

KINGS ACADEMY



Year 8 Choices September 2024

The Kings' Curriculum



2024-2027

	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Core Subjects	<i>English Language and Literature, Mathematics (Further Maths for some), Science (Combined or Triple), Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE), Physical Education (PE), Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Citizenship</i>		
	<i>Project Work</i>	<i>Additional time for options subjects</i>	
Options A*	<i>Option Choice Box A– Students Study Two Courses</i>		
	<i>GCSE :Computer Science, French, Geography, History Support course :English and Mathematics Basics**</i>		
Options B	<i>Option Choice Box B– Students Study Two Courses</i>		
	<i>GCSE: Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Design and Technology, Drama, Food and Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education, Textiles Vocational: Business Studies (BTEC), Health and Social Care (BTEC) iMedia ICT (OCR Nationals), Music Technology (NCFE), Sports Science (OCR Nationals)</i>		

*Students choose 2 option A courses. To be eligible for the EBacc they must study a language and humanities course

**Guided choice

12 January 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Choices

At The Kings of Wessex Academy students choose their options prior to entry in Year 9, which we know from experience gives our young people the very best opportunity for success. What this means is your son/daughter will need to make some important choices about the subjects they would like to study. Details of all the courses and options, together with what you will need to do, are set out in this booklet.

Students are more likely to succeed when they are following courses they have actively chosen to pursue in subjects they are passionate about. With this in mind, we trust our students to make important decisions over their curriculum. Alongside the core curriculum, students continue in their Key Stage 3 foundation subjects with the completion of project work. For their options students have a choice of two option box A subjects and select their remaining two courses from an extensive list, option box B.

Year 8 options gives us scope to tailor the curriculum to the needs of each student. It is important to realise there are different types of courses available. Students can make their choices from a wide range of academic courses or choose vocational courses that offer a different style of learning. There is also a learning support option available that allows students to take fewer examined courses and, instead, have additional time and support towards their GCSE English and Mathematics.

To help students and parents with these important choices we will be holding a face-to-face Choices Evening on Tuesday 30 January 2024. There will be two presentations on the evening at 5.00pm and 6.00pm. Students with surnames A to H are invited to attend the presentation in the main hall at 5.00pm and students with surnames I to Z at 6.00pm. The presentation from the talk will also be available on the website.

Please take some time to read the booklet together with your child. The booklet is available online [here](#). Students will each receive their own copy during assemblies in their Middle Schools and from Tutors. Our team of staff here at Kings will also be pleased to help you with any questions you have.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Kings and to working with you over the coming years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Hopwood', written in a cursive style.

Rachel Hopwood
Deputy Headteacher

CONTENTS

Timeline	Page 5
Introduction	Page 5
Qualifications Available	Page 7
Making the Right Choices	Page 8
Returning the Options Form	Page 8
Choices Evening	Page 8
Making Changes to Options Choices	Page 9
GCSE Grades	Page 9
Key Stage 4 Qualifications and University Entrance	Page 10
What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?	Page 11
Careers Education and Labour Market Information	Page 12
Sport in the Kings Curriculum (Kings Sport Academy)	Page 13

The Core Curriculum

English Language (GCSE)	Page 14
English Literature (GCSE)	Page 15
Maths (GCSE)	Page 16
Sciences (GCSE)	Page 17
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (GCSE)	Page 18
Physical Education (Core)	Page 19
Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)	Page 20
The Extended Curriculum Project	Page 20
Careers and Work-Related Learning, Labour Market Information	Page 21

Option Box A

Computer Science (GCSE)	Page 22
French (GCSE)	Page 23
Geography (GCSE)	Page 24
History (GCSE)	Page 25
Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support	Page 26
English and Maths Basics	Page 27

Option Box B

Art, Craft and Design (GCSE)	Page 28
Business Studies (GCSE)	Page 29
Creative iMedia (OCR Cambridge Nationals)	Page 30
Design and Technology (GCSE)	Page 31
Drama (GCSE)	Page 32
Enterprise (BTEC Tech Award)	Page 33
Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)	Page 34
Health and Social Care (BTEC First Certificate)	Page 35
Music (GCSE)	Page 36
Music Technology (NCFE)	Page 37
Physical Education (GCSE)	Page 38
Sports Science (OCR Cambridge Nationals)	Page 39
Textiles (GCSE)	Page 40
Notes	Page 41
Options Form (Student Copy)	Page 43
Options Form (Academy Copy)	INSERT

Timeline

Friday 12 January 2024 – Year 8 assembly at Hugh Sexey Middle School to explain the options process to students with an opportunity to ask questions.

W/C 15 January 2024 – Year 8 assembly at Fairlands Middle School to explain the options process to students with an opportunity to ask questions.

Tuesday 30 January 2024 – Choices Evening 5.00 - 7.00pm. Talks in the main Hall, Kings of Wessex Academy at 5.00pm and 6.00pm.

Monday 19 February 2024 – Deadline for options forms to be completed and returned to Kings (by post or email).

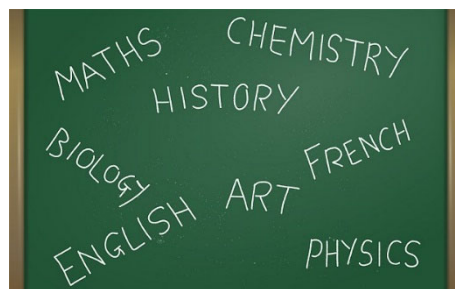
Introduction

At Kings the curriculum is divided into three parts: the Core Subjects, Option Box A and Option Box B subjects.

Core Subjects

All students follow the Core Curriculum and will study the following subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Religion, Philosophy and Ethics



In addition to the above courses, students will also follow non-examined courses in:

- Physical Education
- Citizenship
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)
- Extended Curriculum Project (ECP)
- Employability

Option Box A

Alongside the core curriculum, students choose two courses from the Option A subjects to ensure they follow a broad and balanced curriculum.

The EBacc has become a well-established and widely recognised combination of subjects. It recognises students gaining qualifications at GCSE Grades 9 - 5 in English, Maths, two Sciences, a Modern Language and History or Geography. All students are required to choose two EBacc options. To be eligible for the EBacc, students must choose:

- A Humanities option (either Geography or History)
- A Languages option (French)

When choosing further options from Option Box B, it is possible for students to study both Geography and History or any combination.

However, we recognise that the EBacc combination of subjects will not meet the needs and interests of all students. We allow students, therefore, to choose **any** two Option Box A subjects (e.g. Geography and History without French). The EBacc options also include GCSE Computer Science and a Learning Support course:

- **English and Maths basics** – covering basic English and Maths skills to support achievement in English and Maths GCSE.

More information on English and Maths basics can be found in this booklet. Students who are identified as benefitting from this choice will be contacted individually.

Option Box B

Option Box B is the area where students can choose which additional subjects they wish to study; whether they are of particular interest to them or to best suit their ability.

Students can make two additional choices from Option Box B:

<u>GCSE Courses</u>	<u>Vocational Courses</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft and Design (GCSE) • Business Studies (GCSE) • Computer Science (GCSE) • Design and Technology (GCSE) • Drama (GCSE) • Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE) • French (GCSE) • Geography (GCSE) • History (GCSE) • Music (GCSE) • Physical Education (GCSE) • Textiles (GCSE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise (BTEC) • Health and Social Care (BTEC) • iMedia ICT (OCR Cambridge Nationals) • Music Technology (NCFE) • Sports Science (OCR Cambridge Nationals)

Please note:

Students may choose **Computer Science GCSE** or **iMedia ICT OCR Cambridge Nationals** - not both regardless of which section they are chosen in.

In opting for **Business**, teachers will identify whether the **GCSE Business** or **BTEC Enterprise** is the most suitable course.

In opting for PE, teachers will identify whether **GCSE PE** or **Sports Science** is the most suitable course.

Whilst every effort will be made to accommodate your choices, there may be some limitations in certain cases. For example, there may not be viable numbers for a course to run or a particular combination of subjects may be impossible to timetable. We ask all students, therefore, to choose a reserve option.

