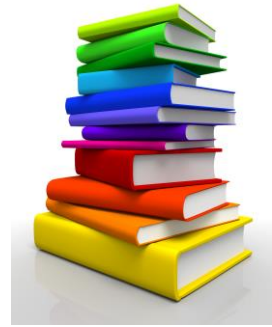
These subjects are described in more detail over the next 3 pages.

English Language and Literature GCSE

Qualification: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Head of Department: Miss L Sheard

Exam Board: AQA



Why study English?

English is a compulsory subject at KS4 and as a result all students must study English. English provides the stepping stone into any future career. All students will study both language and literature.

What will I learn?

Studying English Language and Literature, you will develop your written and spoken language skills. You will also read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts that cover the English language in a variety of forms. As a result, you will achieve qualifications that are highly valued in any pathway you choose.

How will I be assessed?

The English department prides itself in providing regular, rigorous assessment and feedback. Assessments are carried out at regular intervals throughout the course and are in a similar style to the terminal exams taking place at the end of Year 11.

English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes (50%):

This section of the course aims to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves by reading and responding to a literature fiction text and writing their own creative text in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image.

English Language Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes (50%): This section of the course will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by reading and responding to two linked texts from different time periods and producing a written task in which they give their own response on the theme that has been explored in the reading task.

English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th- century novel – 1 hour 45 minutes (40%):

Students will answer one question on a Shakespeare play and one question on a 19th-century novel. They will be required to write in detail about a specified extract and then write about the play/ novel as a whole.

English Literature Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry – 2 hours 15 minutes (60%): This paper contains three sections: students will answer one question on their studied modern prose or drama, one question comparing two poems from the poetry anthology and one question comparing two unseen poems.

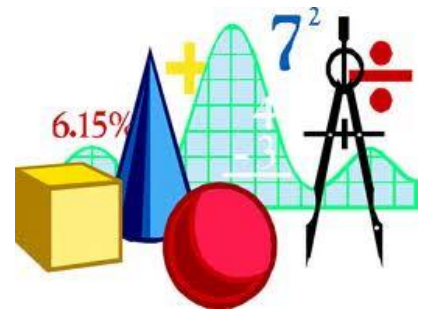
What career opportunities are there?

English provides a foundation for your study in all other subjects – both at GCSE/BTEC Level and beyond to A Levels. You can study A Level English Language and Literature at Coppice Performing Arts School. Most – if not all – career paths you may pursue after Year 11 will require a good GCSE grade in English.

How can I get further information?

Please see Miss L Sheard, Director of English.

Mathematics GCSE



Qualification: GCSE Mathematics
Head of Department: Mr H Khela
Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a core subject. It is everywhere around us and students will need to have an understanding of how to calculate accurately as well as be able to work out their own finances. It is used in most jobs and students will need to have an understanding of most topics. Statistics teaches you to think about how data can help you make decisions and predict how things will change.

What will I learn?

Mathematics: Students will learn how to calculate with and without a calculator, how to use percentages, decimals and fractions, as well as applying these to real life situations. They will study Algebra and how it can be used to solve problems, as well as looking at shape and graphs and using their skills to explain and prove things. Data handling and probability are also included in the course.

How will the course be structured?

Mathematics: Students will have 3 lessons per week and will study topics at either Higher or Foundation Level.

How will I be assessed?

Mathematics: Students will take three examinations at either Higher or Foundation tier. Exams give access to the new 9 to 1 grading system with 9 being the highest level. Foundation gives access to grades 5 to 1 and Higher to grades 9 to 4. Students will be entered for the tier that best fits their ability. The final grade is taken from the total mark from the three exams.

What career opportunities are there?

Most Further Education courses require students to have gained a grade 5 in Maths and Colleges and Sixth Form often require this as an entry qualification. Any job has some part of Maths in it and all prospective employers expect employees to be proficient in Maths.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr H Khela, Director of Mathematics.

Science GCSE



Qualification: GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)
Head of Department: Mrs S Brackenridge
Exam Board: AQA

Why study the Sciences?

GCSE Combined Science is a double award qualification resulting in two GCSE's. This double award is equivalent to two GCSE's similar to the current core and additional science which many families are familiar with. Students will navigate through a journey of biology, chemistry and physics over the duration of the course.

Employers highly value science qualifications. There has been millions of pounds invested over recent years in STEM areas. GCSE Combined Science provides the opportunity to acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding for life as a citizen. It provides distinctive and relevant experience for learners who wish to progress to A level and other Level 3 qualifications. When combined, GCSE Combined Science, form the Science component of the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) if students achieve 9 to 5 grades in both GCSE's.

What will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of interesting ideas and experiences to develop scientific skills and theories. Topics cover all aspects of science from health and fitness to electricity: from using carbon fuels to exploring our solar system. The course encourages you to understand theoretical concepts alongside developing practical skills, research skills, the ability to work independently and effective team communication.

How will the course be structured?

