



**Testwood  
School**



**The Road Ahead**

**Options 2025**

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# Key Stage 4 Options

**W**elcome to the Option Choices Process. This is an important, exciting and sometimes difficult process, so please read the booklet carefully to find out about the subjects on offer. This booklet also give important update to new GCSEs and offer key advice.

## How will I decide?

As well as reading about each of the courses, you may find it useful to work through the following questions in preparation for your decision.

- What are you interested in? - Other cultures and languages, writing projects, helping people, being outdoors or designing things.
- What types of activity do you enjoy most? - Working things out and thinking them through, practical activities or artistic options like painting, drawing or performing.
- Do you have a clear idea about future career aspirations? – Does this career require certain qualifications?
- Do you aim to go to university? - Take a look at the UCAS website and at the entry requirements for courses in which you have an interest. Some universities may, for example, require a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE or above and study of at least one more traditional humanities subject may well provide useful breadth.
- Do your choices provide breadth and balance across different types of subject? - This helps you to keep your options as open as possible for the future.

**A**t Testwood, we are proud that we can offer a broad and balanced curriculum where all pupils can feel that most of their wishes have been met. The choices they make will enable them to make progress to their next steps in education and training.

Whilst we endeavour to give students their preferred choices of courses this may not always be possible. Ideally, every pupil will have their first choices but some subjects will have to be limited for a variety of reasons. For example, some subjects are limited to a maximum number of students for health and safety reasons. Likewise, some subjects are limited by having just one specialist or specialist room able to teach it. Equally, if only a small number opt for a subject, the school may have to make a decision on whether it can viably run as a subject that year. Therefore, this all has an impact on the choices made by students.

Throughout this process, should a situation occur where an option is not possible, we will communicate this with you and discuss further options.

We have worked hard to expand the range of courses this year whilst continuing to offer a traditional KS4 curriculum. It is possible to follow different pathways to learning, assessment and subjects taken. Students, along with their parents and teachers, should consider which of these pathways best suits their needs and strengths.

The course descriptions shown in the booklet should be looked at carefully, paying careful attention to the amount of practical examinations and/or written examinations and method of assessment. The strengths and motivations of individual students should be the prime consideration when selecting their subjects.

I wish all of our Y9 students every success as they both start and prepare for Key Stage 4 and hope they enjoy the opportunity to plan for their future at Testwood.

Mrs R Magee

**Deputy Headteacher**

## What is compulsory?

Examined	English GCSE Language & GCSE Literature	Maths GCSE Mathematics	Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry & Physics
	Core PE		PSHE
Non-exam			

## What can I choose?

You will need to select **four** subjects from the list on the Options at a Glance page. One of which must be Computer Studies, French, Geography or History. You will also need to select **two** reserve subjects.

**Please select the six options in order preference.**

## What happens next?

Once all of the option selections are in, we will try to build a timetable around every student's choices. If we cannot make all of your choices fit, or if a course does not recruit enough numbers to run, Mrs Magee or Miss Niblock will discuss your options with you and you may need to choose an alternative. It is for this reason that we ask you to identify reserve subjects.

## Key Dates

Thursday 27th February 2025 - Y9 Progress Evening  
Monday 3rd March 2025 - Options Deadline

# Core Subjects



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# AQA English Language GCSE

## Why study the course?

The study of English Language is mandatory for all.

## What will the course cover?

Reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Reading for meaning and understanding. Improving reading fluency. Writing for purpose: narrative, describe, argue. Accuracy of writing. Writing imaginatively and developing ideas about planning, editing and structure.

## How is the course assessed?

Two written exams:

Paper 1 is a fiction based paper:

1 story extract with 4 comprehension questions;

1 writing question: a choice between narrative or description.

Paper 2 is a non-fiction based paper:

2 literary non-fiction extracts with 4 comprehension questions focusing on comparison;

1 writing question: point of view within a chosen form ranging from letters to articles.