Qualifications Available

GCSEs

GCSEs are traditional academic subjects that are examined at the end of the course. In a few GCSE subjects (such as Art, DT and PE) some practical assessment is used, alongside exams, to assess skills. GCSEs can be passed at Level 1 with lower grades (3-1) or Level 2 if higher grades are achieved (9-4). GCSEs can provide a stepping-stone to Level 3 courses including A Levels for students achieving higher grades.

Vocational Courses

BTECs, NCFE and OCR Cambridge Nationals are more practical, vocational qualifications that involve a significant amount of continuous assessment undertaken through project work. Students will also have to undertake an exam. These courses have a vocational, rather than an academic, focus and involve learning through work related contexts. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Nationals are taken at Level 1/2 (equivalent of GCSE grades 9-1) and graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction. They are a helpful stepping-stone to a wide range of Post-16 courses.



Learning Support Course

Rather than taking two Option Box A subjects, some students can take one option alongside English and Maths Basics.

English and Maths basics give students, who need additional support in these areas, time to develop their basic English and Maths skills to support their achievement in GCSE English and Maths. This is a suitable course for students aiming to achieve up to a grade 4 in English and Maths but will not cover topics and material for the higher GCSE grades. This course is highly recommended for students who have received additional support with Maths and English in their Middle Schools.

To ensure suitability, students will be guided towards this choice by Mr Parfitt (SENCo). Mr Parfitt works closely with Middle School staff to identify students who will benefit from this programme.

Please speak with our SENCo, Mr Parfitt, for further details. Middle School teachers should also be consulted about the suitability of this support course.

Making the Right Choices

Who will help you make your choice?

- Discuss your choices with your parents/carers - they want you to do well.
- Your Year 8 teachers will be able to advise you about your general skills and abilities.
- Kings' subject teachers can advise you on the sort of work involved.



What should you do?

- Consider which subjects you enjoy most. You will do best in the subjects you are passionate about.
- Consider which subjects you are good at or not so good at.
- Consider what you might want to do after Year 11 and how this affects your choice of courses.
- Check that you have accurate information about which qualifications you will need at the end of Year 11 to go to different types of courses in Kings Sixth.
- Carefully read the advice in this booklet about GCSEs and university application.
- Be aware of the different types of courses available and which will suit you best. For example, BTECs offer more practical learning and have fewer exams.
- Consider new subjects that you have not studied before. Find out all about these courses in this booklet and on our Choices Evening.
- Do not choose a subject just because a friend is doing it. You may end up in different classes anyway.
- **Please ask** if you need further information.



Returning the Options Form

Please complete the options form at the back of this information booklet and return it to Kings by **Monday 19 February 2024** at the latest.

You can send your completed form by email (data@kovessex.co.uk) or post/deliver to our Main Reception (The Kings of Wessex Academy, Station Road, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3AQ).

Choices Evening

A Choices Evening will be held on Tuesday 30 January 2024 between 5.00pm and 7.00pm. We would encourage you to make every effort to attend the evening and look forward to talking to Year 8 students and parents/carers.

This will follow assemblies in the Middle Schools for students outlining the options process.

Key Stage 4 Qualifications and University Entrance

The most important qualifications for university entrance will be achieved in Years 12 and 13. However, some universities are setting additional entrance criteria based on pre-sixth form courses.

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities (including Oxford, Cambridge and Bristol). The following information is taken from a leaflet issued by the Russell Group, which provides guidance to students about how their GCSE subjects and grades can affect their course choices at some universities:

General Entrance Requirements

Universities may ask for a specific number of GCSEs (or their equivalent). For example, a number of medical courses ask for five (sometimes more) grades at the top of the range. GCSE English or another standard level equivalent is very often required at a grade 4 or 5 at least. Maths is also often required at grade 4 or 5 at least. Science GCSEs can also be required for certain subjects, such as Psychology.

Several institutions ask that grades and number of subjects are achieved at one sitting. Some do not accept re-sits at GCSE. If you think this might affect you and a university's published admissions policy is not clear, it is sensible to check with Admissions staff before applying.

The GCSE or other standard level entrance requirements for individual degree courses are quite varied. In some cases, a particular subject or grade is required at standard level if it is not being offered at advanced level.

The summary below gives an idea of some of the GCSE requirements that you might come across for certain degree courses. Remember that these are only examples. It is important to check university websites for detailed requirements before applying.

- Applicants to study Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science are usually required to have very good GCSE results in Maths, Science and English.
- Applicants to study teacher training are required to have a minimum grade 4 or 5 in GCSE Maths, Science and English. Some universities may ask for a minimum of grade 6.
- For a degree in English, universities often look for applicants to have a GCSE in a modern or classical Language.
- For a Business Degree, sometimes a grade 7 or above, or more often at least a grade 6, in GCSE Maths is required.
- A grade 7 or 6 in Maths is often required for a Degree in Psychology, and a grade 6 in Science may sometimes be required.
- To study a Science subject at university (including Biology, Chemistry or Physics) applicants who are not offering Maths at Advanced Level will often need to have achieved a minimum of a grade 4 or 5 in Maths at GCSE.

You should always check individual university websites for more detail on their grade requirements for GCSEs.

The UCAS website itself is useful for checking any entry requirements at undergraduate level.

www.ucas.com

Source: Adapted from "Informed Choices" (Russell Group).

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/qualifications>



What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?

In 2011 the government launched the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). It has become a well-established and highly regarded combination of GCSE subjects.

The EBacc combination of subjects covers five areas of the curriculum:

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Science: Combined Science GCSE or Triple Science GCSE or Computer Science
- Humanities: History or Geography
- Languages: French

Although the EBacc is not in itself a qualification, students can achieve it by taking at least one GCSE subject from each of these five curriculum areas and by achieving a grade 9-5 (for a strong EBacc pass, or 9-4 for a standard EBacc pass) in each one. In the case of English, students must sit both Language and Literature and achieve a grade 9-5 in at least one of them. In the case of Science, students must achieve two GCSEs (either Combined Science or at least two of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science) with grades 9-5.

In 2013 the government announced that young people should follow at least five EBacc subjects as a sign of a broad and balanced curriculum. At Kings all students will follow English, Maths and Science as part of the core curriculum. All students must also pick two further Option Box A subjects which reflect the subjects above.

At Kings, many students take the opportunity to choose the EBacc combination of English, Maths and Science plus a Language and a Humanities options subject. However, we recognise this is not suitable for all students and we trust our students to choose the Option Box A courses that are best for them. We allow students, therefore, to choose any two Option Box A subjects (e.g. Geography and History without a Language). We believe when students have more choices from the curriculum they follow, they are more engaged and more likely to succeed. Unlike many schools, we do not make any student take the EBacc combination, although it is on offer to all.

There is no doubt that top universities value EBacc subjects, although there is no direct link between EBacc and entry requirements for university.