You will have 3 lessons a week and will cover modules in biology, chemistry and physics.
Biology topics include; cell biology, infection and response, bioenergetics and ecology.
Chemistry topics include; atomic structure, chemical changes and chemical analysis.
Physics topics include; forces, energy, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year 11 students sit 2 biology papers, 2 chemistry papers and 2 physics papers. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long. Pupils can sit foundation or higher tier. All papers will assess knowledge and understanding as well as scientific skills. Each paper is worth 70 marks with a range of questions including questions accessible to the lowest ability students.
Pupils will be awarded 2 grades 9 to 1 e.g. 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1,1-1.

What career opportunities are there?

You will develop many transferable and work related skills that are highly valued by employers. These include the ability to interpret, use and evaluate data, communicate effectively, work as part of a team as well as manage time and learn independently. A good science qualification 'open's doors' ranging from Journalism, Beauty Therapy, Medicine, Electrician, Research Scientist and Teaching. Successful students will be able to extend their studies to A Level.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs Brackenridge, Director of Science or Mrs J Davies, KS4 Science Co-ordinator.

OPTION SUBJECTS

Making Informed Decisions about your Option Subjects

Students and parents are asked to read carefully through the remainder of this booklet and look thoroughly at the resource material for the different subjects available to choose from. It is absolutely vital that students make good, informed decisions about which subjects to opt for. All options subjects will lead to qualifications but remember all qualifications **will need to be EARNED through hard work**.

As you read through the booklet you should think about the following things:

- What are my strengths and weaknesses which I should take into account?
- What do I want to do in future which may affect the options I choose?
- What is the content of the courses I am about to choose?
- What subjects do I currently do which I enjoy and do well in?
- Are there any new subjects that I have not studied before which look interesting?
- What methods of assessment are there? Which method would suit me better?
- Will the subject involve any expense for equipment, materials or trips?

Some Do's and Don'ts:

- **DO** think carefully about your next step.
- **DO** think carefully about your likes and dislikes.
- **DO** choose for yourself - after all you will be taking the course for two years.
- **DO** look at the information in school and check out your options carefully.
- **DO** find out which subjects you'll need to study for the careers you're interested in.
- **DO** ask for help and discuss your options with parents, teachers, and tutors.

- **DON'T** choose a subject just because you like the teacher - you may not be taught by them.
- **DON'T** choose a subject just to be with your friends - you may well be in different groups.
- **DON'T** think about "boys' subjects" and "girls' subjects" – all courses are open to you.

You are going to study these options for three years – so make sure you make the right choices for you based on sound information.

**ONCE YOU HAND IN YOUR OPTIONS FORM,
YOUR DECISIONS ARE FINAL.**

The 'English Baccalaureate' (E-Bacc) and Raising Participation Age (RPA)

When making decisions about option subjects it is essential that this guidance is considered.

The 'E-Bacc'

The English Baccalaureate was implemented in the 2010 school performance tables published in January 2011.

A student can achieve the 'E-Bacc' by gaining a grade between 9 to 5 in each of the following subject categories:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Mathematics
- Two GCSE Sciences – either two of the three 'separate' sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) or GCSE Core Science plus GCSE Additional Science or
- Either GCSE Geography or GCSE History
- A GCSE in a modern or ancient foreign language; at Coppice Performing Arts School this is French

The E-Bacc was introduced principally as a measure of (school) achievement and **not** as a qualification. The government has stated that the introduction of this new performance measure is intended to encourage schools to promote "a properly rounded academic education" and as an incentive for schools to drive up the numbers of students opting to continue with independent science subjects, humanities and foreign languages.

Some schools have chosen to make E-Bacc course combinations compulsory for all students. Coppice Performing Arts School recognises however that the E-Bacc combination of courses will not suit all students and therefore will not promote the highest levels of academic attainment for those students.

Our option blocks therefore enable students, to opt for GCSE subjects that would allow them to achieve the E-Bacc combination. This is essential to ensure that the challenge and stretch is there for our students.

We would advise however that for some students the Baccalaureate subjects will not represent the most suitable programme. Of considerably more importance is that students should choose subjects which will allow them to succeed at a high level and which will enable them to develop as increasingly skilled and motivated learners. For many, this will be achieved by choosing subjects in the areas of the arts, technology and vocational subjects.

Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

- The government have increased the statutory participation age of young adults.
- Young people will need to continue in education or training until at least their eighteenth birthday.

What does this mean?

- It does not necessarily mean young people have to stay on at school after Year 11 and they still may be able to find employment full time if they choose with part time education/training.
- However, they will have a choice about how they participate post 16, which could be through:
 - Full time education such as Sixth Form or College
 - Work based learning such as an Apprenticeship
 - Part time education or training if employed or volunteering for 20 hours per week or more.

Why is this happening?

- To give young people the opportunity to develop the skills they need for adult life and to achieve their full potential.
- Participating in learning longer means greater skills and qualifications to open more doors and earn more over your lifetime.
- Evidence shows that those who do not participate in education, employment or training at age 16-18 means they are more likely to earn less, have poor health etc.

