

14-16 Study Programme

2016 - 2018

Full names:	
Form class:	
Date:	

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1: Message from the Head Teacher

During your first three years at Emerson Park Academy you have studied a wide range of subjects, all of which have been important for your general education. The foundations that have been laid will be built upon over the next two years, after which you will leave us to continue your education elsewhere or enter employment.

In Years 10 and 11 all pupils will continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. It should be remembered that while some future employers may be looking for achievement in a particular subject, all will be looking for high standards in a broad range of subjects, showing that the prospective employee has had a good general education and is well prepared to benefit from further, more specialised training.

All students will study a compulsory core of subjects which will ensure the necessary breadth and balance: English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Cultural Studies (Religious Education and Citizenship).

To allow for individual needs and interests there will, in addition, be a group of subjects from which a choice can be made (**subject to availability**).

Although the degree of choice is limited, great care must be taken when making it. Please bear in mind the following:

- Which subjects do you have the greatest aptitude and ability - what are you best at?
- Which subject you like best and will work at with greatest enthusiasm?
- Which subject might be of particular value as a qualification for a future career?

Do not choose a subject just because:

- Your friends are doing it.
- You like the teacher (he or she may not actually teach you next year).
- You have not studied the subject before.

This booklet has been produced to give further information about all subjects, whether compulsory or optional. Please read it carefully. Further help and guidance can be obtained from:

- Options Assemblies
- Your subject teachers
- Your Form Tutor
- Your Head of House
- Careers staff
- Older students who have studied the subjects you are interested in and
- Your parents

Please discuss your choice of courses fully with parents or carers before making a final decision. I trust you will consider carefully and choose wisely, so that you find your work over the next two years both enjoyable and rewarding.

I wish you every success.



K S Walsh
Head Teacher

2: Examinations and Assessment

You will probably know that many of the courses you take in your chosen study programme will lead to public examinations for the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE). Recently there have been some changes to the examination system with the introduction of new grades in some subjects. Some courses have been removed, others altered and new guidelines introduced to say what will count as a GCSE.

There have already been a number of changes for GCSEs implemented from September 2012, including a change to assessments, which are now required to take place at the end of the course, limiting re-sit opportunities, and the introduction of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar in some subjects. GCSE subjects have become more challenging as a result.

The content of new GCSEs announced by the Department for Education features:

- A much larger, more 'challenging' GCSE in Maths with more emphasis on solving problems that require multistep solutions. There will be new topics such as ratio and proportions. Students will be expected to learn key mathematical formulae by heart.
- Students of the new GCSE in English Language will be expected to read 'a wide range of texts' (there will be no set texts). There will be greater emphasis on accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Reformed GCSEs in the sciences will be linear so assessment of a student's knowledge and understanding of the whole course takes place at the end of two years.
- Many other GCSE courses have yet to be fully approved and details could still change between the publication of this booklet and the start of the new courses. It is expected that most courses will alter very little for the details that follow.

Other changes include:

- A new grading scale that uses the numbers 9 - 1 to identify levels of performance (with 9 being the top level). These GCSEs will no longer be graded A* to G.
- All ability groups do the same examination (un-tiered) in English Literature and English Language.
- Maths will be tiered with a higher tier covering grades 9 - 4 and foundation tier covering grades 5 - 1.
- Linear GCSEs, with assessment by external exam only to be taken at the end of the course in June.
- Re-sit opportunities in November for English Language and Maths only.
- English Language to have a Speaking assessment that will be reported separately.

Please note that, in all subjects, final examinations take place at the end of Year 11, although some courses may have modules examined throughout the course (see controlled assessments below).

We also offer the BTEC First qualifications (Award, Certificate, Extended Certificate and Diploma levels) and OCR National First Award. These courses are mainly assessed through regular coursework, with a formal examination at the end of the course. Many of these qualifications are equivalent to one GCSE. They are usually awarded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* levels.

All of your courses and examinations will follow nationally agreed guidelines. These guidelines have been developed by teachers and examiners to cover what you do and the different ways that you will be assessed. The guidelines reflect current good practice. Assessment for your courses will take two forms:

- Controlled Assessments and
- Formal Examinations

Controlled Assessments - During Years 10 and 11 a considerable part of your GCSE studies will involve project work. This means that, **as part of the examination**, you will be required to produce certain pieces of work over the two years which will be marked and the marks will count towards your final GCSE grade. Your teachers will help you to plan this work and will give you guidance but they obviously **cannot and will not do any part of it for you**.

Controlled Assessments are totally different from the old types of 'coursework' as the work must be completed in school, under teacher supervision and to a strict time scale. Little, if any, will be allowed to be done at home.

All your work is your responsibility and must be carefully looked after at all times. If you fail to complete your 'Controlled Assessment Portfolios' at the deadlines set, you will not pass the course. The examiners or moderators will not accept excuses for failure to present Controlled Assessment Portfolios. If you lose your work it is your misfortune and you could fail the course.

3: Using the Learning Resource Centre

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) will be an important source of information for your studies and it will also provide a place where you can work quietly by yourself. The LRC is staffed from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. It is open during morning break and during lunchtime.