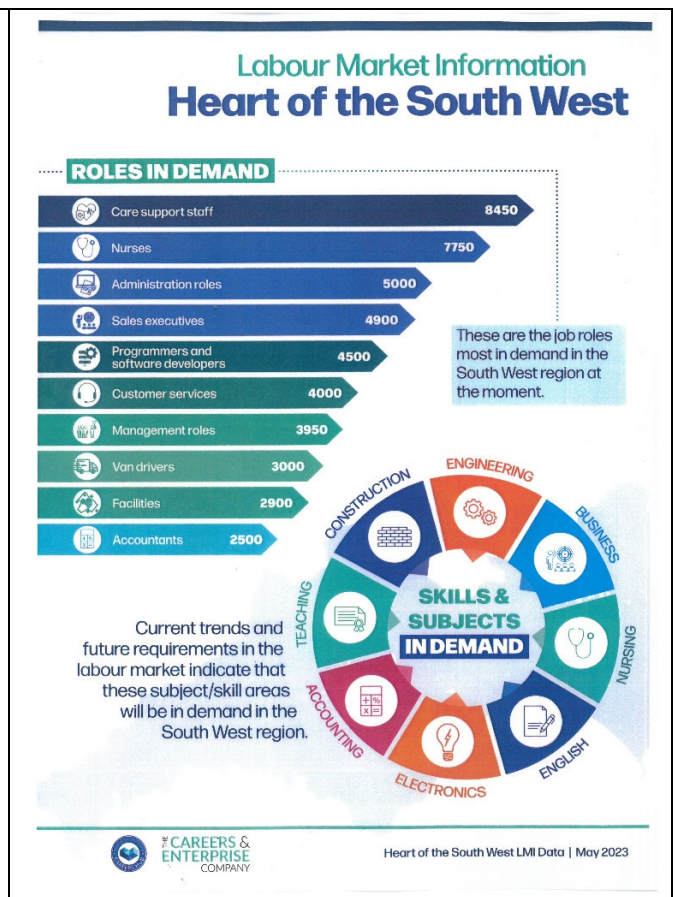
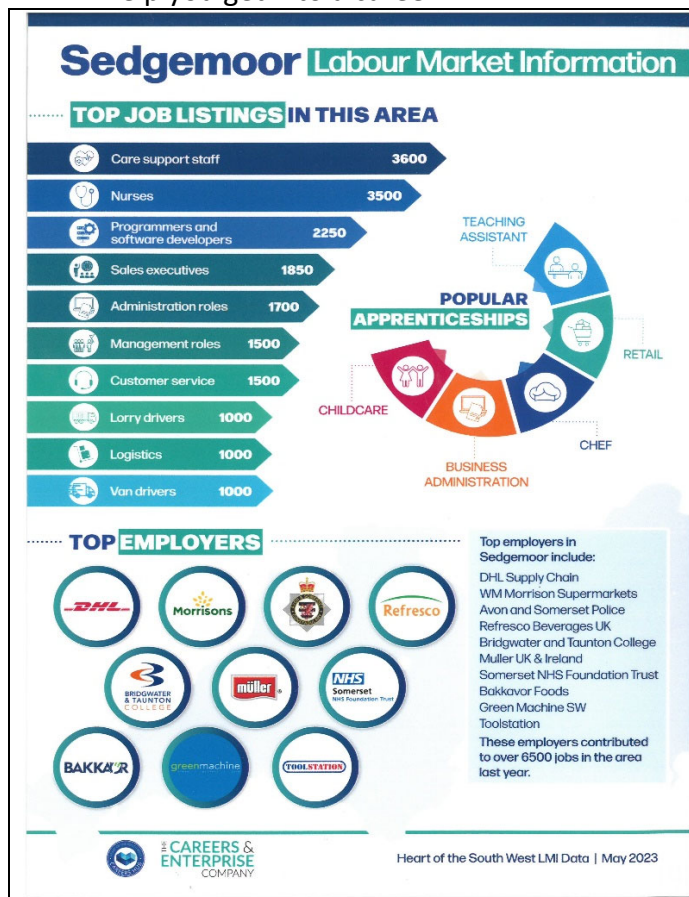
Careers Education and Labour Market Information

Throughout the Academy there is a focus on Careers Education and the development of the skills needed to be successful in the world of work alongside knowledge and experience of work. Further detail is provided under Core Curriculum.

What is Labour Market Information (LMI) and why is it important?

LMI describes any information used to make informed decisions about the labour market. It can help you:

- Determine which jobs are available in our area and further afield
- Ascertain the number of people in particular jobs
- Discover occupations that are growing or declining
- Identify which jobs are in demand and associated salaries
- Work out which subjects to pick for Level 2 (GCSE/BTEC/OCR) and Level 3 (A Level/BTEC/OCR) to help you get into a career.



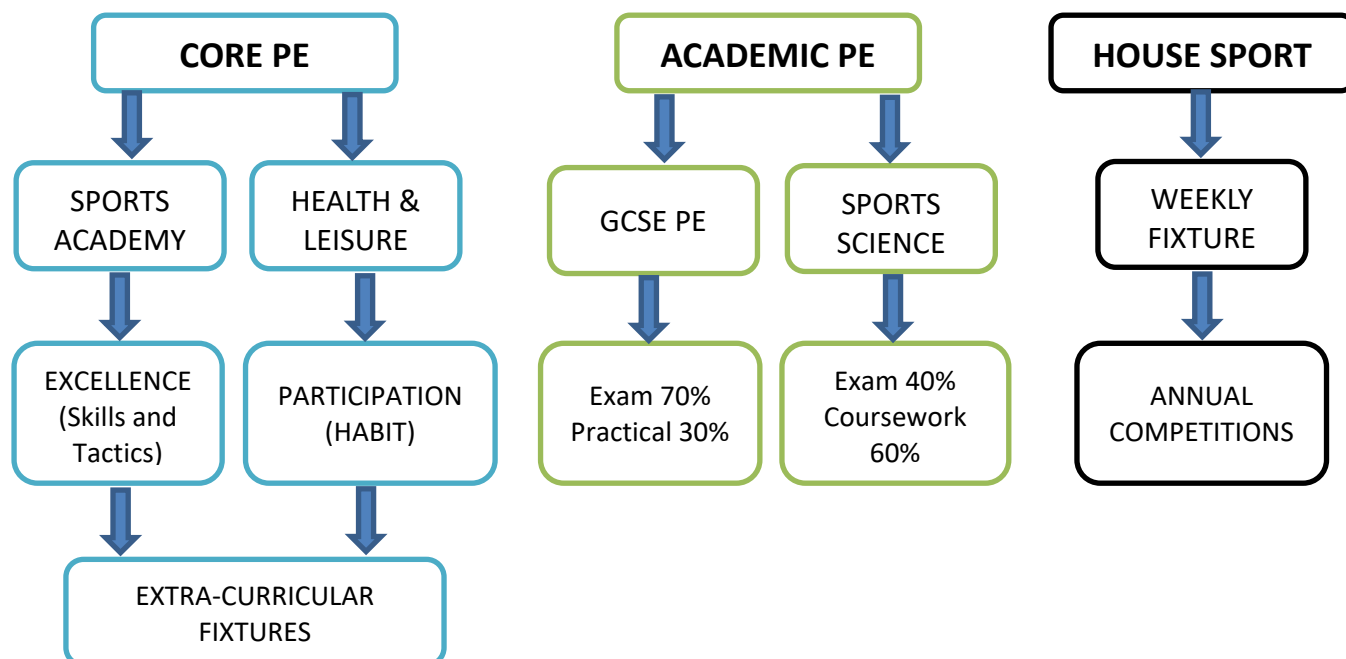
Southwest Priority Sectors

- Digital Industries - IT and computing
- Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing - including defence, nuclear, aerospace, and marine industries
- Health and Social Care including nursing
- Construction
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Logistics
- Retail
- Clean Growth and Clean Industries

Sport in the Kings Curriculum (Kings Sport Academy)

What are the Aims?

The Sports Academy aims to provide students with the opportunity to participate in sport on a regular basis during the fortnightly timetable. It will also allow students to strive for excellence in sport, focusing on improving their individual performance and levels of physical fitness.



Core PE

In Core PE, students who choose the Sports Academy route will follow a program of study that focuses on the skills and tactics that are required to be a high-level performer in a range of team and individual sports. It will also help to provide students with opportunities and the knowledge of how to improve their physical fitness. These lessons will take advantage of the facilities in The Kings Fitness Centre and the fitness professionals who work there, together with the coaching knowledge of Kings' PE Department.

Extra-Curricular Sport

Students who choose to be part of the Sports Academy will be expected to be fully committed to the extra-curricular training and fixtures programme provided. Each term, in addition to Core PE, coaching sessions for Academy teams will take place after school on a Tuesday and regular fixtures against local schools will take place. Teams will also be entered into county and national cup competitions.

Academic PE

The Sports Academy provides two courses: GCSE PE and OCR Cambridge National Sports Science. Students who choose GCSE PE as an option will be assessed to decide which course best suits them. Both courses will enable students to study and put into practice the sport theory behind improving practical performances in sport. Choosing PE as an option will allow students to add an additional four lessons of PE to their fortnightly timetable. More details about these courses are provided in this booklet.

