



**Testwood
School**

Options 2026

**The Road
Ahead**

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Key Stage 4 Options

Welcome 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 provides an important update on the new GCSEs and offers 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, performing, 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 subjects? - This helps you to keep your options as open as possible for the future.

At 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 course choices, 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 where we are 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 number of practical examinations and/or written examinations and the 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
Non-exam	Core PE		PSHE

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 Mr Manning 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 19th March 2026 - Y9 Progress Evening
Monday 23rd March 2026 - Options Deadline

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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 Ukahi

yukahi@testwoodschoo.co.uk

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AQA English Literature GCSE

Why study the course?

The study of English Literature 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 questions 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 Ukahi

vukahi@testwoodschoool.co.uk

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Pearson Mathematics GCSE

Why study the course?

Mathematics is fundamental to societal progress, equipping individuals with critical skills in data analysis, graphical representation, and complex problem-solving.

What will the course cover?

The GCSE Mathematics curriculum is structured into two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher. Students receive tailored preparation specifically aligned with their designated tier for the final examination. Both pathways provide comprehensive coverage of core mathematical domains, including Number, Algebra, Geometry, Ratio and Proportion, and Statistics and Probability.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSEs in year 11 will consist of 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 development, construction work, accountancy, nursing and so many more careers.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Terblanche

aterblanche@testwoodschoo.co.uk

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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@testwoodschool.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 believes 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 formal 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?

Mrs Barbour

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 linked to 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@testwoodschool.co.uk

Option Subjects



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AQA Business GCSE

Why study the course?

It's cross curricular with Maths and English, covers employment and employability knowledge as well as the world around us, the working world, 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

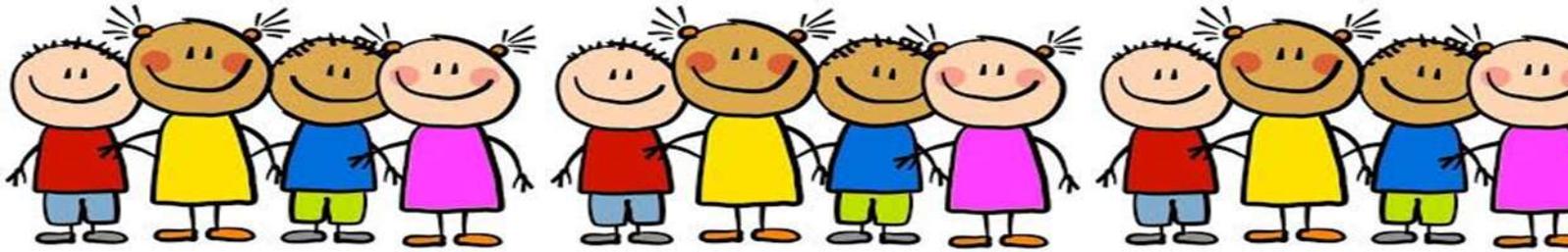
What can this course lead to?

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@testwoodschoool.co.uk



OCR

Cambridge National Child Development

Why study the course?

This course is ideal for students who are interested in understanding how children grow, learn and develop from birth to early childhood. The course is assessed through a combination of coursework and an external exam, allowing you to demonstrate both practical and theoretical knowledge. Alongside subject knowledge, you will develop valuable skills such as observation, research, communication, planning and evaluation. The course provides a strong foundation for further study at Level 3, apprenticeships, or careers in childcare, education, health and social care.

What will the course cover?

The course covers the care and development of children from birth to five years old. Students will learn about physical, intellectual, emotional and social growth, as well as the factors that influence health and wellbeing, including nutrition, environment and safety. The course also explores ways to support children's learning, play and positive behaviour, alongside observation and assessment skills to monitor development. Students will gain an understanding of childcare roles, responsibilities and professional practice, including safeguarding and relevant legislation.

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?

The course provides a strong foundation for a range of progression routes. Students can continue their studies at Level 3, such as Childcare, Health and Social Care, Early Years, or related A Level courses. It also prepares students for apprenticeships in childcare, education, or health and social care settings. The skills developed—such as observation, communication, planning, teamwork, and understanding children's needs—are highly valued by employers and support future careers as nursery practitioners, early years educators, teaching assistants, childminders, or in wider health, education, and social care roles.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Brown

rbrown@testwoodschool.co.uk



OCR GCSE Classical Civilisation

Why choose Classical Civilisation?