## What can this course lead to?

GCSE English Language is the foundation for many post-16 courses, including A-Levels and vocational qualifications.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Fox or Mrs Ukahi

[mfox@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:mfox@testwoodschoo.co.uk) or [yukahi@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:yukahi@testwoodschoo.co.uk)

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# AQA English Literature GCSE

## Why study the course?

The study of English Language is mandatory for all.

## What will the course cover?

Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth by William Shakespeare

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Lewis Stevenson  
or A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology comprising of 15 poems

Unseen Poetry- looking at a range of poems

An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley

## How is the course assessed?

2 final exams: Paper 1 includes Shakespeare and the chosen 19th Century text (Jekyll and Hyde or A Christmas Carol; 1 question for each text which comes with an extract to use.

Paper 2 includes a choice of question for An Inspector Calls; 1 question for the Poetry Anthology cluster which is a comparison question with 1 poem provided to use; 2 questions about 2 unseen poems.

## What can this course lead to?

GCSE English Literature is excellent preparation for further study in many A-Levels.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Fox or Mrs Ukahi

[mfox@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:mfox@testwoodschoo.co.uk) or [yukahi@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:yukahi@testwoodschoo.co.uk)

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# Pearson Mathematics GCSE

## Why study the course?

Mathematics is vital for society as learning Maths helps to gain skills in problem solving, data analysis, graphical representation and number sense.

## What will the course cover?

GCSE Mathematics has 2 tiers of entry. Both foundation and higher tier are offered and students are prepared for the tier they will be entered for in their final examination. Both tiers cover topics within number, algebra, geometry, ratio and proportion, data and probability

## How is the course assessed?

In year 11 in their GCSE examinations there will be 3 papers;

1 x non calculator paper

2 x calculator papers

All papers are 90 minutes long. Each paper is worth 80 marks for both tiers.

## What can this course lead to?

Mathematics is needed for engineering, software developer, construction work, accountancy, nursing and so many more careers.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Morley

[amorley@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:amorley@testwoodschoool.co.uk)



## Combined Science/ Separate Sciences

### Why study the course?

Everybody has to study science and for some excellent reasons. Science is all around us, from the immensely complex natural world to the increasingly technological and scientifically advanced world that our pupils are growing up in.

### What will the course cover?

All students at Testwood will study the three disciplines of science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The majority of our students will follow the Combined Science course and will be awarded with two GCSEs for this course.

Some students will be selected to study the Separate Sciences course. Although the students will study the same key topics as the Combined Science course, the content in each topic is in greater detail and depth. The Separate Sciences course contains more challenging content and each science is awarded its own GCSE grade, so students will receive three GCSE grades.

### How is the course assessed?

Double Science students will take 6 terminal exams, each of 1 hour 15 minutes length (2 x Biology, 2 x Chemistry, 2 x Physics).

Triple Science students also sit 6 terminal exams, but each is 1 hour and 45 minutes long

### What can this course lead to?

Science is a highly valued subject that nurtures the development of transferable skills essential for the workplace. Science provides a foundation for many science-related and unrelated careers such as: doctor, vet, physiotherapist, chemist, beautician, plumber, nurse, architect, surveyor, engineer, farmer, sports trainer, lawyer, journalist, computer games developer, marine biologist and electrician, to name but a few.

### Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Rothwell

[grothwell@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:grothwell@testwoodschoo.co.uk)

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## Physical Education (Core)

### Why study the course?

The study of Physical Education is mandatory for all students.

### What will the course cover?

The focus of Physical Education at Key Stage 4 is to be physically active and learn what opportunities there are to support a healthy active lifestyle. The aim is to introduce activities that are brand new and those that can be maintained throughout life, promoting positive well-being. Testwood firmly believe in supporting students in a variety of opportunities from fitness activities, officiating development, first aid understanding and continuing to enjoy sport.

### How is the course assessed?

There is no assessment linked to this course.

### What can this course lead to?

Ongoing participation in sporting activities and clubs, links to extra-curricular activities.

### Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss Barbour

[kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk)



# Personal, Social and Health Education

## Why study the course?

The study of PSHE is mandatory for all students.