House Sport

Sports Academy students will also play an active role in the House Sports Program, providing them with further opportunity during the week to participate in sport. During the academic year, Houses will compete against each other in a range of sports including football, rugby, hockey, netball and handball. There are also annual events such as Sports Day, the Swimming Gala and the House Cross-Country to participate in.

English Literature (GCSE)

Qualification Title: English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8702

What are the aims of this course?

This course builds on the English Literature work students have previously studied and develops their studies further with a wider range of challenging literary texts from across genres, cultures and time periods. The diverse range of texts studied will help students to gain confidence in reading widely and encourage them to read often.

Through their studies, students will develop their reading skills in the following ways:

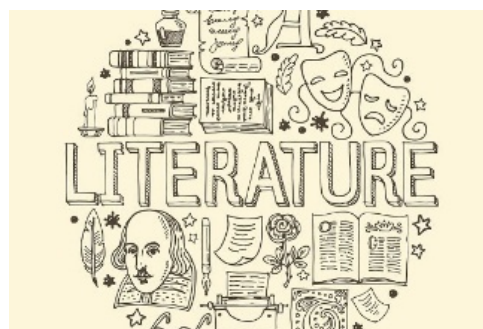
- Students will learn to read, understand and respond to a wide range of texts and will develop their analytical skills and appreciate ways in which writers achieve their effects.
- Students will engage with writers' ideas and the significance of context.
- Students will compare literary texts.

What is the content of this course?

Students will study a range of texts, including Shakespeare, modern texts, poetry, and 19th century fiction for the GCSE course. Year 9 will work as a foundation year to develop skills. As with the English Language course, it is important that students read widely at home to support understanding of the wide range of texts studied in lessons.

In short, the GCSE course will cover these units:

- **Study of a Shakespeare play**
- **Study of a 19th century novel**
- **Study of a modern text**
- **Study of a set anthology of 15 poems**
- **Response to unseen poetry**



What will be assessed during this course?

This is an un-tiered linear course that will be examined across two papers.

Students will be assessed on their understanding of texts, their engagement with writers' ideas, their analysis of writers' methods, and their understanding of the influence of context.

Mathematics (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Mathematics

Exam Board: Pearson

Course Code: 1MA1

What are the aims of the course?

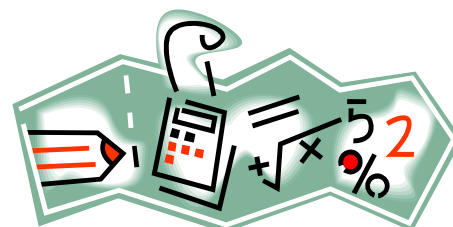
- To provide numerical, analytical, logical and problem-solving skills.
- To provide levels of numeracy and a qualification that will enable students to pursue careers in their chosen subjects.

What is the content of the course?

- To develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- To acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- To reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.
- To comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

The course is arranged in the following two tiers, each with a maximum and a minimum grade:

- **Foundation** – this tier will give access to grades 5-1.
- **Higher** – this tier will give access to grades 9-4.



The course content is split between:

- **Number** (foundation 25% of exam and higher 15% of exam).
- **Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change** (foundation 25% of exam and higher 20% of exam).
- **Geometry and Measures** (foundation 15% of exam and higher 20% of exam).
- **Statistics and Probability** (foundation 15% of exam and higher 15% of exam).
- **Algebra** (foundation 20% of exam and higher 30% of exam).

What will be assessed during the course?

This is a linear course with exams at the end of the course.

In the exam the emphasis will be on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks now being allocated to these higher-order skills and students will now also be required to memorise formulae.

All students will take three separate exam papers and the marks from each paper will then be added together to determine the grade. One of the papers will be non-calculator and the other two will be calculator.

What equipment will be required?

In two of the three exams, students will be allowed to use a scientific calculator. This highlights the importance of students having their own calculator in class, so that they can benefit from being taught how to use them.

Science (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate qualifications or Combined Science: Trilogy (two GCSEs)

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: Biology 8461 Chemistry 8462 Physics 8463
Combined Science: Trilogy 8464

What are the aims of the course?

- To extend students' knowledge and understanding of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- To encourage students to ask questions about the world around them and to develop the skills of systematic, scientific enquiry.
- To encourage students to relate their scientific knowledge to familiar phenomena and to everyday technology so they develop an understanding of the world around them.
- To give students the opportunity to carry out practical experiments to extend their scientific understanding and to develop their practical skills.

What is the content of the course?

Students will be taught in a specialist laboratory. During Year 9, it is expected that students will study:

Biology: Students will study cell biology, digestion and enzymes, the circulatory system, plant transport systems and infection and response and photosynthesis.

Chemistry: Students will study the extraction of important materials from the Earth and the chemistry behind some important industrial processes, the origin of the atmosphere and how our ideas about atoms have developed.

Physics: Students will follow a spiral curriculum that will look at particles, forces, energy, motion, magnetism, electricity and waves.

All students will study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in mixed ability groups throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. No decision about the certification route being followed will be made at this stage. At the end of Year 10, final decisions about the appropriate certification route for each student will be made and students streamed. The most able scientists will take separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, whilst the remainder will aim to study two GCSEs via the Combined Science route. Both the Combined Science and separate Science GCSE routes are suitable preparation for further study.

What will be assessed during the course?

Knowledge and Understanding: Students will be assessed on their ability to recall scientific knowledge and will be expected to use their scientific knowledge to explain everyday events.

Practical Skills: Students will be assessed on their practical skills at various points throughout the course. The exam board has specified a number of practical activities which will allow students to develop the skills required.

Research and Communication: Students will be assessed on how well they can use sources of information, such as books, videos or information technology, to research a topic. They will present their findings through written reports, short presentations and posters. Assessment will be on-going.

Exams: This is a linear course with exams at the end of Year 11 in each of the subjects, which will count for 100% of each qualification. The exams will be tiered, foundation or higher. There will not be a separate mark for practical skills, but questions in the written papers will draw on knowledge obtained from carrying out the required practical activities in the specification, counting for 15% of overall marks.

What equipment will be required?

- Scientific calculator, ruler and protractor, red pen and pencil.

Physical Education (Core)

What are the aims of the course?

- To enable every student to experience and enjoy Physical Education.
- To realise the importance of a healthy lifestyle.
- To develop individual physical skills and appreciation of tactics.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of rules and regulations.
- To provide opportunities for students to play sport.
- To appreciate qualities of teamwork, fair play, discipline and social responsibility.



What is the content of the course?

Students will study the following activities in Years 9, 10 and 11:

Athletics	Badminton	Basketball	Cricket
Football	Health Related Fitness	Hockey	Netball
Rounders	Rugby	Soft Ball	Gymnastics

Year 9 students will participate in 3 lessons of Core PE per fortnight. This will include team based sports (games play situation) and individual performance (individual sport).

What will be assessed during the course?

This is a non-examined course.

However, in order to provide a rounded judgement relating to National Curriculum expectation, students will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate across a range of activities:

- Acquiring and developing skills.
- Selecting and applying skills, tactics and compositional ideas.
- Evaluating and improving performance.
- Knowledge and understanding of fitness and health.

There is a wide range of PE enrichment activities on offer for students. The Academy teams play regular fixtures against local schools, including rugby, football, netball, hockey, athletics and rounders.

Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

What are the aims of the course?

PSHE helps students to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage many of the critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face as they grow up and in adulthood.

What is the content of the course?

- Citizenship and PSHE in Key Stage 4 covers the three main topics of Living in the Wider World, Healthy Lifestyles and Relationships.
- **Year 9:** students study the three main topics of Healthy Lifestyles, Sex and Relationships Education and Skills for Life. Students will also take part in a Citizenship lesson covering topics on Politics and Participation, Rights and Responsibilities and Life in Modern Britain. Additionally, PSHE Focus Days take place for students throughout the year, delivered by experts in the field.
- **Year 10:** students study the main topics of Rights and Responsibilities, Sex and Relationships Education and will spend time looking ahead for work experience and careers.
- **Year 11:** students will have Citizenship and PSHE delivered during Extended Tutor Time. There is a focus on keeping safe in today's modern technological world, including revision techniques and strategies to manage examination nerves, child sexual exploitation, discrimination, British values and anti-radicalisation, next steps in e-safety and protecting yourself online and drugs awareness.