Classical Civilisation is an exciting and accessible subject that explores the fascinating worlds of Ancient Greece and Rome. You will study powerful myths, dramatic stories, famous heroes and gods, as well as real people and everyday life in the ancient world. The course is ideal for students who enjoy history, literature, religion, philosophy, art, or simply asking big questions about how societies work. No knowledge of Latin or Greek is needed – all texts are studied in English.

What does the course cover?

The GCSE is made up of two main parts:

1. Thematic Study: Students explore a theme across both Greek and Roman civilisation. Our option is:

- Myth and Religion – gods, heroes, temples, festivals and beliefs

This part of the course encourages students to compare cultures and understand how beliefs and values shaped ancient societies.

2. Literature and Culture Study: Students study one in-depth topic combining ancient literature with historical and cultural evidence. Our chosen topic is:

Roman City Life – what it was like to live in a Roman town

Students analyse stories, historical sources and material evidence such as buildings, artefacts and art.

How is the course assessed?

- 100% exam-based – no coursework
- Two written exams, each 1 hour 30 minutes
- Each exam is worth 50% of the final GCSE

Exams include short questions and longer written answers, testing understanding, explanation and evaluation of ancient sources.

What can Classical Civilisation lead to?

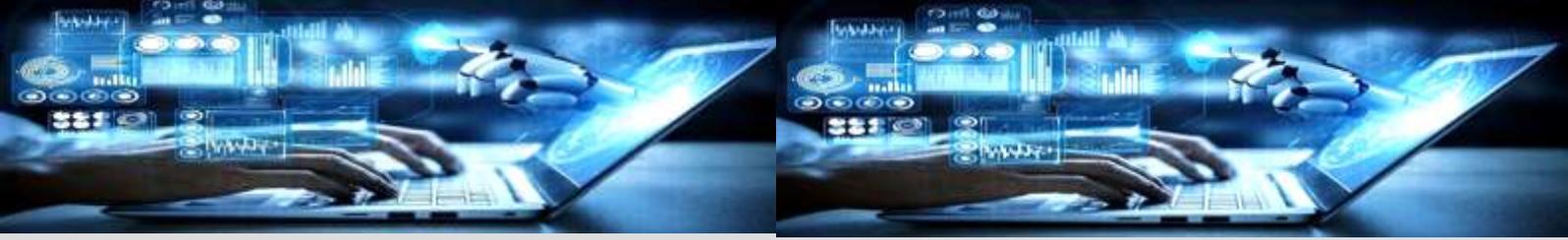
Classical Civilisation develops strong skills in analysis, evaluation, extended writing and critical thinking. It supports further study at A Level, particularly in History, English, Religious Studies, Politics and Classical subjects. The skills gained are valued in many careers, including law, journalism, teaching, archaeology, museum work, publishing and the creative industries. Classical Civilisation is a challenging, engaging and rewarding GCSE that helps students understand the roots of the modern world.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Leyman

tleyman@testwoodschoo.co.uk

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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 are interested in 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 assesses Computer Systems and Paper 2 assesses Computational Thinking & Programming.

What can this course lead to?

Computer Science has numerous connections to other subjects and career paths. 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@testwoodschoo.co.uk

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Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Construction and the Built Environment

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 on to 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@testwoodschoo.co.uk

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Pearson BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts Dance

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; in 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, or into the fitness industry, or journalism of the arts.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss K Barbour

kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk



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 A Barnes

abarnes@testwoodschoool.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



AQA French GCSE

Why study the course?

Studying a language offers 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 offers 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@testwoodschoo.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 and 30-minute exam paper.

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

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

What can this course lead to?

A GCSE in Geography can set up a career in nature conservation. 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



Pearson BTEC Tech Award Health & Social Care

Why study the course?

This course is ideal for students who are interested in working with people and making a positive difference in others' lives. Students will explore health, wellbeing and care across a range of real-life contexts, developing an understanding of how individuals are supported within health and social care settings. The course is mainly coursework-based, allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge through assignments rather than relying on exams. Alongside subject knowledge, students will build valuable skills such as communication, teamwork, empathy, organisation and problem-solving.

What will the course cover?

Students learn about human growth and development across the life stages, factors that affect physical, intellectual, emotional and social health, and the range of health and social care services available to support individuals. The course also focuses on person-centred care, effective communication, safeguarding and professional responsibilities. Assessment is a combination of practical and written coursework alongside one externally assessed unit.