The LRC staff are there to help you to find the information you need and also help you to select and analyse it. In addition to books the LRC has a large collection of information packs, an illustrations collection and a suite of PCs with access to a multitude of applications and the Internet. You should also remember that libraries exist outside school and you should make use of these as well as any other relevant organisations to conduct research for your work. The LRC staff will be able to help you if you require any more information.

4: Careers

The aim of careers education in years 10 and 11 is to make you aware of the range of jobs available and to encourage you to examine your own personality, attitudes and abilities, which will help you make a suitable choice of career. You will also learn how to apply for jobs and prepare for interviews. Other events are held during the two years to give you information, support and guidance in a variety of ways to help you to prepare for your next career move.

During year 11 you will have an opportunity to meet the Careers Officer and discuss your 'post sixteen' plans in an individual interview. Your parents are invited to attend the interview with you if they so wish.

5: Your Options and Progression Routes for Further Studies after Year 11

When choosing your options it is a good time to consider your longer term future and where you will study upon leaving Emerson Park Academy at the end of Year 11. In order to help you understand qualifications and put them into an overall context of progression, please read the table on the next page carefully.

You must choose your Options carefully. The choices you make may affect entry to future courses when you leave Emerson Park Academy at the end of Year 11.

Points to consider

- If you wish to progress to a Sixth Form School rather than a Sixth Form College or FE College (College for Further Education) then you will need 8 (level 9-5) GCSE grades including English (grade 5) and Maths (grade 5), with at least grade 6 in the subjects you wish to study for A Level. (The new grade 5 is expected to be equivalent to an old grade C).
- Some schools will not recognise BTEC grades as an equivalent for GCSE grades. You therefore need to ensure you are taking 8 GCSE qualifications.

- If you want to progress in Art, Drama, Music, Sport and DT subjects then you need a Level 2 qualification in that subject area, this means a GCSE pass 9 to 5 or a BTEC equivalent.
- Many Sixth Form Schools/Colleges and Universities will be looking for students who have the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) package. **Not having this may limit your choice of Sixth Form or University in the future** (see page 8).
- However, if you choose not to complete the EBAC at Emerson Park you can make up the package at College later on as long as you do this before you reach the age of 18.

Progression routes according to the 'National Qualifications Framework'

Level	Qualifications	Place of study
Entry Level Qualifications (below level 1)	Entry level Awards and Certificates	All Schools and most Colleges
	Entry Level Skills for Life	
Level 1 Qualifications (usually measured as GCSE grades D and below)	All GCSE Qualifications at Grades 4-1	All Schools and most Colleges
	BTEC Level 1 Awards and Certificates	
	Other Vocational, GCSE level 1 equivalent, qualifications	
Level 2 Qualifications (usually measured as GCSE grades C and above)	All GCSE Qualifications at Grades 9-5	All Schools and most Colleges
	BTEC Level 2 Awards, Certificates and Diplomas	
	Other Vocational, GCSE level 2 equivalent, qualifications	
Level 3 Qualifications (usually studied post 16)	A Levels	Sixth Form Schools or Colleges and FE Colleges
	BTEC Level 3 Awards, Certificates and Diplomas	
	NVQ Level 3	
	Other Vocational, level 3 equivalent, qualifications	
Level 4 Qualifications (usually studies at Higher Colleges and Universities)	Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	Colleges for Higher Education and Universities
	NVQ Level 4	
	Certificates of Higher Education	
Level 5 Qualifications	Higher Diplomas, Certificates and Awards	Colleges for Higher Education and Universities
Level 6 Qualifications	Bachelor Degrees	Colleges for Higher Education and Universities
	Graduate Certificates	
	Professional Diplomas	
Level 7 Qualifications	Masters Degrees	Universities
	Fellowship Diplomas	
Level 8 Qualifications	Doctorates	Universities

6: Funding

Parents of students choosing practical subjects will be asked to provide them with the necessary protective clothing.

Costs will be incurred for ingredients and materials used in project work for many practical subjects. Students will be asked, in advance, if they wish to own the finished product/s. If this is the case, the materials used must be paid for by the student concerned.

Parents are also reminded that it continues to be the students' responsibility to look after any textbooks and equipment loaned to them during GCSE courses. We will need to make a charge to replace any lost or damaged books and equipment. Please contact Mrs C. Crawley, at the school, if there are any issues regarding the ability to provide funding.

7: Working Part-time

All students will have a heavy homework load and it will be unwise to undertake demanding part-time work. However, the law does permit young people over the age of 13 and under the statutory leaving age (16) to work in certain types of employment for a restricted number of hours. Young people undertaking such work are required by law to hold an employment card.

Applications should be made to the Academy before undertaking such employment.

8: Absence, Attendance and Punctuality

The continuous and demanding nature of GCSE studies also means that absence from school for any reason will create a backlog of work to be caught up. Parts of the syllabus will be less clear in students' minds than would have been the case if they had been present in lessons. In cases of absence for unavoidable reasons such as illness, staff will (as far as possible) ensure that missed work is issued and explained. If requested, work can be set for pupils who are ill at home but who may be able to work. This might be in electronic format via the 'Virtual Learning Platform' if the student concerned has access to a PC and the Internet.

Absences from school should be avoided at all costs. It should be noted that leave for holidays will not be granted by the Academy. If students are absent from school because of holidays then this will count as unauthorised absence/s.