How does this affect my options?

You need to consider the options you take and what you may want to do post 16 until you are 18.

Art GCSE



Qualification: GCSE Art and Design (Unendorsed)
Head of Department: Mrs G Varney
Exam Board: OCR

Why study Art?

If you enjoy making, designing, drawing, imagining and creating things, this is the course for you. You will do well if you are open to new ideas; you like experimenting with materials and you are a perfectionist. You should be interested in looking at the work of artists, designers, architects and crafts people and are prepared to give your opinions.

What will I learn?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop your creative skills, work with a wide variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and textiles. You will learn how to produce your own portfolio of work from set starting points. You will develop your own ideas from your research, looking at and commenting on artists' work to inspire your own. You will produce sketch books that document your ideas and show how they have progressed. You will learn to improve your observational drawing and refine your technical control in all media to a high quality. As a result to the projects you will be expected to produce a final piece.

How will the course be structured?

Students studying the Art GCSE will have 2 lessons a week over three years. The first project is aimed at improving students' skills and their knowledge of art, craft and design styles setting them on the right path for their controlled assessment and exam. Students are then given a range of starting points from which they develop preparation work and then a final piece. Unit 1 is 60% of the final mark, produced under controlled conditions. Time starts after Christmas in year 10 for this project and runs up to and including the six weeks. This allows students to create work of their own individual style. After this time students refine their work into a final design. Projects have covered areas such as portraiture, still life, fashion, natural forms, illustration, connections to music and cultural influences.

The final examination is worth 40% of the final mark. It is a set paper sent by the exam board, where candidates produce a personal response to one starting point. A period of time is given in which to plan and prepare the piece. Students then sit a 10 hour examination over 3 days to produce a final outcome.

How will I be assessed?

All coursework is assessed regularly; you will receive regular feedback, guidance and support.

Unit 1: Controlled Assessment 60% 120 marks

Unit 2: Final Examination 40% 80 marks

Your work will be assessed on your ability to:

AO1: Develop ideas using artists as reference, AO2: Refine ideas using a variety of media and techniques,

AO3: Record ideas, AO4: Present a response.

GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded.

What career opportunities are there?

You will have the opportunity to go onto further study in this subject at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form or College. You may then consider studying a specialism, which could lead towards a specific career path. Careers, for example include an Illustrator, Textile Designer, Animator, Graphic Designer, Architect, Theatre Design, Teacher, Jewellery Designer/Maker, Product Designer or Surface Pattern Designer.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs G Varney, Subject leader

GCSE Business Studies

Qualification: GCSE Business Studies
Head of Department: Mrs M Moore
Exam Board: Edexcel



Why study Business?

If you are interested in the world of work and would like to develop some of the skills needed for the workplace then this may be the course for you.

What will I learn?

You will learn about the business environment through topics such as how small businesses start-up, investigating how small businesses work and how to build a successful business. You will develop knowledge of entrepreneurship and how to spot a business opportunity. You will also investigate the marketing, operational, financial and human resource decisions that businesses face. Within the course you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills which are required for the workplace and exam technique which will assist you with the exams.

How will the course be structured?

You will have 2 lessons a week.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through two external examinations.

Unit 1: An external examination; 1 hour and 30 minutes with a range of multiple choice, calculations, short-answer and extended writing questions. This unit is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

Unit 2: An external examination; 1 hour and 30 minutes with a range of multiple choice, calculations, short-answer and extended writing questions. This unit is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

The overall grade students can achieve is 9 - 1

What career opportunities are there?

Having studied Business you will be able to go onto Further Education at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form, College or through Work Based Learning. Equally, learners will be able to enter employment in careers such as Accountancy and Finance, Administration, Customer Service, Marketing and Retail.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs M Moore, Head of Business Studies.

BTEC Award in Business Studies



Qualification: BTEC Level 2 First Award in Business Studies
Head of Department: Mrs M Moore
Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study Business?

If you are interested in the world of work and would like to develop some of the skills needed for the workplace then this course may be for you.

What will I learn?

You will learn about the business environment through a series of assignments and external assessments that are based on realistic workplace scenarios. Topics you will learn about include finance within businesses and the business environment. You will also have the opportunity to develop a range of skills which are required in the workplace. For example, you will develop your research and organisational skills in order to manage projects effectively. The ability to work independently and in a team to solve problems will be essential.

How will the course be structured?

Students will have 2 lessons a week and will complete 4 units, over three years.

The core units are; Enterprise in the Business World and Finance for Business. There are optional units which will be chosen to suit the interests and abilities of the students.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by coursework at regular points through the course and there is an external assessment which makes up 25% of the qualification. Regular feedback and support will be given to enable students to improve their grades. The course is graded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Distinction* is worth A* (8)

Distinction is worth A (7)

Merit is worth B (6)

Pass is worth C (5)

What career opportunities are there?

Having studied Business you will be able to go on to further study in this subject at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form, College or through Work Based Learning. Equally learners will be able to enter employment in careers such as Accountancy and Finance, Administration, Customer Service, Marketing and Retail.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs M Moore, Head of Business Studies.