How is the course assessed?

60% Coursework (two pieces of coursework)

40% Exam (in Year 11)

What can this course lead to?

Health and Social Care provides a strong foundation for a range of progression routes. It can lead to further study at Level 3, such as Health and Social Care, Early Years, Applied Science or related A Level courses. Students may also progress to apprenticeships in health, childcare or social care settings. The knowledge and transferable skills developed, including communication, teamwork, empathy and organisation, are valued by employers and support future careers in areas such as nursing, midwifery, childcare, teaching, social work, youth work and wider health and care services.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Brown

rbrown@testwoodschoool.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



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@testwoodschoo.co.uk



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 worth 70% of the overall grade and

One piece of coursework worth 30% 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



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 mindset.

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

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Pearson BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts Theatre Production

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 K Barbour

kbarbour@testwoodschoo.co.uk



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

csmall@testwoodschoo.co.uk

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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



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@testwoodschoool.co.uk



OCR Psychology GCSE

Why study the course?

Psychology is the scientific study of us. We take an applied look at the human mind, tying classic theories to practical, real-world examples. It's about "doing" as much as "learning"; you will learn how to devise your own research experiments and replicate famous studies to see if they still hold up in 2026.

Psychology is a unique "hub science" that sits at the crossroads of science and the humanities. It combines the rigorous scientific method, using biology and data analysis to map the brain, with the social insight of the humanities to understand culture, ethics, and human behaviour. This balance means you develop a rare skill set: the ability to analyse complex data like a scientist, while thinking critically and empathetically about the world around you.

What will the course cover?

1. Criminal Psychology: Why do people commit crimes? Are criminals born or made?
2. Development: How does our brain and thinking change as we grow up?
3. Psychological Problems: A deep dive into mental health (like depression and addiction) to increase awareness and challenge stigma.
4. Social Influence: Why do we conform to groups or obey authority?
5. Memory: Why do we remember song lyrics from years ago but forget why we walked into a room?
6. Sleep and Dreaming: The science of what happens while we are unconscious.
7. Research Methods: Learning how to design and lead your own psychological investigations.

How is the course assessed?

Two exam papers at the end of Year 11. 1hour and 30 minutes each

What can this course lead to?

Academic: A-Levels in Psychology, Biology, Sociology, Law, Chemistry, or Philosophy.
University Degrees: Neuroscience, Criminology, Forensic Science, or Marketing.
Apprenticeships: Youth Work, Digital Marketing, or Teaching Assistant. Clinical Associate (NHS), or Digital Marketing Specialist. Gaming Industry: Creating "reward systems" that keep players engaged. Mental Health Support & NHS Careers, Police, Probation, and Criminology. Teaching and Educational Psychology.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr Byrne

cbyrne@testwoodschoool.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



AQA GCSE Sociology

Why study the course?

Sociology allows you to study the world through a different lens, exploring how various theorists view the way in which our society is structured. It gives you the opportunity to develop your analytical skills in a fresh and relevant way by looking at issues that we still face today.

What will the course cover?

The course will cover the following key components: the sociological approach, social structures, processes and issues, families, education, crime and deviance, social stratification, sociological research methods. Within these topics, we will look at the different viewpoints of various sociologists, evaluating how and why their views differ.

How is the course assessed?

AQA Sociology is assessed through 2 1 hour and 45 minute exams. Both exams are a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and longer analytical questions.

Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

What can this course lead to?

Students who study Sociology go on to access careers in a wealth of different sectors. Many use their sociological awareness as a gateway into policing, social work, teaching and policy writing. It also gives a strong foundation for A-Level Sociology, Psychology, Law and Politics.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Miss Perkins

kperkins@testwoodschoool.co.uk



Pearson BTEC Tech Award Art and Design Practice, Textiles

Why study the course?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy creative, practical work and learning through making. You will explore a range of textile techniques such as sewing, fabric manipulation, surface decoration and design development, producing practical outcomes linked to fashion, interiors and product design. The course is mainly coursework-based, allowing you to build your grade through hands-on projects rather than relying on exams. Alongside creative skills, you will develop important transferable skills including planning, organisation, problem-solving and evaluation.

What will the course cover?