## What will the course cover?

As a part of your child's education at Testwood School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives children the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential. As you may already be aware, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), along with Health Education, became a statutory part of the National Curriculum from September 2020.

## How is the course assessed?

There is no formal assessment for this course.

## What can this course lead to?

Learning for Life (PSHE) is a compulsory element in all secondary schools which aims to equip young people with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills required to lead confident, healthy and independent lives.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Ball

[cball@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:cball@testwoodschoo.co.uk)

# Option Subjects



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# AQA Business GCSE

## Why study the course?

Its cross curricular, covers employment and employability knowledge as well as the world around us and ethics and sustainability.

## What will the course cover?

1. Business in the Real World
2. Influences on Business
3. Business operations
4. Human Resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

## How is the course assessed?

Two exam papers at the end of Year 11. 1hour and 45 minutes each

## What can this course lead to?

Employment, Further Education. Working in any industry. Any Level 2 or Level 3 courses. A' levels in - Business, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Geography, Media, Hospitality and Catering.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Boorman

[jboorman@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:jboorman@testwoodschoo.co.uk)



# OCR Cambridge National Child Development

## Why study the course?

This qualification is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements

## What will the course cover?

All students will study three mandatory topics as follows: Health and well-being for child development. Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years. Understand the development of a child from one to five years.

## How is the course assessed?

R057: Health and Well-being for child development - Written Paper OCR set and marked. - 1 hour and 15 minutes

R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years. OCR set assignment.

R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years. OCR set assignment.

## What can this course lead to?

This course can prepare students for further qualifications in child care, health and social care, psychology, sociology and biology.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Magee

[rmagee@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:rmagee@testwoodschoool.co.uk)



# OCR Computer Science GCSE

## Why study the course?

This qualification is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop their skills in Computer Science & Programming. It is designed to be primarily theory based, incorporating skills revolving around computer systems and programming algorithms. This is the ideal course for students who are critical thinkers, enjoy solving problems or who enjoy working with computers.

## What will the course cover?

The course covers a wide range of topics split between Computer Systems & Programming.

Paper 1: 1.1 Systems Architecture, 1.2 Memory and Storage, 1.3 Computer Networks, Connections and Protocols, 1.4 Network Security 1.5 Systems Software, 1.6 Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology.

Paper 2: 2.1 Algorithms, 2.2 Programming Fundamentals, 2.3 Producing Robust Programs, 2.4 Boolean Logic, 2.5 Programming Languages and Integrated Development Environments.

## How is the course assessed?

Computer Science is assessed by two 1 hour and 30 minute written papers at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 is on Computer Systems and Paper 2 is on Computational Thinking & Programming.

## What can this course lead to?

Computer Science has a plethora of links to other subjects and career directories. There are strong links to Mathematics, Business and Engineering. This subject is also useful to study if students wish to pursue a career in Computing, ICT or Computer Science.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Lockyer

[jlockyer@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:jlockyer@testwoodschoool.co.uk)



# Construction and the Built Environment BTEC

## Why study the course?

The course offers a mix of theory and practical based learning. Learners will develop a range of different skills and understanding which can be applied to solve 'real world' problems. It is important to note that the course does require learners to apply Mathematical and Scientific principles in order to solve construction based problems.

## What will the course cover?

This course offers a practical introduction to life and work in the construction industry. It provides an opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop your knowledge of construction methods, materials and design, applying lots of mathematical and scientific principles to solve problems in a construction context. You will also develop key skills, such as planning work and interpreting technical information. You will get the opportunity to apply hand skills, safely use tools and will measure and check the quality of work completed.

## How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Construction Technology -60 marks available - Assessed via an online written exam (1.5 hours).

Component 2: Construction in Practice - 60 marks available - Practical based Task - Assessed internally (at school) under controlled exam conditions (8 hours)

Component 3: Construction and Design - 60 marks available- Design based practical task - Assessed internally (at school) under controlled exam conditions (8 hours)

## What can this course lead to?

Learners can go onto study a Level 3 vocational course such as a BTEC National in Construction and the Built Environment. Learners may also consider A levels in a range of Technology and Construction based subjects.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Blyth

[ablyth@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:ablyth@testwoodschoool.co.uk)

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# Tech Award Performing Arts Dance BTEC

## Why study the course?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. It also builds confidence in their physical movement, performing and being in front of an audience. An excellent skill to transfer into interview opportunities.