Dance GCSE



Qualification:	GCSE Dance
Head of Department:	Ms K Sterran
Exam Board:	AQA

Why study Dance?

The intrinsic value of dance is the development of creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. GCSE Dance provides you with the skills, technique, fitness and confidence to pursue professional routes in Dance, PE, or Performing Arts.

What will I learn?

The new specification for GCSE Dance offers a greater focus on practical work, with an exciting content informed by professional works and opportunities to participate in workshops, classes and performances with professional artists and companies. The course will enable you to develop technical competence, physical and personal skills, knowledge and understanding of dance as a choreographer.

How will the course be structured?

GCSE Dance will be delivered within 2 lessons a week over 3 years and is made up of practical and theory lessons. Each term, modules will be delivered to improve techniques in a range of styles; choreography projects that explore and synthesise ideas; performance opportunities learning the exposure skills necessary for effective performance and critical appreciation lessons developing critical, perceptual and evaluative skills. You will also look at Dance fitness and have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular classes, workshops and trips.

How will I be assessed?

The 3 compulsory units will be examined at the end of the three year course, with mock exams delivered over the 3 years to monitor progress.

GCSE Dance Units:

Performance

- Set phrases through a solo performance
- Duet/trio performance

Choreography

- Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes).

Critical Appreciation

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
- Critical appreciation of own work.
- Critical appreciation of professional works

GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded.

What career opportunities are there?

GCSE Dance provides a route to further study in A Level or BTEC Dance, at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form. Higher Education is also available in a range of degrees in Dance, Performing Arts or PE, as well as vocational or professional training and community activities.

Experience and qualifications in Dance can not only contribute to a host of non-specific Dance careers, but enable you to enter careers in Dance Teaching, Performance, Choreography, Dance Therapy, Community Dance Work or Arts Co-ordination.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs K Sterran, Head of Dance.

Drama GCSE



Qualification:	GCSE Drama
Head of Department:	Mrs R Bourne
Exam Board:	Eduqas (formally WJEC)

Why study Drama?

If you like working creatively with others and wish to develop interpersonal skills that are vital for today's modern world then this course may be for you. Also, if you have an interest in performing and exploring Drama this GCSE will be ideal.

What will I learn?

The course is very varied and enables students to create original drama based on a stimulus as well as explore play texts from the point of view of a performer, reviewer, director and designer. Students will learn how to practically explore themes, devise drama, perform scripts and evaluate both professional and peer performances. There is a design option within certain units of this course; this allows students who have a talent in this area to develop their skills in aspects such as lighting and sound design. A GCSE in Drama also enables students to learn key social skills such as team work and personal organisation which lead to improved confidence and stronger communication skills.

How will the course be structured?

The course is split into 3 units over 3 years. The first unit to be delivered in Year 9/10 is internally assessed and involves the students devising their own performance using a given stimuli. They are then required to evaluate their devising process and produce a performance log. Unit 2 is covered in Year 11, students will prepare a performance from a scripted play text and present this in front of a visiting examiner in the Summer term. They will be assessed on areas such as voice, movement, characterisation and communication. The final Unit is a written examination which is taught throughout the two year course; students have to explore two set play texts from a director's point of view, considering the acting and design choices within the play in performance. In addition to this, all students will go on at least one theatre trip during the two year course; they will watch a fantastic professional production and then use this experience as the basis for the final part of their written examination.

How will I be assessed?

You are assessed on your practical performance skills via your scripted and devised performance pieces. You are also assessed on your written evaluation skills via your devised performance. GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded, which is completed under controlled conditions, and your written examination.

What career opportunities are there?

You may choose to go on to study Drama at AS/A Level at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form. Employers will be equally impressed by the strong element of team work involved in the Drama course and the appeal of this in the work place is wide, covering a variety of careers and jobs, for example work with pre-school age children, teaching or law. More specifically you may wish to enter "the business" and consider a career as an Actor or in the Performing Arts industry.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr J Cooper-Richards, Acting Head of Drama.

French GCSE



Qualification: GCSE French
Head of Department: Mrs A Forrester
Exam Board: WJEC EDUQAS

Why study French?

- To increase your job opportunities – there is an increasing need for people with MFL qualifications.
- To boost your brain power – using skills of analysis and problem solving.
- To earn you more money – average earnings can be boosted by up to 20%.
- Some universities are insisting on an MFL qualification as an entry requirement.
- It demonstrates the use of transferable skills – communication, team-work, perseverance etc. Speaking French is a real asset and can be combined with a degree in the sciences, law, business studies or politics.

What will I learn?

Content will cover 3 broad themes, which is then divided in to the following sub-themes:

Identity and Culture – *Youth Culture, Lifestyle, Customs and Traditions*

Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest – *Home and Locality, France and French-speaking Countries, Global Sustainability*

Current and Future Study and Employment: *Current Study, World of Work, Jobs and Future Plans*

How will the course be structured?