It is sometimes the case that GCSE examinations are taken during year 10 and Controlled Assessments in most subjects are on-going throughout years 10 and 11. It is therefore imperative that an outstanding attendance and punctuality record is maintained by all students at all times. The attendance record is forwarded to prospective Schools and Colleges when students progress into key stage 5.

9: Parents' Evenings and Reports

Our year 10 Parents' Evening is held in the spring term to discuss how well students are progressing in their new courses. In addition to an annual Progress Report issued in year 10, all parents have secure, online access to GO 4 Schools where updated assessment, progress and attendance data are published regularly throughout the year.

Our year 11 Parents' Evening is held in November each year to discuss progress and improvement strategies before the annual mock examinations in December. Students' progress is monitored throughout the two-year period and if we feel at any time that work or behaviour is sub-standard, subject teachers will contact parents/carers who will then be invited in should there be no significant improvement.

However, we encourage parents not to hesitate to contact us at any time if they feel there is a problem or are concerned about a child's progress.

10: Your Programme of Study

This booklet contains details of a wide variety of courses available at Emerson Park Academy and is available on the Academy website: www.emersonparkacademy.org. Just search for 'Options Booklet'.

Your Key Stage 4 programme of study consists of the following categories:

- a) Compulsory Elements
- b) The English Baccalaureate
- c) Optional Courses

It is important to realise that you do not have a completely free choice.

Government requirements as well as what the Academy can practically offer impose some limitations. We cannot, for example, afford to run courses which very few students opt for. Some of the courses may be altered as they are updated or even terminated at the last minute on advice from the Department of Education. If this happens while the Options process is still in progress we will endeavour to inform students and parents as soon as possible and give information about suitable alternatives.

a) **Compulsory Element** - you are required to study the following compulsory subjects:

- English and English Literature (2 GCSEs)
- Mathematics
- Science(2 GCSEs)
- Cultural Studies
- Physical Education

b) **The English Baccalaureate**

This is a package of core subjects that some universities recognise as an entry requirement for certain courses or career pathways. This package comprises of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Double Award Science

Plus one of the following subjects (as specified on the Emerson Park Academy 'Option Choices Form'):

- Triple Science
- History or Geography
- Modern Foreign Language (French)
- Computer Science (will only be offered as an optional subject this year)

Students following the English Baccalaureate and gaining a grade 5 or higher in all subjects at GCSE will be counted as having achieved the English Baccalaureate. If you have the ability to gain a GCSE grade 5 or above in a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography, then you ***should*** consider the English Baccalaureate when deciding which options you would like to do, and the order in which you prioritise them. The English Baccalaureate is increasingly being regarded as a highly desirable group of qualifications in higher education and for entry to professional careers.

c) **Optional courses**

In addition to your compulsory subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, PE, Cultural Studies and your EBacc choice, you will be left with three optional subjects to select. You will also need to select two reserve subjects from the list below.

The two reserve subjects are chosen in case it is not possible to give you all four preferred first choice options.

EBacc Optional courses:

- GCSE Geography
- GCSE French
- GCSE History
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Triple Science - *Entry requirements apply to this course*

Optional courses:

- GCSE Art
- GCSE Business and Communication Systems
- GCSE Citizenship
- GCSE Computer Science - *Entry requirements apply to this course*
- BTEC Construction*
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition*
- GCSE Health & Social Care
- Cert/Dip ICT
- GCSE Media Studies
- GCSE Music- *Entry requirements apply to this course*
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Resistant Materials*
- GCSE Sport Science
- GCSE Textiles Technology*

** Please note in certain circumstances it may be possible to take two Design Technology options.*

**Please use the green, 'Year 9 Option Choice Form' to select your subjects.
Please BRING the completed/signed green form to your interview
(Spare copies can be downloaded from the school website).**

You may have already been receiving some guidance on the content of courses and the importance of thinking carefully about your choices. All of you will receive further guidance on the choices that are available to you. This will be done by interview with teaching staff before the end of term.

In the meantime it is essential that you familiarise yourself with the **content** and **assessment requirements** of both the **compulsory elements** and the **optional courses** so that you can make an informed decision by the end of term.

You should also think carefully about the combination of subjects you choose, as some subjects can go well together, while others may be very similar.

11: Important dates in the Options process

Year 9 Options assemblies in school	18/1/16 - 29/1/16
Year 9 Student Options Morning in school	21/1/16
Year 9 Options Evening for year 9 parents (This gives us an opportunity to explain the options process more fully to students and parents)	21/1/16
Year 9 Parents Evening (Opportunity for parents and pupils to discuss progress in subjects. Options return forms are issued at this time)	28/1/16
Year 9 Options Interviews (all students are interviewed about option choices. Students should bring their completed Option Forms to the interviews)	01/2/16 - 11/2/16
Final Deadline for return of Option Forms to school (After this form has been returned no request for changes can be accepted unless accompanied by a signed, written request from parents)	12/2/16

12: Course Descriptions

The course descriptions give more details about what is on offer in each subject.

Please read this carefully.

The course descriptions have been divided into three sections:

Section 1:

These are the **Compulsory Elements** (also sometimes called 'The Core' or 'Core subjects'). All students must study these courses in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11).