- **Textile techniques** – hand and machine sewing, embellishment, fabric manipulation, printing, appliqué and decorative processes
- **Design development** – researching themes, generating ideas, sketching, sampling and refining designs
- **Materials and processes** – understanding different fabrics, fibres, dyes and construction methods
- **Making textile products** – producing finished outcomes such as garments, accessories or interior pieces
- **Research and inspiration** – exploring designers, artists and cultural influences to inform practical work
- **Evaluation and review** – reflecting on work, identifying strengths and areas for improvement

How is the course assessed?

Component 1 – 60% of overall grade. This is a hands-on and practical piece of coursework in which we respond to a theme set by the exam board (previous themes include Landmarks, Travel and Consumerism).

Component 2- 40% of overall grade. Students follow the same journey as Component 1, but they learn how to present their work in a digital portfolio in response to a design brief.

What can this course lead to?

Studying BTEC Level 2 Textiles can lead to a range of further education, training and career pathways, including: Level 3 Textiles or Fashion courses, art & design, creative media or product design. Fashion and textiles apprenticeships, costume designer or wardrobe assistant, retail, buying, merchandising or visual display.

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mrs Brown

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Option Evening Room Plan

Room	Subject
IT4	Business Studies Computer Science
E2	Fine Art Sculpture Photography Media
E3	French Geography Sociology
E4	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion History Classical Civilisation
E5	Construction Hospitality & Catering
E6	Textiles Health & Social Care Child Development
E7	PE Dance Theatre Production
E8	Music Drama Psychology
E9	Careers Advice and Guidance

We are here to help

Need careers information,
advice and guidance?

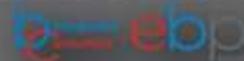
Contact us on:-

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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Options at a Glance 2026 – 28

You will need to select four subjects plus two reserves from the following list:

You must choose one from Computer Studies, French, Geography or History	Vocational Qualification: You can only choose a maximum of two of these	*Either: Fine Art or Textiles or Sculpture	^ Either: Child Development or Health & Social Care
You can select more than one of these options	You can put them on a reserve list.	+ Either Drama or Theatre Production	
End-of-Course Examination	Controlled Assessment		

Example options:

1	French
2	Child Development
3	Geography
4	PE
Reserve 1	Health & Social Care
Reserve 2	Drama

1	History
2	Hospitality & Catering
3	Construction
4	Computer Science
Reserve 1	Classical Civilisation
Reserve 2	Sociology

1	Computer Science
2	French
3	Geography
4	Fine Art
Reserve 1	Health & Social Care
Reserve 2	Sculpture

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Options at a Glance 2026 – 28

You will need to select four subjects plus two reserves from the following list:

Subject	Qual.	Board	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
Business	GCSE	AQA	Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes										Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes									
Child Development [^]	CAM NAT	OCR	2 Coursework Assignments										Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes									
Classical Civilisation	GCSE		Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes										Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes									
Computer Science	GCSE	OCR	Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes										Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes									
Construction	BTEC	Pearson	2 Coursework Assignments										Written Exam: 1 hour 20 minutes									
Dance	BTEC	Pearson	Coursework Assignment					Coursework Assignment					Controlled Assessment									
Drama+	GCSE	AQA	Devising Drama (practical)					Performance					Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes									
Fine Art *	GCSE	AQA	Portfolio										Practical Exam 2 days									
French	GCSE	AQA	Listening Paper 35/45 Mins					Speaking Assessment					Reading Exam 45 mins/1 hour					Writing Exam 1 hour 10/1 hour 15				
Geography	GCSE	AQA	Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes					Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes					Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes									
Health & Social Care [^]	BTEC	Pearson	2 Coursework Assignments										Written Exam: 2 hours									
History	GCSE	OCR B	Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes					Written Exam: 1 hour					Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes									
Hospitality & Catering	BTEC	WJEC	Controlled Assessment										Written Exam: 1 hour 20 minutes									
Media Studies	GCSE	Eduqas	Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes					Coursework Assignment					Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes									
Music	GCSE	OCR	Individual Performance					Ensemble Performance					Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes									
Theatre Production+	BTEC	Pearson	Coursework Assignment					Coursework Assignment					Controlled Assessment									
Philosophy, Ethics & Religion	GCSE	Pearson	Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes										Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes									
Physical Education	GCSE	AQA	Player/Performer Practical Assessment					Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes					Written Exam: 1 hour 15 minutes									
Photography	GCSE	AQA	Portfolio										Practical Exam 2 days									
Psychology	GCSE	OCR	Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes										Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes									
Sculpture *	GCSE	AQA	Portfolio										Practical Exam 2 days									
Textiles *	BTEC	Pearson	Portfolio										Controlled Assessment									

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