You will have 2 lessons a week:

You will develop your skills to respond to different types of language with regard to listening and reading, to be able to talk about lots of different topics, to read and respond to different types of written language, to develop your writing skills by using a range of vocabulary and structures

How will I be assessed?

You will be examined in listening, reading, writing and speaking, each worth 25% of the final grade at the end of Year 11, however regular assessment throughout the course will prepare you for the final exams. GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded.

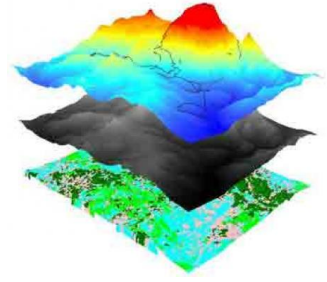
What career opportunities are there?

Research shows that 75% of employers want “Language Skills”. Competition to gain a place at university or to obtain a job, means that organisations now require or desire you to have a language qualification. Languages combine well with virtually any subject and in a variety of careers e.g. tourism, business, accountancy, law, education, public services and media.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs A Forrester, Curriculum Area Leader.

Geography GCSE



Qualification:	GCSE Geography
Subject Leader	Mr. G. Dawson
Exam Board:	OCR A

Why study Geography?

Do world events interest you? Do you like discovering new places? Do you enjoy finding out about how our planet works? Do you care about our environment?

If the answer is yes to any of these, then Geography is for you.

What will I learn?

This course will develop an understanding of places, environments and human behaviour and provide opportunities to investigate places through fieldwork. It builds knowledge and understanding of current events from local to global; it develops essential skills for the future including literacy, numeracy, decision making, thinking skills and enquiry.

How will the course be structured?

There are 3 units:

Unit 1 Living in the UK Today – topics studied: Landscapes of the UK; People of the UK; UK Environmental Challenges.

Unit 2 The World Around Us – topics studied: Ecosystems of the Planet; People of the Planet; Environmental threats to our Planet.

Unit 3 Geographical Skills – topics studied: Geographical Skills and Fieldwork Assessment

How will I be assessed?

All units are exam based. Units 1 and 2 has questions ranging from short to extended answers, with some resource based questions. Unit 3 has questions ranging from short to extended answers on geographical skills and fieldwork.

GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded.

What career opportunities are there?

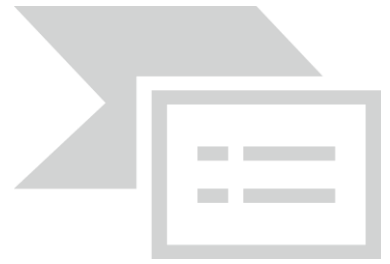
Geography is a highly regarded subject both by employers and universities. Careers which involve Geography include knowing about the environment, working with people or making decisions. For example, Civil Engineer, Conservationist, Hotel Manager, Planner, Social Worker, Surveyor, Teacher, Transport Manager or Tourism Officer.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr G. Dawson, Subject Leader.

Health and Social Care BTEC

Qualification:	Health & Social Care BTEC Level 2 First Award in Health & Social Care
Head of Department:	Miss T Ireson
Exam Board:	Edexcel



Why study Health & Social Care?

Studying Health and Social Care can provide you with valuable skills which are transferable to a whole range of health and social care settings. If you are interested in working with, and helping, a wide range of people this course provides a sound base for developing knowledge and workplace skills.

What will I learn?

You will learn about the wide spectrum of Health and Social Care provision in the United Kingdom. You will develop your understanding of how different individuals grow and develop and how to provide effective care for them. Topics of primary importance are also covered such as communication skills, dealing with clients/patients in the workplace and barriers which can affect access to services. Practical work is also an essential part of the course.

How will the course be structured?

Students will have 2 lessons per week and will complete 2 core units and 2 optional units.
The core units are:

- Human Life Span Development - (externally set and assessed)
- Health and Social Care Values

The optional units are:

- Effective Communication in Health and Social Care
- The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing

How will I be assessed?

Most units are assessed by coursework at regular points through the course. There is one externally assessed unit (identified above). Regular feedback and support will be given to enable students to improve their grades.

All coursework is graded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Distinction* is worth A* (8)

Distinction is worth A (7)

Merit is worth B (6)

Pass is worth C (5)

What career opportunities are there?

Further options include studying BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form, College or work based apprenticeships. Having a Health and Social Care qualification can lead to many career opportunities such as Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching (primary and SEN) Social Work, physiotherapy and mental health. Alternatively employment opportunities from school could include Care Assistant, Nursery Assistant etc.

How can I get further information?

Please see Miss T Ireson or Mrs K Pickering – Health and Social Care teachers.

History GCSE

Qualification: GCSE History
Head of Department: Mrs J Thomas
Exam Board: Edexcel History



Why study History?