Section 2:

These are the **English Baccalaureate** Optional courses recommended for higher education (also sometimes called 'Options Subjects' or 'Chosen Subjects').

Section 3:

These are the **Optional Courses** that students can choose to study (also sometimes called 'Options Subjects' or 'Chosen Subjects').

ALL students will choose 4 options, one of which must be chosen from the English Baccalaureate Section.

Section 1: The Core Curriculum - Compulsory Courses

A: GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Core subject – Compulsory

**Examination board: English Language AQA
English Literature AQA**

**Examination Syllabus: English Language: 8700
English Literature: Specification 8702**

English language and English literature are compulsory subjects in years 10 and 11. The ability to use the English language correctly and formally is, of course, an important life skill which you should enjoy developing. You will follow the National Curriculum requirements through the syllabus materials provided by the exam boards above in order to be awarded GCSE qualifications in both subjects.

During years 10 and 11 you will read a variety of literary and non-literary texts, including plays, stories, poetry, non-fiction and some media based materials. These have been chosen to appeal to you, as young adults, and the range of texts should help to keep you engaged and entertained.

Speaking and listening activities (including group discussion, planning, interviewing and class debate) are reported separately from your GCSE grade for English language and employers will be keen to see that you are able to operate effectively in a variety of situations. Your English teacher will let you know, in advance, when the speaking and listening activities will take place and allow you time to prepare; use the time wisely and think about how to perform at your best.

Both your English language and English literature course are awarded on the strength of your performance in terminal examinations. You will be taught all of the skills required in your English lessons and it is therefore important that you maintain the notes in your English books and ensure, should you miss a lesson that you catch up immediately on the work missed. While this may seem daunting, you will be given the opportunity to develop the skills to perform well under pressure, helping you to understand how to write well: creatively and analytically.

The following skills are required of you:

- Identifying explicit and implied meaning from texts;
- Selecting appropriate information from texts;
- Explaining and analysing how writers use language and structure to achieve effects;
- Evaluating texts critically;
- Comparing the relationships between texts and the context they were written in;
- Communicating effectively;
- Using a range of punctuation skilfully, use vocabulary with precision and spell accurately.

All of these skills will be familiar to you, as they are things you will have experienced throughout key stage 3. You will build upon your knowledge of these elements through new texts and new written tasks.

The English literature course will run concurrently with your English language course. It has similar skills to the English language course. However, there is a greater focus on fiction and particularly works written before 1914. It is therefore imperative you read widely in preparation for this course and broaden your reading choices so you that you read texts which challenge you.

The English faculty have produced an extensive reading list for KS4 which recommends modern texts, alongside classic works of literature, which will stretch and challenge all, as well as offering enough variety to encourage the less enthusiastic reader.

English Language Examinations:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of language GCSE)
Reading (40 marks) (25%) - You will read a creative text and respond using short answers and essay responses.

Writing (40 marks) (25%) - You will answer one extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of language GCSE)

Reading (40 marks) (25%) - You will read two linked texts (one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction) and respond to them using short and longer answers.

Writing (40 marks) (25%) - You will complete one extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy).

English Literature Examinations:

- *Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (40% of GCSE)*

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question about 'Macbeth' relating to an extract, and the play as a whole (without a text).

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question about 'A Christmas Carol' relating to an extract and the novel as a whole (without a text).

- *Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60% of GCSE)*

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two about 'Blood Brothers.'

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Your English teacher will help and guide you through all aspects of the course. There will be internal tests to assess how you are getting on and you will be able to track your progress using your English books and GO 4 Schools. However, the ultimate responsibility for your success at GCSE English and Literature is yours; good study habits are important and ensuring you are prepared to learn each lesson is essential.

English is a core subject and therefore colleges and employers expect you to have obtained a good grade. For the most part, this means achieving a high C grade (new grade 5) or higher. For those of you considering A-Levels then you will be expected to obtain a B grade (new grade 6) or higher.

For further information contact Miss Noakes, Faculty Leader for English.

B: GCSE MATHEMATICS

Core subject – Compulsory

Examination Board: Edexcel
Examination Syllabus: Mathematics 1MA1

All of you will have to study GCSE Mathematics in Years 10 and 11 although the work you do will differ according to your ability.

What we aim to do:

One of the main aims of the course is that you should find Mathematics to be a meaningful, interesting and useful activity and that you should see how it is used in the world about you. We hope to extend your mathematical knowledge to its fullest extent and to teach you a good understanding and working knowledge of number, shape, pattern and mathematical relationships. We shall teach you to recognise problems and show you how to solve them. You will have to read questions accurately and be able to understand and use mathematical symbols. You will be expected to explain your working and reasoning when you are writing or talking about your work.

The Course of Study

During Years 7, 8, and 9 you learnt and revised many basic facts and ideas, which you will need to use in your future studies. You will continue to do work in the following areas:

- Using and applying mathematics. You will have to use your knowledge, skills and understanding of number, algebra, shape and space and handling data in practical tasks to investigate and solve problems in mathematics;
- Numbers and Algebra. You will do more work with numbers, to estimate and approximate, to interpret results and to judge whether answers are sensible. You need to recognise and use symbols and graphs to simplify and solve problems;
- Space and shape. You will learn to recognise and use the properties of two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. You must use geometrical instruments to draw accurate diagrams;
- Handling data. You will learn to collect, use and interpret data and to work with probabilities.