## What will the course cover?

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts; exploring a range of dance including: action content, costumes, lighting, music, stage design and the stimulus will be explored.

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts; this component focuses on the development of dance and performance skills, whilst analysing your own performances and identifying how to make improvements.

Component 3 - Performing to a brief; January of year 11, an externally set task will be released, pupils are given a stimulus to develop and shape a dance performance.

## How is the course assessed?

Component 1 - Worth 30% of overall grade. Work will be internally assessed. Once all works have been studied, one professional works will be collated into a project linking to a pre-released stimulus from the exam board.

Component 2 - Worth 30% of overall grade. Work will be internally assessed. Written analysis of strengths and weaknesses. Target setting on how to improve. Rehearsals will be filmed for milestone evidence. Performances will be filmed and assessed.

Component 3 - Worth 40% of the overall grade. Work will be externally assessed by an Examiner.

## What can this course lead to?

This can lead to; a dance performer, a choreographer, a director, a performing arts teacher, a public speaker, into the fitness industry, into journalism of the arts.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss Barbour

[kbarbour@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:kbarbour@testwoodschoool.co.uk)

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# AQA Drama GCSE

## Why study the course?

This course is for learners 14-16yrs that want to develop their practical and theoretical understanding of Drama, theatre and the study of plays. It is designed with both performance and theoretical units that will build a well rounded understanding of what makes a successful actor, designer and performance in the world of theatre.

## What will the course cover?

All students will study three mandatory units- C1- Understanding Drama (study of a scripted play, the theatre and Live theatre review) C2- Devised Performance (Coursework in which students will devise their own performance and create a log of their process) C3- Texts in practice (Performance of 2 scripted extracts from a play)

## How is the course assessed?

Component 1 is assessed by a written exam in year 11.

Component 2 is coursework and assessed by your teacher in a live performance that is accompanied by a written log of your devised process.

Component 3 is a live performance of 2 extracts assessed by a visiting examiner in year 11

## What can this course lead to?

This course will build performance and design skills in students and is a natural progression for those learners that wish to move onto further qualifications and careers in Drama, performance, design and the theatre. It is excellent preparation for AS and A level courses in any of these routes.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Barnes

[abarnes@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:abarnes@testwoodschoo.co.uk)



# AQA Art and Design: Fine Art GCSE

## Why study the course?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, art and design: Fine Art is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

## What will the course cover?

Fine art explores ideas, conveys experiences or responds to a theme or issue of personal significance. The areas of study are very broad and cover drawing, painting, sculpture, installation and mixed media.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two components: • Component 1 Portfolio: produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60 % of your overall marks. • Component 2 externally set assignment: there's a separate externally set task paper for each title. It features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time. This is worth 40 % of your total marks.

## What can this course lead to?

You can continue your art and design studies at AS and A-level. You'll also be able to choose areas of study to specialise in within a particular title.

If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You'll develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Hickman

[rhickman@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:rhickman@testwoodschoool.co.uk)



# AQA French GCSE

## Why study the course?

Studying a language offers student an advantage for many students. UK employers regularly emphasise the need for more language skills in the job market, which makes a language GCSE one of the most sought-after skills. It also offer invaluable cultural knowledge by offering students the opportunity to discuss life in French-speaking countries around the world, thus improving their general knowledge and cultural capital. Knowledge of French also supports literacy in English. The aim of GCSE French is not to achieve full fluency by the end of the course, but to develop students' grasp of a core of vocabulary, grammar and phonics so that they can express themselves.