- History is an interesting and stimulating subject at any age, but provides a real challenge at GCSE level and beyond.
- It provides students with many vital skills such as allowing them to make a balanced judgement or analyse situations or events.
- It remains very much an academic subject and as such is still highly regarded by businesses, colleges and universities.
- It provides an ideal preparation of A levels which remain exam-based, rather than coursework-based.

What will I learn?

The course offers a balance of topics which are both interesting and relevant. There are four units:

- Unit 1 – Medicine in Britain from 1250 to the present Day – we take for granted our health today and are largely ignorant of the pain and suffering people had to endure in the past.
- Unit 2 – The American West 1835 to 1895 and Henry VIII and his ministers 1509 to 1540. A real interesting mix of History that students may not have studied in great detail before.
- Unit 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 to 1939. A student favourite looking at Germany from the end of World War One to the outbreak of World War Two.

How will the course be structured?

The course is linear. This means that students will take exams in units 1, 2 and 3 at the end of Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1 is worth 30% Unit 2 is worth 40% and Unit 3 is worth 30%
- Units 1-3 are assessed by examinations,

GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded.

What career opportunities are there?

- History GCSE is very popular with employers. It shows that the applicant for a job can make balanced judgements and rational decisions. History can make a contribution to many jobs including teaching, journalism and leisure and tourism.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs J Thomas, Curriculum Area Leader for Humanities.



Cambridge National Certificate in ICT

Qualification: Cambridge National in ICT

Curricular Area Leader: Mr S Dhanda

The Cambridge Nationals in ICT will equip learners with sound ICT skills for everyday use and provide opportunities to develop in context those desirable, transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with others or communicating technical concepts effectively. They will also challenge all learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and skills; encouraging independence and creativity; providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum (including data handling, modelling and programming).

The course consists of the following units:

Unit 1 Understanding computer systems (exam). This will provide learners with the underpinning knowledge and understanding required to use computer systems effectively. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the systems they use both at home and at school and will explore how these same technologies are used by business organisations.

Unit 2 Using IT to create business solutions (coursework). This will enable learners to develop ICT skills that will equip them to operate effectively in a business environment. Learners will use a wide range of applications that are commonly used in the workplace, schools, and in further and higher education. They will learn how to select the most appropriate software to complete tasks to meet specified business requirements in a variety of contexts.

Unit 5 Creating an interactive product using multimedia (coursework). This unit will enable learners to demonstrate their creative flair by combining multimedia components to create a vibrant, energetic, interactive website. Students will be using a range of software to develop their website. This will include presentation, animation and photo editing software.

Unit 6 Creating digital images. This is a creative unit and will allow learners to develop their photo editing skill using industry standard software such as Adobe Photoshop. On completion of this unit learners will be able to create a digital image that communicates the intended message effectively, meeting the client's needs.

All coursework is graded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Distinction* is worth A* (8)

Distinction is worth A (7)

Merit is worth B (6)

Pass is worth C (5)

What career opportunities are there?

This qualification is highly relevant to today's employment market as candidates practice and develop skills used in the workplace and gain a real insight into a range of sectors and industries.

ICT is relevant to virtually all jobs and careers nowadays and is therefore essential for all students.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr S Dhanda, Curriculum Area Leader

Computer Science GCSE

Qualification: GCSE Computer Science

Curricular Area Leader: Mr S Dhanda

Exam Board: Edexcel



Why study Computer Science?

The GCSE Computing gives students an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. Students will do some in-depth research and practical work. For example, some of the investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.

What Will I Learn?

The aim of the unit is to allow learners to understand how computer systems work and to be able to design and develop programs to solve specific programs. The qualification consists of the following three units:

Unit 1: Principles of Computer Science (1 hour 40 minute written exam)

This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems on which the examination will be based. The theory covers a wide range of topics that allows student to understand how computer systems use hardware and software. They will also be learning the logic of computer systems and understanding how binary is used as a form to allow computers to communicate.

Unit 2: Application of Computational Thinking Investigation (2 hour written exam)

This is an examination which will be based on a scenario given by the exam board. Students will need to use the knowledge they gained over the course and apply this to the given scenario.

Unit 3: Programming project.

This unit involves students learning a programming language and being able to create a program to solve a problem. The programming project will call on students to design code and test a solution to three tasks using a suitable programming language.

How will the course be structured?

Students will be having two lesson of Computer Science a week. During these lessons students will be studying the examination theory as well as developing their programming techniques.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 will be a written exam that will last 1 hour 40min. This exam is out of 80 marks and worth 40% of the total course. This unit will be externally assessed. The same applies for unit 2 with the exam being 2 hours. Unit 3 is a controlled assessment worth 60 marks. Students are given 20 hours to complete the controlled assessment which is worth 20% of the course. Controlled assessments are internally assessed then externally moderated. GCSE grades between 9 – 1 will be awarded.

What career opportunities are there?

The increasing importance of information technology means there'll be growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. Career paths can vary from engineering, financial and resource management, science, medicine and software engineering.