As you progress through the course you will develop particular skills. Some of these are:

- Recall and use the facts you have learnt;
- Use numbers easily and quickly;
- Do calculations accurately;
- Recognise and solve problems;
- Read, understand and use mathematical words and symbols;
- Set out and explain work clearly and correctly;
- Use geometrical instruments;
- Carry out practical and investigational work;
- Show information by writing, in a table, as a graph or by a diagram;
- Do calculation in your head; to use a calculator properly and to give a sensible answer when using it;
- Collect and interpret statistical data

Entries

There are two tiers of GCSE entry; Higher Tier and Foundation Tier. It is essential that you are entered for the correct tier if you are to get the best result of which you are capable.

Examinations

Students will take their GCSE examination in the summer, at the end of year 11. They will sit their GSCE Mock examinations in the summer of year 10, December of year 11 and again in March of year 11.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9 to 1) in Mathematics is a tiered qualification. There are two tiers:

- Higher tier - grades 9 to 4 available.
- Foundation tier - grades 5 to 1 available.

The assessment for each tier of entry consists of **three** externally-examined papers; all three must be from the same tier of entry. Students must complete all three papers in the same assessment series.

The first examination paper for all tiers will be a non-calculator paper. The second and third paper will need the use of a calculator. All papers are 1 hour and 30 minutes in length. All papers are worth 33.33% the final GCSE.

Each paper consists of short and long questions. All questions have to be completed; there are no optional questions in any of the exam papers. Students must bring their own equipment to all examinations. Using and applying Mathematics has been integrated into the written exam papers. The written exams count for 100% of the total marks required to achieve a GCSE grade in Maths. GCSE Mathematics has **no** Controlled Assessment components.

Students will need all the basic Mathematics equipment for every lesson; a ruler, pencil, compasses, protractor, set square and your own scientific calculator. The Casio F83 WA is recommended by the Mathematics Faculty. Students will need to bring their equipment to all lessons. This especially applies to a calculator.

Mathematics is a core subject of the National Curriculum. A qualification in Mathematics is required for many post-16 courses at college and is looked for by most employers.

For further information contact Mr Sharma, Faculty Leader for Mathematics.

C: GCSE SCIENCE

Core subject – Compulsory

Science is compulsory for all students at Key Stage 4. All students, except those who opt for Separate Sciences, will follow a new Combined Science course based on the new National Curriculum for science. This will lead to two GCSE grades in Combined Science. All examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11, as all courses in science are now linear; this means there is no longer the option to take one GCSE at the end of Year 10.

In addition to this, students may choose to study Triple Science, leading to qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. This will require additional time and would therefore occupy one of their option choices.

Examination board: Edexcel

Examination syllabus: Combined Science

The programme of study has the flexibility to provide the basis for studying all further science qualifications, including Advanced level sciences and vocational courses. However, it is recommended that any student wishing to study Advanced Level sciences takes Separate Science as one of their option choices.

Science matters. In this increasingly scientific and technological world, the importance and relevance of science as a subject taught in schools is of paramount importance. This course aims to stimulate curiosity in the world around us and to bring science to life by making it relevant to students through interesting content and practical work. The assessments are shaped to encourage all students to best show what they know and can do, as well as supporting and stretching all students, whatever their ability.

Assessment:

The Combined Science course is a two year linear course. At the end of the course students will sit six examination papers, two each on biology, chemistry and physics. The papers are equally weighted at 16.7% of the qualification. 15% of the marks will be based on questions about seventeen core practical tasks that all students must complete during the course. Students will take either higher or foundation papers, depending on ability. The grades achieved will conform to the new GCSE grading system of grades 1-9 (9 being the highest grade). All the examinations will have a mixture of different question styles, including multiple –choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open response questions. There will be an increased emphasis on literacy and numeracy.

Course content

Biology:

Cells and control, Genetics, Natural selection and genetic modification, Ecosystems and material cycles, Plant structures and functions, Animal coordination, control and homeostasis, Exchange and transport in animals, Health, disease and development of medicines.

Chemistry:

Atomic structure, the Periodic Table, bonding, calculations involving masses, States of matter, Separating and purifying techniques, Acids, Obtaining and using metals, Reversible reactions and equilibrium, Rates of reaction, Groups 1,7 and 0, Fuels, Heat energy changes in chemical reactions.

Physics:

Motion, forces, conservation of energy, Light and the electromagnetic spectrum, Particle model, Radioactivity, Astronomy, Energy – forces doing work, Forces and their effects, Electricity and circuits, Magnetism and the motor effect, Forces and matter.

For further information contact Mrs Gallimore, Faculty Leader for Science.

D: CULTURAL STUDIES

Core subject – Compulsory

Examination Board: None

Introduction

In Years 10 and 11 all students complete the Cultural Studies course which aims to prepare them for life in modern Britain. Whilst this course has no examination, it is a vital and integral element of the core Key Stage 4 provision. This Cultural Studies course has been designed to incorporate three subjects: Religious Studies, Citizenship and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). An overview of the content is given below.

Year 10

Autumn Term 1 – PSHE Unit – including personal health and safety by studying the problems associated with drugs, alcohol and smoking. This unit also includes the topic of sex education and healthy relationships.