What will be assessed during the course?

There is no exam for this subject. Students will be assessed throughout the year based on their contributions to class discussions and the work they produce in their topic booklets.

Extended Curriculum Project (ECP)

What are the aims of the course?

The ECP is a series of projects undertaken in year 9, to develop both knowledge and skills across the foundation subjects with a focus on learning to learn and metacognition. Skills which are developed include: teamwork, presentation, data analysis, design, problem solving, discussion, application of technology and practical techniques.

What is the content of the course?

Students complete six projects across a plethora of subjects including: art, design technology, drama, food and nutrition, geography, history, information technology, modern foreign languages, music, textiles. The projects focus on songs, pasties, bridges, surrealism, travel, a tuck shop and people and places to name but a few.

What will be assessed during the course?

There is no exam for this subject. Students will be assessed throughout the year being awarded a bronze, silver or gold for each of the six project areas based on their completed product and the effort they have shown. This will be shown on a certificate at the end of the project carousel.

Careers and Work-Related Learning

- Careers education and guidance is part of the curriculum for all our students.
- Careers education is taught through project work in Year 9, within citizenship and PSHE and through events in school. The programme helps students to consider what is important to them, how to research careers and opportunities and how to make decisions relating to their futures. Students will be given opportunities to find out about post-16 pathways, apprenticeships and Further and Higher Education.
- Individual careers guidance and support is available throughout the year, as well as on exam results days. Students can request an appointment with our in-school Employability Coordinator. Students also have individual meetings in Years 11 and 12 to discuss their future plans.
- In Year 9, students will also undertake a project focusing on skill development for the world of work including, but not exclusively, communication, teamwork, and leadership.
- In Year 10, students undertake a week of work experience during the Summer Term to provide an insight into the world of work, to help with career decisions and to develop confidence and skills. There is a second week of work experience in Year 12, aimed at supporting applications to university, apprenticeships, or employment after Sixth Form.
- To support our careers and work experience programmes we have an extensive careers library in the Employability and Learning Hub, together with additional information on the website and on Firefly.
- For more information on our current provision please see:
“Careers and Employability Information, Advice and Guidance” available at <https://www.kowessex.co.uk/employability-at-kings/>

OPTION BOX A

Computer Science (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Computer Science

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8525

What are the aims of the course?

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science.
- To use computational thinking skills to analyse and solve problems.
- To gain practical experience of designing, writing, and testing computer programs.
- To understand how computers can be used to represent, store, collect and search data.
- To understand the impact of Computer Science on the world we live in.



What is the content of the course?

1. **Fundamentals of algorithms:** Before you can begin to write computer programmes, you need to learn how to write algorithms – the steps required to solve a problem. This is an essential skill required to think like a Computer Scientist.
2. **Programming:** In this part of the course you will learn a modern, powerful programming Language (Python). You will have hands-on, practical experience of writing usable computer software.
3. **Fundamentals of data representation:** Every word, picture, sound and video stored in a computer system needs to be represented using binary data. In this section of the course you will learn how we achieve this.
4. **Computer Systems:** As we solve problems using computers, we can draw upon and bring together a diverse range of hardware and software. We call these combinations ‘Computer Systems’.
5. **Fundamentals of computer networks:** One of the most useful aspects of modern computing is the ability to network, either locally or over the internet. You will learn the principles of how we achieve this in this section of the GCSE.
6. **Cyber Security:** The internet is a large and potentially scary place. The Cyber Security unit will equip you with an understanding of how to create and maintain secure networked computer systems.
7. **Relational Databases:** The modern world generates vast amounts of information. A common way to structure and search this data is to use Relational Databases.
8. **Ethical, legal and environmental issues:** Did you know that there are laws around the use of computers that are enforceable through the courts, and can even result in prison sentences? In this unit you will learn about those, and also ethical and environmental implications of computers.

What will be assessed during the course?

Paper 1 – Computational thinking and programming skills: Assesses sections 1 and 2 from the above. A mix of multiple choice, short and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills. Two hour exam at the end of Year 11, worth 50% of grade.

Paper 2 – Computing Concepts: Assesses sections 3 to 8 from the above. A mix of multiple choice, short and longer answer, extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge. One hour forty five minutes exam at the end of Year 11, worth 50% of grade.

What equipment will be required?

Access to a computer at home with web connectivity, Office suite and Python installed.

French (GCSE)

Qualification Title: French

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8652

What are the aims of the course?

- To develop students' ability and ambition to use French effectively for purposes of practical communication and as a skill for life.
- To develop an awareness of the nature of Language learning.
- To offer an insight into the culture and identity of French speaking countries.
- To encourage positive attitudes towards learning a foreign language.



What is the content of the course?

GCSE French builds on the language learning skills students have developed through Middle Schools. The four Language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing will be taught through three broad themes outlined in the specification:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

The course also requires students to:

- Understand and apply key grammatical concepts.
- Translate sentences and short texts from English into French and French into English.
- Read aloud in French.
- Transcribe short sentences.
- Understand and respond to different types of written language, including adapted or abridged literary texts from poems, letters, short stories, essays, novels or plays.

Students are encouraged to communicate in French and, therefore, basic communication skills are of paramount importance. All lessons will include instructions and conversation in target language allowing students to be immersed in an authentic language learning environment with the use of television, video, computer-assisted learning, audio and reading materials. We emphasise the importance of using Information Technology in Language learning and students are scheduled for a fortnightly lesson in the department ICT suite.

What will be assessed during the course?

This is a linear course and students are assessed at the end of Year 11. Students will be assessed in four skill areas, where listening, speaking, reading and writing will be equally weighted at 25%. The specifications in French will be tiered at Foundation and Higher level, but with the requirement to enter all skills at the same tier. Listening, reading and writing will be assessed by an exam at the end of Year 11, and speaking will take the form of a teacher-conducted exam at a time specified by the exam board. Students will be awarded an overall grade based on their performance across all four assessment areas.

What equipment will be required?

While dictionaries are not permitted under exam conditions, access to a bilingual dictionary, electronically or in hard copy will help with the completion of homework tasks. Students will also need access to a computer to complete interactive vocabulary learning, to practise grammatical structures or to extend their learning independently. Students can use the computers in the department ICT suite by arrangement with their Language teacher. We also advise that students have a fully equipped pencil case with a writing pen, red pen for self-assessment, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener and a pack of highlighter pens.

Geography (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8035

What are the aims of the course?

- To explore...
 - the relationship between people and the natural environment.
 - current issues affecting Planet Earth, including climate change and sustainability.
 - case studies to find out causes and consequences of physical processes or human activity.
 - our role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.



What is the content of the course?

- **Our World** – Map skills, locational and spatial awareness.
- **The Living World** – Characteristics, uses, impacts and management of tropical rainforests and deserts.
- **The Challenge of Natural Hazards** – Causes, impacts and responses to hazards and climate change.
- **Physical Landscapes of the UK** – Coasts and Rivers – processes, landforms, flooding and management.
- **Urban Issues and Challenges** – Opportunities and challenges of urban growth, change and the management of cities.
- **The Changing Economic World** – Development of countries - reasons for differences between countries and ways to reduce inequalities between countries.
- **The Challenge of Resource Management** – Distribution of resources globally, impacts of increased use of resources and management of them.
- **Two fieldwork investigations** – fieldwork will include the study of a physical landscape such as a river or coastline and a local city.

Compulsory fieldwork and optional trips are also an important and exciting part of the course. There will be a small cost for the fieldwork in Year 10 and 11.

What will be assessed during the course?

This is an un-tiered linear course that is assessed by **three separate exams** at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%) – *this will assess the three physical geography topics studied during the GCSE*

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35%) – *this will assess the three physical geography topics studied during the GCSE*

Paper 3: Geographical applications (30%) – *this will assess a current geographical issue (given as a pre-release material), a fictitious fieldwork and the fieldwork students undertake.*

Geographical skills are assessed across all three exams, including map skills, numerical skills and geographical literacy. Approximately 5% of the marks in the exams will be allocated to spelling, punctuation and grammar.