Entry requirements: To be able to choose this subject the student must achieve grade 4+ or above in Mathematics at the end of Year 8.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr S Dhanda, Curriculum Area Leader

Media GCSE

Qualification: GCSE Media Studies
Head of Department: Mr D Corns
Exam Board: AQA



Why study Media?

Media is a truly contemporary subject which is relevant to all of our lives. The media saturates and influences everything we do in the developed world in the 21st Century. Studying Media will teach you the tools to analyse and critique the media and afford you the chance to see the ways in which the media influences your life as well as learning industry standard practical skills.

What will I learn?

You will learn about the media environment through a series of topics including *Representation, Audience, Industry, Genre, Digital Media, Printed Media, and Moving Image*. Each unit looks at the theory behind the topic as well as analysing examples and giving you the opportunity to think and be creative. You will study a range of films and TV shows in order to understand how they are made and how they are successful. You will be able to deconstruct and evaluate a variety of printed and digital media products. A large number of the skills you will learn are transferrable into a number of other areas.

How will the course be structured?

Students will be following the new AQA GCSE Media Studies course which follows the 9 - 1 grading system. The course is divided into three units. Unit 1 is an externally assessed examination unit. The exam focuses on *Industry, Audience and Representations*. This exam is worth 35% of the overall GCSE mark.

Unit 2 is also an examination unit. The exam focuses on *Media Language and Contexts of the Media*. This exam is worth 35% of the overall GCSE mark.

Unit 3 is a coursework based component which requires students to produce both a statement of intent and a full media product such as a magazine or a music video.

How will I be assessed?

Students will take regular classroom based assessments to maintain and measure progress across the course. The assessments will take the form of both creative practical tasks and written assessments depending on the topics and subject matter covered.

What career opportunities are there?

Having started Media you will be able to go on to further study in this subject at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form, College or through Work Based Learning. Equally learners will be able to enter employment within the Media sector in careers such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines and new media.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr D Corns, Subject Leader for Media.

Music GCSE



Qualification: GCSE Music
Head of Department: Mrs N Lacey
Exam Board: EDUQAS

Why study Music?

GCSE Music offers students the opportunity to develop their performance and composition skills through a wide variety of repertoire. If you have a passion for performance, composition or listening this is the course for you.

What will I learn?

You will learn about practical musicianship through performance, composition and listening tasks. The four areas of study are:

- Musical Forms and Devices
- Music for Ensemble
- Film Music
- Popular Music

How will the course be structured?

The exam components are:

- Performance – solo and/or ensemble performance of your own choice which can be either vocal or instrumental – worth 30% of final mark.
- Composition – 2 compositions to be created and recorded– 30% coursework.
- Listening – a final listening exam worth 40%.

How will I be assessed?

Performance and composition coursework is internally assessed and recorded. Integrated assignment and listening exams are externally assessed. GCSE grade 9-1 to be awarded.

What career opportunities are there?

GCSE music is the ideal stepping stone to further study in this subject at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form or College or to a music career in Performance, Music Technology, Composition events or Teaching.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs N Lacey, Head of Music.

PE BTEC

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport
Head of Department: Miss C Hinton
Exam Board: Edexcel



Why study PE?

If you are interested in the world of sport this is the perfect subject for you. You will learn about many different aspects of sport which will help you pursue a career in the sporting field.

What will I learn?

You will study many different aspects of sport within various units. Through a series of assignments and practical sessions you will learn about Fitness for Sport and Exercise, Practical Sports Performance, Anatomy and Physiology and Injury in Sport.

How will the course be structured?

Over the 3 years you will have 2 lessons a week. Within these lessons you will cover 4 units. Each unit includes a number of assignments. However, one of these units is externally set and assessed. Each assignment enables you to achieve a Pass, Merit, or Distinction. These equate to a grade at GCSE Level. The core units are:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise
- Practical Sport Performance

How will I be assessed?

Units are assessed by assignments throughout the course, although one is set and assessed externally. Work is graded at a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Distinction* is worth A* (8)

Distinction is worth A (7)

Merit is worth B (6)

Pass is worth C (5)

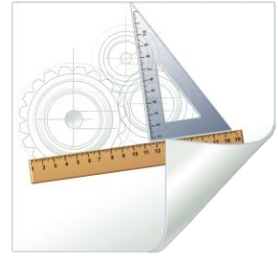
What career opportunities are there?

There are many career pathways in the sporting world, such as Teaching, Journalism, Coaching, Leisure Industry, Referee and Outdoor Education. This pathway allows you to further study BTEC National Award in Sport at Post 16 at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form, or at College.

How can I get further information?

Please see Miss C Hinton, Head of PE.

Product Design GCSE



Qualification: GCSE
Head of Department: Mr S Murphy
Exam Board: AQA

Why study Product design?

Product designers have a huge influence on the form, function and style of many of the objects we use in our daily lives – everything from kettles to telephones to televisions – as well as creating much more specialist products, such as medical equipment.

As well as the requisite 3D design abilities, product designers need to have a broad understanding of other important factors such as ergonomics, materials, manufacturing processes, branding, marketing, lifestyles and trends.