## What will the course cover?

Theme 1 - People and Lifestyle - Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others - Topic 2: Healthy living and Lifestyle - Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2 - Popular culture - Topic 1: Free time activities -Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations -Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3 - Communication and the world around us- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest- Topic 2: Media and technology- Topic 3: The environment and where people live

## How is the course assessed?

Students will be assessed on the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing with a final exam in each skill at the end of Y11. Each skill represents 25% of the final grade and all components of the exam are externally marked.

## What can this course lead to?

Studying a language at GCSE is important and enjoyable in itself, but there are also many careers for which this subject is either a requirement or useful, such as: -Primary school teaching, child care, buyer, catering and service, defence, insurance, international trade, management consultant, marketing executive, military, retail, sales, translator/interpreter, travel consultant

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Kingsbury

[mkingsbury@testwoodscool.co.uk](mailto:mkingsbury@testwoodscool.co.uk)

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# AQA Geography GCSE

## Why study the course?

Our planet currently faces its greatest existential threat. We need our young people to be well-informed on the issues that are happening now and will become even more important in the future. It takes a broad look at the processes that have seen coastlines change, cities grow and the planet change, potentially irreversibly. Coincide this with practical skills, and hands-on experience and you've got a subject that is imperative for Testwood pupils to be a part of.

## What will the course cover?

Paper 1 covers the physical environment, from volcanic eruptions to hurricanes. Also included in this section is the study of global ecosystems, understanding how some species are threatened with extinction as they interact with an increasingly changing natural environment.

Paper 2 takes a look at the human environment, understanding how cities like Rio de Janeiro have grown faster than the infrastructure can cope with. A core focus on the UK looks at the north-south divide and inequalities in our nation before contrasting this strikingly with the rapid rise of a Newly Emerging Economy: Nigeria.

Paper 3 takes geography beyond the classroom through the study of fieldwork. All GCSE geographers will visit a variety of UK landscapes with the additional opportunity to visit the Bay of Naples and Sorrento. Linked to this, the third paper examines a contemporary geographical issue.

## How is the course assessed?

Paper 1 - Challenges in the Physical Environment (35% of final grade), 1 hour 30 minute exam paper.

Paper 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of final grade), 1 hour 30 minute exam paper.

Paper 3 - Geographical Applications (30% of final grade), 1 hour 30 minute exam paper.

## What can this course lead to?

A GCSE in Geography can set up a career in nature conversation. Every workplace in the UK will need a sustainability expert as we work towards net zero, so every single career option in the future might need a background in Geography! We need innovators to be creating local, national and global solutions to climate change.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Jones

[rhjones@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:rhjones@testwoodschoo.co.uk)

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# Pearson Health & Social Care BTEC

## Why study the course?

To learn about how the Health and Social Care sector helps people with their wellbeing. It is a vocational course so would be ideal for anyone who is thinking of going into health care, childcare or social care.

## What will the course cover?

Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development

Component 2 - Health and Social Care Services and Values

Component 3 - Health and Wellbeing

## How is the course assessed?

60% Coursework (one piece in Year 10 and one in Year 11)

40% Exam (in Year 11)

## What can this course lead to?

It can lead onto studying this subject at College. You could complete a BTEC in Childcare at college or go onto a post 16 qualification by studying at BTEC Level 3 in Health and Social Care.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss Collins

[kcollins@testwoodschool.co.uk](mailto:kcollins@testwoodschool.co.uk)



# OCR History GCSE

## Why study the course?

Studying History is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore the past and understand the world today. This course focuses on themes and events that have shaped our society, such as power, conflict, and change. It helps students see how history repeats itself and how decisions made long ago still impact us now.

History encourages curiosity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. Students learn to analyse evidence, understand different viewpoints, and form balanced arguments. Students also develop empathy and cultural awareness, helping them better understand people from different backgrounds and times. It's not just about learning facts – it's about understanding why events happened and what we can learn from them.