Autumn Term 2 - RE and Citizenship Unit considering rights and responsibilities.

Spring Term 1 - RE and Citizenship Unit exploring government, parliament, Human Rights and peace and conflict.

Spring Term 2 - RE and Citizenship Unit based on the concept of community cohesion and exploring the topics of diversity, tolerance and respect.

Summer Term 1 - RE and Citizenship Unit exploring the issues surrounding crime and punishment, including the organisation of the criminal justice system in the UK.

Summer term 2 - RE and Citizenship Unit – this unit will explore the topical subjects of the environment and medical development.

Year 11

Autumn Term 1 - RE and Citizenship Unit – in this half term students will be exploring belief systems and the reasons why people believe, or don't believe, in God.

Autumn Term 2 - PSHE Unit – careers unit focused on college transfer including: CV writing, personal statements and interview skills.

Spring Term 1 - RE and Citizenship Unit on belief in God and matters of life and death.

Spring Term 2 - PSHE Unit including: personal safety, self-assessment, budgeting and finance and revision skills.

Summer Term 1 - PSHE Unit on revision and study skills.

E: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Core subject - Compulsory

Examination Board: No qualification, assessment or examination

Examination Syllabus: None

Physical Education is a compulsory subject in years 10 and 11. An accredited course is also available in the form of a GCSE or BTEC first diploma. This page deals with the compulsory, non-examination course.

In Years 10 and 11 you will have the equivalent of 2 hours per week over each year. The first thing which you will notice about your Physical Education lessons is that you will be offered more choice as to what activity you will take part in. Obviously, this is rather dependent upon the teaching staff, the facilities and the equipment available, not to mention the weather conditions. Some things remain the same: you will be expected to wear the correct clothing and footwear, and most importantly, you will be expected to take part.

The activities available may include football, hockey, basketball, volleyball, badminton, indoor hockey, table tennis, cricket, athletics, tennis, trampolining and fitness.

Physical Education is one of your non-examination subjects, and so you will not have any pressures or restrictions on you from the subject itself, and this means that hopefully you will enjoy your lessons. The emphasis will be upon activities which you will be able to carry on with when you leave school or even now, after 3:30, or at weekends by joining local clubs.

There are also two accredited courses which will be offered as options within the Year 10 and 11 Physical Education course. An opportunity to develop leadership skills will be offered in Year 10 through the Sport Leaders Level 1 Award and in Year 11 a short course GCSE will be offered to those who have not selected Physical Education as one of their main GCSE subjects. Other Leadership Awards are also being introduced and developed, such as Junior Football Organiser, so that students can extend their leadership skills learnt in Year 10.

For further information contact Mr Torrance, Faculty Leader for Physical Education.

Section 2: The English Baccalaureate - Optional Courses

A: Computer Science

Optional Subject

Only students at Level 6 or above in English and Maths should opt for this course

Course code: GCSE OCR (J276)
Examination Board: OCR

Assessment Information

There are two elements to assessment with some external assessment and some internal assessment. Both the written paper and controlled assessment practical tasks are set by OCR. Controlled Assessment takes place during normal lessons and is marked internally by teachers and moderated by OCR. The written paper is externally marked by OCR.

- 2 x Written Papers (1 hour 30 minutes) – Both 40% of GCSE total
- 1 x Computer Project (approximately 20 hours) – 20% of GCSE total

General Course Information

Having programming and other technical computer skills will open up many career opportunities for students across a wide variety of industries. All industry sectors need people with programming skills to create applications for them. In particular the video games industry needs more people with programming skills to create the next generation of games in this lucrative industry. As more people depend on their Smart phones on a day to day basis, creating apps for these phones is also likely to be a big growth area requiring programming skills.

This course naturally progresses into AS Level and/or A Level Computing as well as AS Level and/or A Level in ICT / Electronics related subjects, with a view to taking a Computing based course at University or in later life.

Additionally, other Computing and Engineering related qualifications available at Post 16 study include:

- Creative Media / iMedia Certificates
- Apprenticeship Framework

For further information contact Mr Galliano, Faculty Leader for Business, Communications and Information Technology.

B: French

Optional Subject

Full course title: GCSE French (Full Course)

Course code: 8658

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification to be obtained: GCSE

Assessment Information

- PAPER 1: Listening - Examination 25% Foundation or Higher Tier
- PAPER 2: Speaking - Non- Exam Assessment 25% Foundation or Higher Tier
- PAPER 3: Reading - Examination 25% Foundation or Higher Tier
- PAPER 4: Writing - Examination 25% Foundation or Higher Tier

All examinations in GCSE French are externally-assessed examinations which are completed at the end of year 11. There is NO coursework/controlled assessment.

General Course Information

French has rapidly increased in popularity at GCSE at Emerson Park Academy and our results are improving year on year.

Our aim as a faculty is to encourage students to be able to communicate by Speaking and Writing in French and for them to be able to read and listen with understanding. The work done in Years 7, 8 and 9 is an excellent foundation for the GCSE course and students will find much of the GCSE content accessible, for this reason.

During the GCSE French course, you study the language based around 3 enjoyable and relevant topic themes, which are:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

These are then divided into more recognizable sub-topics like holidays, free time activities, school, environment, TV and Film, yourself, family and friends, food and healthy living, etc.