What equipment will be required?

A CGP Geography Revision Guide – students can purchase these from the Academy at a discounted price at the start of Year 9. A fully equipped pencil case including a pack of highlighters.

History (GCSE)

Qualification Title: History
Exam Board: Pearson

Course Code: 1HI0

What are the aims of the course?

- To cultivate a broad understanding of the past from Medieval to Modern times from a British, European and wider world perspective.
- To extend analysis and evaluation skills using a variety of source material and interpretations.
- To develop effective communication skills so that students can successfully construct arguments and fully justify them.

What is the content of the course?

Students will study three eras of History over three time periods:

- **Short** - a study of a shorter period of time in depth e.g. **Whitechapel, 1870 – 1900**.
- **Medium** - a study of a period of History e.g. **Superpower Relations, 1941-1992**.
- **Long** - a thematic study over a longer period of time e.g. **Crime and Punishment 1000AD – present day**.

Year 9: Foundation unit covering key events in British and wider world History from c1000-2000 including topics ranging from migration, World War 2 and the Holocaust.

In Year 9 students also learn of Crime and Punishment c.1000-present day exploring attitudes towards crime in each period, the development of law enforcement and the evolution and attitudes towards punishments in Britain. This unit also includes a study of the historic environment and policing of Whitechapel, East London during the case of the Whitechapel Murders committed by Jack the Ripper.

Year 10: In Year 10 students study the first 30 years of Elizabeth I's reign, exploring the challenges she faced as Queen both at home and abroad 1558-1588. Students will also begin to study the history of Germany from 1918-1939 in year 10, exploring the creation of the Weimar Republic and the development of the Nazi Party.

Year 11: In Year 11 students will complete their German history unit by investigating life in Hitler's Germany for those living under the Nazi regime. The final unit studied in year 11 focuses on Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1945-1991 exploring the causes of the Cold War, key events and the end of the Cold War in the 1980s.

What will be assessed during the course?

This is an un-tiered linear course and is assessed by 100% exam at the end of Year 11. Approximately 5% of the marks in the exam will be allocated to spelling, punctuation and grammar.



Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

What are the aims of SEN support:

- To identify and support students identified with SEN so they can engage fully with their chosen curriculum.
- To provide staff with a comprehensive profile of each student with SEN so that they can plan for and administer relevant quality first teaching strategies.
- To monitor students' progress and work with departments and parents to support students.

What support is provided?

Assistance provided includes:

In-Class Support

Adapted high-quality teaching guided by the Learning Support Department.

In-class support from Learning Support Assistants is given for some students in any subject, depending on the needs of the student.

Withdrawal

Some students may be withdrawn from lessons to work on areas of specific difficulty as individuals or small group interventions. The withdrawal timetable is carefully planned so that no subject is placed at a disadvantage.

Withdrawal lessons are carefully structured and monitored, and students are returned to full timetables as soon as possible.

Lunchtime Study Support

All students are welcome to come to the Library, or the Learning Support hub, at lunchtimes and staff are available for extra support. Students can also take advantage of the ICT facilities and a quiet place to study.

How will each student's progress be monitored?

Students' progress will be monitored via:

- Periodic reviews and targeting setting in line with the school review programme.
- Learning Support staff reports.
- Diagnostic testing to quantify progress and identification of further needs.
- Liaison with external agencies, parents, Learning Support Assistants and the students themselves.
- School academic reports and data collections.

English and Maths Basics

To ensure suitability this programme is a guided choice. Please discuss this option with our SENCo, Mr Parfitt, and Year 8 English and Maths teachers before choosing it.

This option allows students to take one fewer Option Box A subjects and instead focus more time on developing their English and Maths skills. This programme will allow students to revisit key topics to consolidate their learning and will support them to access GCSE English and Maths and to maximise their achievement in these crucial GCSE subjects. Time will be spent developing and consolidating reading, writing and number skills.

Please note that this option is not exclusively aimed at students with special educational needs. The programme will cover topics and skills relating to GCSE grades 4-1 but not for the higher GCSE grades. Students who are aiming for grades 9-5 will be catered for through their English and Maths lessons and should pick two courses from Option Box A.

More information about the English and Maths basics programme is available from our SENCo, Mr Parfitt

If you have any questions about this course, please contact the SENCo Mr Parfitt on 01934 742608 or office@kovessex.co.uk

OPTION BOX B

Art, Craft and Design (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Art and Design – Fine Art

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8201

What are the aims of the course? The course encourages students to:

- actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design in order to develop as effective and independent learners.
- acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent.
- develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.
- develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art, craft and design in the creative and cultural industries.

What is the content of the course?

The Art, Craft and Design title offers learners a variety of experiences in which to use a range of processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to evidence their working methods and outcomes in both two and/or three-dimensions.

- Fine art (drawing and painting, mixed media, printmaking and sculpture)
- Graphic communication, typography and digital design
- Textile design (fabric manipulation, garment construction, fashion illustration)
- Three-dimensional design (ceramics, model making)
- Photography, photography manipulation and montage



In year 9 students develop understanding of art movements, artistic styles, techniques and ideas that have influenced contemporary art practice and art genres. Students explore the formal elements of art and design through a series of practical workshops leading to a series of min-project briefs.

In year 10 students work on self-directed projects where they are given the opportunity to fully engage with a theme and personal responses.

In year 11 students work on an extended project within a chosen specialism.

What will be assessed during the course?

Both component 1 and 2 are non-exam assessment (NEA) set, standardised and internally assessed and moderated by AQA during a visit.

Component 1. 60% of GCSE: In Component 1 (portfolio of work) students develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks. Responses will include evidence of drawing for different purposes and written annotation.

Component 2. 40% of GCSE: In Component 2 (externally set assignment) students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. A preparation period is followed by 10 hours of supervised unaided work in which students are required to realise their intentions.

What equipment will be required?

Students will need art equipment for the work completed at home, such as paint brushes, water colours, acrylics, oil pastels, collage materials and colouring pencils.

Business Studies (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Business

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8132

What are the aims of the course?

- To help students understand the factors that might realise a business from an idea into a commercial success.
- To learn how to use information and understand all types of business to help analyse and justify the actions needed to become more successful.
- To understand the importance of external and legal issues which are applied to today's globally competitive market.

What is the content of the course?

In Year 9, students will be introduced to a wide range of business topics as a foundation to the three assessed units in Years 10 and 11. Topics include:

- Business in the Real World
- Influences on Business
- Business Operations
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Finance



The work will combine knowledge and understanding of business concepts and terms with a practical application using project work, research assignment and a significant use of ICT. All external assessments will take place in Year 11. Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts, ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

What will be assessed during the course?

Students need to learn to justify their views about the actions a business should take. This requires knowledge, application and analysis before making reasoned judgements. Problem-solving underpins activities in class with case study exam technique developed throughout the course. Students can expect to argue their ideas both in small groups and in whole class situations.

There will be two external exams at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1 – Influences of operations and HRM on business activity

Written exam: One hour 45 minutes worth 50% of the GCSE testing knowledge and application of operations and human resources and how they influence businesses in the real world.

Paper 2 – Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

Written exam: One hour 45 minutes worth 50% of the GCSE testing knowledge and application of marketing and finance and how they influence businesses in the real world.

Both exams have a combination of multiple choice, data response and case study questions.

Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)

Qualification Title: OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J834

What are the aims of the course?

To encourage students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations
- develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely
- design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements.

What is the content of the course?

- The course looks at the impact digital media is having on the world today and explores the main skill used within the creative iMedia sector. The course focuses on visual identity, digital graphics design and computer games design.
- Students will also discover the impacts of digital products and develop skills in planning, creating and testing products for a range of purposes.
- The course also explores the world of the designer, in which students will develop original digital products using a range of industry software and techniques.

What will be assessed during the course?