## What will the course cover?

People's Health c.1250 - the present day, The Norman Conquest 1065 - 1087, The Making of America 1797 - 1900, Living Under Nazi Rule 1933 - 1945, History Around Us: Portchester Castle

## How is the course assessed?

100% examination. Three exams - Each unit is worth 20% of the overall grade

## What can this course lead to?

Studying GCSE History can lead to many interesting and rewarding jobs. It teaches you how to think critically, analyse information, and explain your ideas clearly – skills that are useful in lots of careers. Some jobs directly linked to history include being a historian, teacher, archaeologist, or museum curator, where you can work with historical artefacts and share stories from the past.

History is also great for jobs that need strong research and communication skills, like journalism, law, or politics. If you enjoy writing and explaining ideas, you could become a writer or editor. Other career options include business, where history skills help in problem-solving and decision-making, and tourism, like working as a tour guide or in travel planning..

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Leyman

[tleyman@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:tleyman@testwoodschoo.co.uk)

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# WJEC Hospitality & Catering (Technical Award)

## Why study the course?

Learners will develop a range of skills (linked to the Hospitality industry) which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities. These include: communication, confidence, independence, organisation, problem solving, research, self-discipline, stamina, responsibility and time management.

## What will the course cover?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry - Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry. - Learn about health and safety, food and hygiene practices within the industry as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value.- Learn how to plan nutritious menus. Learners will develop the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. Opportunities to review and evaluate prepared dishes.

## How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry - 40% of Qualification (80 marks)  
Written examination consisting of short and extended answer questions (1.20 hours)

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action 60% of Qualification (120 marks)  
Controlled practical assessment (approximately 12 hours) The controlled assessment is made of 4 tasks which centre around an assignment brief released by the exam board. One of the tasks is a 3.5 hour food practical exam.

## What can this course lead to?

The hospitality industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities and career pathways which include: Chef de partie, Commis chef, Concierge, Executive chef, Front of house, Head waiter, Maitre d'hotel, Pastry chef, Receptionist, Sous chef.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Blyth

[ablyth@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:ablyth@testwoodschoool.co.uk)

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# Eduqas Media Studies GCSE

## Why study the course?

Media Studies is a wonderful subject that applies the analysis skills of English to multiple forms of products. It allows students to practice their English GCSE skills, combined with Business and apply this to a multitude of media forms.

## What will the course cover?

Topics will cover - Advertising, magazines, newspapers, radio, video games, industry, TV, music videos, website.

## How is the course assessed?

Two exams each 1 hour 45 minutes totally 60% of the overall grade and one piece of coursework worth 40% of the overall grade.

## What can this course lead to?

Jobs in the advertising, marketing and media industry.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss White

[rwhite@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:rwhite@testwoodschoo.co.uk)



# OCR Music / Music Technology GCSE

## Why study the course?

**Hands-On Creativity and Skill Building: Composition Skills:** Students learn to create original music. **Performance Opportunities:** Regular performances help develop confidence by showcasing talents and refining instrumental or vocal skills. **Music Technology Integration:** The syllabus includes music production, introducing students to industry-standard software and editing techniques. **Digital Skills:** Students work with tools like Noteflight or Sibelius, gaining tech-skills. **Diverse Music Exploration: Modern Genres: Global Influences:** Exposure to world music broadens cultural understanding and appreciation, fostering a global mind-set.

## What will the course cover?

1. **Performing Music:** Perform individually and in ensembles on their chosen instrument or voice.
2. **Composing Music:** Create original compositions, developing their understanding of rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
3. **Appraising Music:** Students will study and analyse music through five Areas of Study:

## How is the course assessed?

1. Performing (30%).
2. Composing (30%)
3. Listening and Appraising (40%)

A written exam lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes.

## What can this course lead to?

GCSE Music provides an excellent foundation for further music study at local colleges, preparing students for advanced qualifications and careers in the creative arts. **Career Opportunities:** The creative industries are among the UK's fastest-growing sectors. GCSE Music is a gateway to careers in performance, composition, sound engineering, event management, and more.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Bryne

[cbyrne@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:cbyrne@testwoodschoo.co.uk)



# Pearson Tech Award Performing Arts Production BTEC

## Why study the course?

Behind every performing arts performance are crew who are responsible for the costumes, hair/make-up, lighting design, stage design, props and music. Without the knowledge of these people, theatre shows, TV and Movies wouldn't be effective. This course is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creativity, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity.