Teaching Methods

A variety of teaching methods and resources will be used, including presentations, Google Apps, working with a Language Assistant, Google Chrome books, text books, film and video clips, CDs, real magazines/newspapers and other authentic materials. There are no sets at GCSE and the teacher you have in Year 10 will take you through to the end of the course in Year 11.

There will also be the opportunity to put your language skills into practice, with a cultural/language study trip to France, in Year 11.

Studying GCSE French is a worthwhile decision, but one which shouldn't be taken lightly. Students who continue studying French at GCSE are:

- Hardworking
- Good communicators
- Determined and focussed
- Curious about the world
- Willing to try new things
- Ready to have a go!

How might this subject help me in the future?

As business and economics become more global, the ability to speak any foreign language is more important than ever and people with language skills remain highly employable. Skills in French remain sought after by UK employers. You will have increased travel opportunities, as French is not just spoken in France, but in Belgium, Switzerland, and Luxembourg; as well as in parts of the West Indies, Canada and Africa. Most employers will look more favourably on job applicants with a foreign language.

Studying French at GCSE might even help you understand your own language better and help your communication skills in English!

Future Opportunities

Among the many careers which you could do having studied a language, including, interpreter, translator, lawyer, doctor, nurse, air hostess, import/export industry, engineering, sales and marketing, accountant, secretary, teacher, banking, working in the United Nations, or the European Union – in fact, any career will be enhanced with a language qualification!

Further study could be AS/A2 French (Grade B is usually a requirement) or vocational studies such as Travel and Tourism.

Many of the Russell Group universities and some top 6th Form schools; now request that students have studied a language at GCSE.

For further information contact Mrs Beattie, Faculty Leader for Modern Foreign Languages.

C: Geography

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Geography A (Linear)
Course code:	8035
Examination Board:	AQA A
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

Subject content:

Living with the physical environment

3.1.1 Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

3.1.2 Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

3.1.3 Section C: The living world

Challenges in the human environment

3.2.1 Section A: Urban issues and challenges

3.2.2 Section B: The changing economic world

3.2.3 Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

3.3.1 Section A: Issue evaluation

3.3.2 Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

3.4 Geographical skills

General Course Information

If you have enjoyed learning about geography at key stage 3 and have achieved good results then you should seriously consider taking geography as one of your GCSE options. You will learn to appreciate the differences and similarities between people, places and cultures leading to an improved understanding of societies and economies.

Geography is a new breed of GCSEs where the content is more focused allowing you more time to develop subject specific and transferable skills which colleges and employers wish to see. The course focuses on the interactions between human and physical geography and stresses the importance that people's perceptions and attitudes have upon different aspects of geographical study. You will develop skills such as problem solving, decision making, synthesising ideas, identifying issues and communicating findings through the undertaking of a fieldwork investigation, individually and as part of a team.

The teaching of this new GCSE in Geography aims to inspire intrigue into the world around you and equip you with the skills needed to understand the key issues within 21st Century Geography such as adapting to an urban future, concreting the countryside, economic progress, globalisation, migration: management of world resources, sustainable development, urban decay, environmental degradation, climate change, and natural disasters like earthquakes and volcanoes.

Having Geography in your list of options can lead to a variety of jobs:

- With Art and Technology - Advertising, architecture, cartography, landscape architecture.
- With Science - Agriculture, environmental health, ecology, nature conservation.
- With Business Studies and Economics - Banking, business, marketing, finance, travel, tourism.
- With History and Religious Education - Archaeology, law, libraries, museums, publishing, research, social work.
- With Languages - Working overseas, translator, bilingual secretary, travel, tourism.
- There are also jobs in leisure services, sports and recreation, surveying, town planning, transport, ICT, GIS (Geographical Information Systems), teaching and many more.

For further information contact Mr Heath, Head of Geography

D: History

Optional Subject

Full course title: GCSE History (9-1)

Course code: 1HI0

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification to be obtained: GCSE

Assessment Information

- Three examination papers

General Course Information

If you have enjoyed History in Key Stage 3, especially in year 9, and are willing to work hard to achieve your potential, then History is the subject for you.

The new course has four parts:

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1068-88
- Medicine in Britain, c1250-present (Thematic study and historical environment)
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

I believe that the opinions of the pupils are very important and, as such, have asked for their views before planning the details of this course. Both the 'Germany' and 'Cold War' sections were overwhelming favourites when I asked for previous Year 11 pupils' views on what they would like to study. This, along with the views of the staff teaching the GCSE, is why they have been included.

Further Course Details

The new curriculum reflects the changes made nationally. The focus remains on the Twentieth century whilst also developing further understanding of how the modern world was formed. We have chosen to change exam board as we feel that the curriculum offered by Edexcel is the most engaging and interesting on offer. As you would expect, I believe that History GCSE is an excellent choice at this stage of your school career and hope to be teaching you in September.