- Unit R093 – Creative iMedia in the Media Industry – 33% of grade - externally assessed unit
- Unit R094 -Visual Identity and Digital Graphics – 33% of grade - Course work unit
- Unit R099 – Digital Games – 33% of grade – Course work unit

Course work units are internally marked and externally moderate.

What equipment will be required?

- Access to a computer at home with web connectivity and an office suite installed.

Drama GCSE

Qualification Title: Drama GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8261

What are the aims of the course?

- To nurture a love of theatre by studying a range of performance styles through acting, designing, using script and devising original work.
- To value contemporary live productions through analysis and evaluation.
- Students will partake in written work and practical acting or design.
- Key skills developed in the course include:

Appreciation	Communication	Comprehension
Confidence	Co-ordination	Discipline
Determination	Evaluation	Logic
Problem Solving	Resilience	Teamwork

What is the content of the course?

Component 1: Understanding Drama

Learning for this part of the course includes exploring the acting and design demands of a full play and analysing and evaluating a live production.

Component 2: Devising Drama

Students will learn how to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning in a devised theatrical performance. Working in a group, students can decide to take on the role of a performer or designer. They will be presented with a stimulus from which they can research and explore ideas for the stage, developing and refining their concept and skills ready for a performance to a live audience. Students will use their analytical and evaluative skills to reflect on their work.

Component 3: Texts in Practice

Students will learn how to contribute to text-based drama in a live performance for an audience. From a choice of plays, students can select to work independently or in a group, specialising as a performer or designer. Students will find their own interpretation of their chosen text and communicate their artistic intention to the audience through their use of skill.#



What will be assessed during the course?

Component 1: Understanding Drama

Open book written exam worth 40% of the course. Students are assessed on their understanding of a play including characteristics, social and cultural context and how meaning is communicated. For the live theatre reflection part of the exam, students are assessed on their ability to analyse how the play has been interpreted in the production seen and what messages the company might be trying to communicate.

Component 2: Devising Drama

Practical work as an actor or designer is worth 10%. In the Devising Log, which is worth 30%, students analyse and evaluate their creative process - this work can be written or a video/audio recording.

Component 3: Texts in Practice

Practical work as an actor or designer is worth 20%. There is no written work in this part of the course.

Enterprise (BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award)

Qualification Title: BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Enterprise

Exam Board: Pearson

What are the aims of the course?

- To develop an aptitude in planning out an enterprise activity.
- To develop the knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills that can affect the performance of an enterprise.
- To develop attitudes and ways of working that are important for enterprise.

What is the content of the course?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on the knowledge, understanding and skills required to research, setup, pitch, monitor and review an enterprise which includes:

- Development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in planning and carrying out an enterprise activity including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, such as the features and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs and the internal and external factors that can affect the performance of an enterprise.
- Attitudes and ways of working that are considered most important for enterprise, including communicating and interacting with customers, monitoring and reflecting on performance of enterprise and own use of skills.



Component 1

Exploring enterprises - examine different enterprises to develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs.

Component 2

Planning and presenting an enterprise idea - select an enterprise idea to plan and pitch for.

Component 3

Marketing and finance for enterprise - explore marketing activities, financial records, planning and forecasting.

What will be assessed during the course?

Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed using assignments that are set by Pearson. They have 30% weighting each and are completed during lesson time. Component 3 is an externally assessed task where students will be provided with a case study of a small to medium enterprise and will be asked to complete a series of activities. This component has a 40% weighting and will be carried out under exam conditions.

Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8585

What are the aims of the course?

- To provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate an understanding of food preparation techniques, nutrition, recipes and to make food products.
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of food, cooking and nutrition.
- To apply knowledge and understanding of food, cooking and nutrition, including developing and modifying recipes to meet particular requirements.
- To demonstrate technical skills in planning, preparing, cooking and presenting a selection of recipes.
- To analyse and evaluate different aspects of food, cooking and nutrition, including food made by themselves and others.

What is the content of the course?

There will be a practical focus on students' ability to prepare and cook food and they will be tested on their theoretical knowledge in relationship to food and nutrition.

What will be assessed during the course?

There will be one exam for this qualification, which will assess students' knowledge of the theory behind food preparation and nutrition. The exam will be one hour 45 minutes long. This will be worth 50% of the final GCSE qualification.

The second part of the assessment will be non-examination assessment set by the exam board and will consist of two tasks, involving practical work.

Task 1: Students will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food (worth 15% of final GCSE qualification).

Task 2: Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a three-course menu (worth 35% of final GCSE qualification).

What equipment will be required?

Students will be expected to organise and purchase their own ingredients.



Health and Social Care (BTEC Tech Awards)

Qualification Title: BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Health & Social Care

Exam Board: Pearson

What are the aims of the course?

If you are interested in working with young people and adults as a youth worker, social worker, nurse, midwife or other health care profession, this is the course for you!

BTEC Health and Social Care gives students the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in the following areas:

- the life stages and key characteristics in the physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development classifications and the different factors that can affect an individual's growth and development.
- different life events and how individuals can adapt or be supported through changes caused by life events.
- health and social care conditions, how they can be managed by the individual and the different health and social care services that are available.
- the barriers and obstacles an individual may encounter and how these can be overcome.
- the skills, attributes and values required to give care and how these benefit the individual.
- how factors can affect an individual's current health and wellbeing.
- recommendations and actions to improving health and wellbeing and the barriers or obstacles individuals may face when following recommendations and the support available to overcome.

What is the content of the course?

The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care provides an engaging, robust, broad-based introduction to the sector. The qualification provides a good introduction to Health and Social Care for students and brings together learning to ensure that every student taking the qualification completes it with a level of understanding and skill. It presents knowledge, skills and understanding in a meaningful work-related context.

All students will have the opportunity to experience the vocational elements of the programme, and develop practical skills, such as demonstrating health and social care values that will help prepare learners for the world of work.

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing



What will be assessed during the course?

Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed using assignments. Component 3 is an externally assessed exam.

Music (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Music

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J536

What are the aims of the course?

- To encourage students to develop as independent learners and reflective thinkers who are appreciative of different styles of music and cultures.
- To develop musical interests and skills through performing, composing, listening and analysing music both individually and in groups.

What is the content of the course?

The course is divided into the following three units of work:

Unit 1 – Performing Music: Students will perform both individually and as part of a group and need to be able to play an instrument or sing. Extra marks are available for performing at a more difficult level and recordings need to be completed under teacher supervision during allocated lessons. Students can improve their performance skills by attending the Music Department enrichment activities related to their chosen instrument/s. Performances will need to last at least four minutes combined duration.



Unit 2 – Composing Music: Students will compose two pieces, one to a brief given by the exam board and one free choice. The final score and recordings are undertaken in lesson time with preparation work completed at home before and during the composition task. Compositions will need to last at least three minutes combined duration.

Unit 3 – Appraising: There is a one hour 45 minute exam at the end of Year 11 when students are required to answer questions based on musical genres that have been studied during the course. There are four areas of study – The Concerto Through Time, Film Music, Rhythms of the World and Popular Music.

All students wishing to take the GCSE must be able to play an instrument already **or** be willing to commence learning and practise at the beginning of Year 9 as performance coursework forms 30% of the overall mark. Voice is a valid instrument and all singers are welcome. While it is not compulsory for students to have private instrumental lessons, those who do so benefit greatly.

Students must be prepared to perform individually and in ensembles in class at regular intervals. It is not essential to take grade exams in the chosen instrument, but students must be able to play a piece fluently and confidently with attention to detail.

What will be assessed during the course?

The listening paper (40%) will require students to be aware of the musical terminology and to be able to hear specific features in the types of music from Unit 3. Students will be required to answer questions in the exam based on reading a skeleton score and this skill will be taught in lessons, but a good knowledge of reading and writing musical notation will give students an advantage when commencing the course.

Performing (30%) and composing (30%) assessments will be completed over both Years 10 and 11.

Music Technology

Qualification Title: Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology
Exam Board: NCFE

What are the aims of the course?

- To focus on the study of the music technology industry.
- To offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge.
- To provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

What is the content of the course?