## What will the course cover?

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts; this component will give you an understanding of practitioners work and the processes & practices that contribute to a range of productions and their content. Action content, costumes, lighting, music, stage design and the stimulus will be explored.

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts; Pupils will choose an area of backstage interest and design a costume/hair/make-up/lighting/stage/props/music suitable to the chosen performing arts production.

Component 3 - Performing to a brief.

## How is the course assessed?

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts. Worth 30% of overall grade. Work will be internally assessed.

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques. Worth 30% of overall grade. Work will be internally assessed. Written analysis of strengths and weaknesses. Target setting on how to improve. A power point will demonstrate the journey of design and a filmed presentation will be submitted as coursework.

Component 3 - Responding to a Brief. Worth 40% of the overall grade. Work will be externally assessed by an Examiner.

## What can this course lead to?

Backstage crew at Theatres, Music Events, TV companies and Movie studios. Designers of stage and screen elements. Leadership roles within companies. Owning own Performing Arts company. Touring stage crew, theatre or stage managers. A director, a public speaker or a teacher.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss Barbour

[kbarbour@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:kbarbour@testwoodschoool.co.uk)

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# Pearson Philosophy, Ethics & Religion GCSE

## Why study the course?

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion GCSE offers an exciting opportunity to explore life's big questions, such as the nature of existence, the universe, and morality. You'll examine the different answers that both religious and non-religious perspectives provide, helping you develop a deeper understanding of how people approach these fundamental issues. The course encourages you to think critically - a skill that is very beneficial in all areas of life, whether you're discussing ideas in class, making decisions, or understanding the news. You'll also practise essential skills like reasoning, analysis, and debate, which will serve you well in other subjects and future careers. You'll gain insight into global issues and learn to see things from different perspectives, reflecting on your own beliefs and values as well.

## What will the course cover?

Area of Study 1 – Christianity – Religion and Ethics

Christian Beliefs Trinity, Marriage and the Family, Living the Christian Life, Matters of Life and Death.

Area of Study 2 – Islam – Religion, Peace and Conflict

Muslim Beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Peace and Conflict:

## How is the course assessed?

Examination Paper 1 – Area of Study 1 – Christianity 1 hour and 45 minutes 50%

Examination Paper 2 – Area of Study 2 – Islam 1 hour and 45 minutes 50%

## What can this course lead to?

Humanities A Levels (including Philosophy & Ethics, Sociology) Careers in: law, business, politics, teaching, philosophy, academia

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss Small

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# AQA Physical Education GCSE

## Why study the course?

Sport is regarded as a subject where you play games. Although this has some element of truth, sport gives a person so much more. GCSE Physical Education is for a person who has a love of sport, but also a keen interest in the functions of the body during physical activity, the socio-cultural influences on participation of physical activity.

## What will the course cover?

Theoretical content - Applied Anatomy & Physiology; The Structure & Functions of Cardio-Respiratory System; Anaerobic and Aerobic Exercise; The Short and Long Term effects of Exercise; Movement Analysis; Physical Training; The Relationship between Health and Fitness; Components of Fitness; Principles of Training; Use of Data.

Socio-Cultural Influences & Wellbeing in Physical Activity and Sport; Classification of Skills; Goal Setting & SMART Targets; Information Processing; Feedback on Performance; Mental Preparation; Participation in Social Groups; Commercialisation of Physical Activity; Ethical & Socio-Cultural Issues in Sport; Health & Fitness; Diet;

Practical Content - Assessed in the role of player/performer in three approved Sporting Activities. Performance Analysis.

## How is the course assessed?

60% of the overall grade. Two written exams; one paper focusing on the Applied Anatomy and Physiology content; one paper focusing on the Socio-Cultural Influences and Wellbeing in Physical Activity and Sport.

40% of the overall grade. Three assessments in the role of player/performer in three different sports. One performance analysis from their assessed sport.