Product Design enables you to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques.

What will I learn?

You will learn a range of skills from design and drawing. Working with different materials to construct products, evaluate design ideas, and write detailed specifications. You will also learn CAD / CAM skills using industry standard software including Photoshop, Illustrator and Fusion 360. With these skills you will be able to move on to study the subject further at FE / HE level.

How will the course be structured?

You will be asked to design a product, packaging, labelling and instructions as part of the complete design proposal and advertising. Points of sale can be used to supplement the making experience and help create products which can be evaluated for their commercial viability.

This course has 60% controlled assessment in order to recognise the importance of practical work within this subject, 40% will be made up from an exam at the end of Year 11 covering design which takes theory form.

How will I be assessed?

You will produce one controlled assessment product and folder making of your own choosing, making up 60 per cent of the marks and then the other 40 per cent will be made up of one exam. GCSE grades 9 – 1 will be awarded.

What career opportunities will they be?

Most employers will expect candidates to be qualified to a Degree, Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma (HND) level. So you will need to go on to HE or FE education at the end of Year 11. Individual designers often focus on a particular area, such as consumer electronics, automotive design or indeed medical equipment, but many of the product designer's skills are transferable between projects and products.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mr S Murphy, Head of Technology.

Science Triple



Qualification: GCSE Triple Science
Head of Department: Mrs S Brackenridge
Exam Board: AQA

Why study Triple Science: GCSE Chemistry, Biology and Physics?

GCSE Triple Science will result in three separate GCSE's – GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. By studying the sciences separately you will gain and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of each science and its essential role in society. Employers highly value science qualifications. There has been millions of pounds invested over recent years in STEM areas. GCSE Triple Science is a particular 'stand out' qualification when applying for 6th form, university or employment opportunities.

The minimum requirement needed to study GCSE Triple Science is Grade 4+ in your end of year 8 assessment because the course is more demanding than GCSE Combined Science.

What will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of interesting ideas and experiences to develop critical approaches to scientific evidence and methods. Topics cover all aspects of each science subject and topic titles include 'nerves and hormones' and 'tissues, organs and organ systems', 'chemical reaction rates' and 'periodic table' and 'nuclear fusion and fission' and 'medical applications of physics'. GCSE Physics includes a unique topic of 'Space Physics'.

How will the course be structured?

You will have 5 lessons which will cover each science subject. These will be taught by specialist teachers. Lessons will cover the new AQA specification and will cover subject content supported by integrated practical work.

How will I be assessed?

Triple science results in three separate GCSE's – GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. At the end of year 11, students sit 2 biology papers, 2 chemistry papers and 2 physics papers. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes long. Pupils can sit foundation or higher tier. Each paper is 100 marks. All papers will assess Knowledge and understanding as well as scientific skills. Pupils will be awarded 3 grades 9 to 1.

What career opportunities are there?

GCSE Triple Science is recognised as a highly academic qualification which is greatly valued by all employers even in non-science specific careers. Students develop the ability to problem solve, think independently, interpret, use and evaluate data, conduct practical and investigative work and be aware of risk assessment and health and safety issues.

The separate sciences provide the most suitable base to move forward to the study of Chemistry, Physics or Biological Science at A Level at Coppice Performing Arts Sixth Form.

How can I get further information?

Please see Mrs S Brackenridge, Director of Science or Mrs J Davies, KS4 Science Co-ordinator.

New Requirements from September 2016 (Progress 8 Measure)

From September 2016, the government has put an explicit emphasis on schools that every child must study at least one of the following academic subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Triple Science
- Language
- Computer Science.

To address this, students must select one of the **'shaded' subjects as their first choice.**

KEY STAGE FOUR OPTION CHOICES FOR 2017 - 2020 (For year 8)



NAME: _____

TUTOR GROUP: _____

- You need to choose two subjects in each of the four option blocks. You need to identify which subject is your first choice and which is your reserve choice.
- You must choose a minimum of one grey shaded subject overall as your first choice.
- We will work hard to meet your first choices wherever possible. If we are unable to meet your first and second choice the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Minhas, will discuss it with you.
- Some courses may not run - for example if there are insufficient students it may be removed.
- The deadline for completion of this form is **Tuesday 25th April 2017**. Hand it in to your **Head of House**.

BLOCK A (Ebac)	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Computer Science GCSE	French GCSE	Geography GCSE	Triple Science GCSE
History GCSE	Geography GCSE	Triple Science GCSE	History GCSE
French GCSE	Drama GCSE	Business GCSE	Dance GCSE
Art GCSE	Product Design GCSE	Music GCSE	Product Design GCSE
Drama GCSE	Cambridge National ICT	Cambridge National ICT	Business BTEC
Media GCSE	Health & Social Care BTEC	PE BTEC	Health & Social Care BTEC
Business BTEC			

My Choices:

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
First Choice _____	First Choice _____	First Choice _____	First Choice _____
Reserve Choice _____	Reserve Choice _____	Reserve Choice _____	Reserve Choice _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____