This qualification will promote the learner's understanding of:

- the place of music technology within the music business.
- hardware components and software functions of a digital audio workstation (DAW).
- the use of DAW software to produce musical projects.
- how music is composed through study and analysis of musical elements.
- analysing the developments in musical style enabled by technology.
- selecting and applying musical elements to create stylistically appropriate musical outcomes.
- using sound creation in different forms of media.
- applying sound creation to achieve an outcome.
- planning and undertaking multitrack recording and mixing.
- using recording equipment to capture and store multitrack audio recordings.

Who is this qualification for?

The Level 2 Technical Award in Music Technology is designed for learners who want an introduction to the music technology industry that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the music technology industry or progress onto further study.

How will students be assessed during the course?

60% of the overall grade will be assessed through an NEA (Non-exam assessment) which will focus on 6 areas of study. The remaining 40% will be assessed through a one and a half hour written exam.

Next steps

Successful completion of this qualification will enable learners to progress to A Level Music technology or level 3 qualifications in related subjects. The knowledge and skills gained will provide a secure foundation for learners to progress into career opportunities in the music technology industry and provide a valuable platform for further study.

Physical Education (GCSE)

Qualification Title: Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

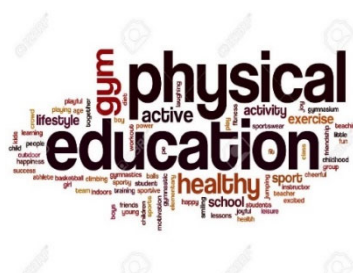
Course Code: 8582

What are the aims of the course?

- To develop theoretical knowledge, to apply and analyse in a range of physical activities and related theoretical concepts.
- To enable students to improve their ability to perform and evaluate the skills, tactics and decision-making requirements of a range of team and individual practical activities.

What is the content of the course?

The course involves both theoretical and practical lessons in all three years of study.



Theoretical Content

The theoretical component will cover the scientific, socio-cultural and practical aspects of physical activity and sport. Students will be expected to be able to identify, describe, explain and analyse using the knowledge they have developed in the following theoretical areas: Applied Anatomy and Physiology; Physical Training and Fitness Testing; Social and Cultural Influences; Sports Psychology; and Health, Fitness and Wellbeing.

Practical Content

The practical component of the course will develop the performance of students in a range of sports. In each sport, performance is assessed on the students' application of skills, technique and decision-making in a competitive situation. Students' knowledge of rules and regulations will also contribute to their practical performance scores. In addition to the sports covered in lessons, students are also able to be assessed in practical activities that they perform outside school (e.g. horse riding). For these activities, video evidence must be submitted for marking. A total of three sports must be submitted to count towards the final practical assessment mark.

What will be assessed during the course?

Students will sit two written exam papers for the theoretical component, which account for a total of 60% of their final GCSE grade at the end of Year 11. The non exam assessment will cover the last 40%. This is the practical assessment of the performance along with internally assessed coursework. This brings together the practical and theoretical content taught on the course, to assess students' strengths and weaknesses in a chosen physical activity.

What equipment will be required?

Students will be expected to bring the appropriate sportswear to practical lessons and, therefore, must have equipment such as football boots, shin pads and gum shields. In theory lessons, they will be supplied with PE a folder, exercise books and workbooks. A huge amount of the resources are online so access to Firefly is essential.

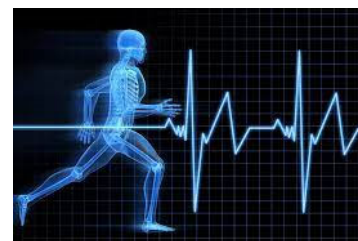
Students interested in this course will select Physical Education as their option and not specifically GCSE PE or Sport Science (OCR Cambridge Nationals). The decision as to which of the two courses a student will ultimately study will be decided by the PE staff. The following will be taken into consideration: academic and practical ability along with the commitment shown by students to participate in sport during their own leisure time.

Sport Science (Cambridge National)

Qualification Title: OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Sport Science

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J828



What are the aims of the course?

This qualification has been designed with practical and engaging ways of teaching in mind and enables students to:

- Develop a range of skills through involvement in sport and physical activity in different contexts and roles.
- Develop their ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations.
- Gain a better understanding of the complexity of different areas of sport and the sports industry.
- Increase their awareness of different ways to stay involved in sport and physical activity and of different careers and roles within sport.

What is the content of the course?

Elite sport has fully embraced Sport Science and considers every minute detail of an athlete's training programme, rest time, environment and psychology in the pursuit of excellence. This Sport Science qualification offers students the opportunity to study key areas of Sport Science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance: the Science of training and application of training principles, and psychology in sport and sports performance. The specific unit titles are:

R180 – Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions.

R181 – Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects performance.

R182 – The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this.

What will be assessed during the course?

This course has one written exam R180 which will be delivered in January prior to the June exam series. This is worth 40% of the overall grade. There are a further two projects; R181 and R182. R181 is worth 40% of the course and is delivered in years 10 and 11. R182 is delivered and submitted in year 10. These units are written or practical assignments that are internally assessed by staff then moderated by OCR. These could be written reports, essays, a practical performance or presentation.

What equipment will be required?

Students will be expected to bring the appropriate sportswear to practical lessons and, therefore, must have equipment such as football boots etc. In theory lessons, they will be supplied with PE workbooks. It must be noted there is no practical assessment in this course however the course is delivered in a practical setting therefore participation in all practical lessons is mandatory.

Students interested in this course will select Physical Education as their option and not specifically GCSE PE or Sport Science (OCR Cambridge Nationals). The decision as to which of the two courses a student will ultimately study will be decided by the PE staff. The following will be taken into consideration: academic and practical ability along with the commitment shown by students to participate in sport during their own leisure time.

Notes

Notes

Key Stage 4 Options Form

Legal Name _____ Current School _____
 (Forename and Surname)

Option Box A:

You will study two Option Box A courses.

Option Box A	Please tick two choices
Computer Science (GCSE)	
French (GCSE)	
Geography (GCSE)	
History (GCSE)	
English and Maths Basics*	

*Guided choice. Before choosing, parents/carers should discuss suitability with Mr Parfitt (SENCo). This course is highly recommended to students who have received additional support with Maths and English in their Middle School.

Option Box B

You will study two further option courses. We will try our best to allocate you your choices but please think carefully about a reserve choice and **tick 3 different boxes**, as we cannot guarantee your preferred combination.

Enrichment Options	Choice 1	Choice 2	Reserve
Art, Craft and Design (GCSE) ¹			
Business Studies ² (GCSE Business /BTEC Enterprise)			
Computer Science ³ (GCSE)			
Design and Technology (GCSE)			
Drama (GCSE)			
Food Preparation and Nutrition (GCSE)			
French (GCSE)			
Geography ⁴ (GCSE)			
Health and Social Care (BTEC)			
History ⁴ (GCSE)			
iMedia ICT ³ (OCR Cambridge Nationals)			
Music (GCSE) ⁵			
Music Technology (NCFE) ⁵			
Physical Education ⁶ (GCSE PE / Sport Science)			
Textiles (GCSE) ¹			

Important notes:

- 1 You may study **both** Art and Textiles.
- 2 In opting for Business, teachers will identify whether the GCSE **or** BTEC is the most suitable course. Please choose just one above.
- 3 You may choose **either** Computer Science (GCSE) or iMedia ICT (OCR Cambridge Nationals).
- 4 You may study **both** Geography and History.
- 5 You may study **both** Music and Music Technology.
- 6 In opting for Physical Education, teachers will identify whether PE (GCSE) or Sport Science (OCR Cambridge Nationals) is the most suitable course. Please choose just one above.



**The Kings of Wessex Academy
Station Road
Cheddar
Somerset
BS27 3AQ**

**Tel: 01934 742608
Email: office@kowessex.co.uk
Web: www.kowessex.co.uk
Twitter: [@kowessex](https://twitter.com/kowessex)**

For further information on the preferences process please contact:

data@kowessex.co.uk

**PLEASE KEEP THIS BOOKLET IN A SAFE PLACE
FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

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The information contained in this booklet was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change at any time.