## What can this course lead to?

A sports performer, sports coach/teacher, job within a sporting club, match analyst, sport scientist, public speaker

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss K Barbour

[kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk](mailto:kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk)



# AQA Art and Design: Photography GCSE

## Why study the course?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, art and design: Photography is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

## What will the course cover?

Produce images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. Areas of study could include portraiture, installation, photo-journalism, moving image: film, video and animation and fashion photography.

## How is the course assessed?

- Component 1 Portfolio: produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60 % of your overall marks.
- Component 2 externally set assignment: there's a separate externally set task paper for each title. It features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time. This is worth 40 % of your total marks.

## What can this course lead to?

You can continue your art and design studies at AS and A-level. You'll also be able to choose areas of study to specialise in within a particular title. If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You'll develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Hickman

[rhickman@testwoodschool.co.uk](mailto:rhickman@testwoodschool.co.uk)



# AQA Art and Design: Three-Dimensional Design - Sculpture GCSE

## Why study the course?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, art and design: Sculpture is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

## What will the course cover?

The design, prototyping and modelling or making of products, objects, and environments, using intellectual, creative and practical skills. Areas of study could include sculpture and ceramics.

## How is the course assessed?

- Component 1 Portfolio: produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60 % of your overall marks.
- Component 2 externally set assignment: there's a separate externally set task paper for each title. It features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them. You get preparation time, plus ten hours of supervised time. This is worth 40 % of your total marks.

## What can this course lead to?

You can continue your art and design studies at AS and A-level. You'll also be able to choose areas of study to specialise in within a particular title.

If you don't want to take your art and design studies any further, the transferable skills you gain will still be valuable. You'll develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. Employers and universities regard all of these highly.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Hickman

[rhickman@testwoodschoool.co.uk](mailto:rhickman@testwoodschoool.co.uk)

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# Tech Award Art and Design Practice, Textiles BTEC

## Why study the course?

Textiles allows you to explore your creativity through designing patterns, fabrics, and clothing. You can experiment with different materials, techniques, and styles, making it a great field for artistic expression. Choosing Textiles offers both creative freedom and practical skills, making it a great choice for anyone interested in design, innovation, and sustainability.

## What will the course cover?

This course includes practical workshops where you can experiment with sewing, printing, painting and fabric manipulation. This hands-on learning approach allows you to develop both technical skills and a deep understanding of material properties. We study a range of artists, undertake investigations and work in the style of that artist. If you enjoy making things or seeing your ideas come to life in tangible forms, textiles offers a fulfilling outlet for your passion. Whether it's creating a beautiful garment or an innovative piece of art, there's great personal satisfaction in crafting something unique.

## How is the course assessed?

Component 1 – Creative Practice in Art and Design 60% of overall grade. Practical research of artists and designers to help students create a final piece. Once all skills and techniques have been studied, these will be applied to a project linking to a pre-released stimulus from the exam board. This year's theme is Travel

Component 2- Responding to a brief 40% of overall grade. Work will be externally assessed. Students will develop and produce textiles work in response to a creative brief. Students will then present their final piece through a digital portfolio

## What can this course lead to?

A textiles course opens doors to a range of careers, such as fashion design, textile engineering, interior design, costume design, and sustainable textile innovation. The skills you develop can be applied in multiple industries.

## Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Brown

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**We are here to help**

**Need careers information,  
advice and guidance?**

Contact us on:-

[careersguidance@ebpsouth.co.uk](mailto:careersguidance@ebpsouth.co.uk)

Visit our YouTube channel:-

[EBP South Education & Business](#)

Or other social media sites for  
information and resources:-



Here to Guide You  
**With Online Career Advice**  
ebpsouth.co.uk

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# Option Evening Room Plan

Room	Subject
E1	Business Studies Computer Science
E2	Fine Art Sculpture Photography
E3	French Geography
E4	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion History
E5	Construction Hospitality & Catering
E6	Textiles Media
E7	PE Dance Performing Arts Production
E8	Music Drama
E9	Health & Social Care Child Development Careers

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