For further information contact Mr Hall, Head of History or Mr Veysey, Faculty Leader for Humanities

E: Spanish*

Optional Subject

**must be taken with GCSE French*

Full course title:	GCSE French (Full Course)
Course code:	8698
Examination Board:	AQA
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

- PAPER 1: Listening: Examination 25% - Foundation **or** Higher Tier
- PAPER 2: Speaking: Non - Examination Assessment 25% Foundation **or** Higher Tier
- PAPER 3: Reading: Examination 25% Foundation **or** Higher Tier
- PAPER 4 Writing: Examination 25% Either Foundation **or** Higher Tier

All examinations in GCSE Spanish are externally-assessed examinations which are completed at the end of Year 11. There is NO coursework/controlled assessment.

General Course Information

Spanish from beginner to GCSE in 2 years is a new course at Emerson Park Academy. If you have proven, excellent ability in KS3 French, you might want to avail of the chance of being a dual linguist! It is known that being good at one language makes learning a second language much easier! French and Spanish are very similar and you will need to be able to cope with knowing the differences between them.

The work you will do in this course will be intensive and fast-moving.

During the GCSE Spanish course, you study the language based around 3 enjoyable and relevant topic themes, which are:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

These are then divided into more recognizable sub-topics like holidays, free time activities, school, environment, TV and Film, yourself, family and friends, food and healthy living, etc.

Teaching Methods

A variety of teaching methods and resources will be used, including presentations, Google Apps, Google Chrome books, text books, film and video clips, CDs, real magazines/newspapers and other authentic materials.

There are no sets at GCSE and the teacher you have in Year 10 will take you through to the end of the course in Year 11.

Studying GCSE Spanish, along with GCSE French is a very worthwhile decision, but one which shouldn't be taken lightly. You will be expected to work very hard and be able to cope with the demands of learning 2 languages at GCSE level.

How might this subject help me in the future?

As business and economics become more global, the ability to speak any foreign language is more important than ever and people with language skills remain highly employable. Skills in languages remain sought after by UK employers. You will have increased travel opportunities, as Spanish is not just spoken in Spain, but in parts of America and lots of countries in south America. Most employers will look more favourably on job applicants with any foreign language.

Studying Spanish at GCSE might even help you understand your own language better and help your communication skills in English!

Future Opportunities

Among the many careers which you could do having studied a language, including, interpreter, translator, lawyer, doctor, nurse, air hostess, import/export industry, engineering, sales and marketing, accountant, secretary, teacher, banking, working in the United Nations, or the European Union – in fact, **any** career will be enhanced with a language qualification!

Further study could be AS/A2 Spanish (Grade B is usually a requirement) or vocational studies such as Travel and Tourism.

Many of the Russell Group universities and some top 6th Form schools; now request that students have studied a language at GCSE.

For further information contact Mrs Beattie, Faculty Leader for Modern Foreign Languages

F: Triple Science

Optional Subject

All students will study the Combined Science course, but students may opt to study Separate Sciences, leading to three GCSE qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. As this requires additional study time, this will occupy one of the option choices.

Examination board: Edexcel.

Examinations syllabus: GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Although this option is for anyone who has a keen interest in science, it is particularly recommended to those students considering studying Advanced level science. The separate sciences broaden and deepen students understanding of the three sciences and maximises progression to Advanced Level. It provides an opportunity for further developing an understanding of scientific concepts and the role of science in an increasingly scientific and technological world. It also offers students a deep insight into the practical skills used by scientists in real life situations, by providing challenging and stimulating practical activities.

Assessment

The Triple Science course is a two year linear course. At the end of the course students will sit six examination papers, two each on biology, chemistry and physics. The papers are equally weighted. 15% of the marks in the examinations will be based on eight core practical tasks per subject that all students must complete during the course. Students will take either higher or foundation papers, depending on ability. The grades achieved will conform to the new GCSE grading system of grades 1-9 (9 being the highest grade).

For further information contact Mrs Gallimore, Faculty Leader for Science.

Section 3: Optional Courses

A: Art & Design

Optional Subject

Art & Design 4201 (42011 & 42012)

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification to be obtained: GCSE

Assessment Information

Controlled Assessment – set and marked by centre and moderated by AQA.

80 marks – 60%

Candidate portfolio selected from work undertaken during course of study and must include more than one project.

Question papers issued from 1st January.

Marked by centre and moderated by AQA.

80 marks – 40% Unlimited preparation time.

10 hours of sustained focused study.

Candidates respond to their chosen starting point.

General Course Information

The chief aims of the Art course:

- To develop your basic 2-D and 3-D skills
- To develop your powers of observation
- To develop your imaginative, technical and creative skills
- To give you an appreciation of your surroundings
- To develop an appreciation of ART, ART HISTORY and CONTEMPORARY ART in general

The basic skills will include DRAWING and PAINTING in various media, COLLAGE, PRINTING, CERAMICS, SCULPTURE, TEXTILES, IT, and MIXED MEDIA.

You will need an A3 Flip file for presenting your preparatory studies which are produced in lessons and at home. This A3 flip file will remain in the art room. This portfolio, with further preparatory studies will form part of your final exhibition in which you will show your best TWO to FOUR units of course work, as well as the final examination set piece.

You will receive the examination paper 12-15 weeks before the examination. This gives you a great deal of time to prepare for the examination so there are no surprises on the examination day. The examination, referred to as the controlled test unit 2, takes place over two days. You have a choice of seven different starting points for the examination, of which you choose one. You may work in any media for the examination piece. You will also have two mock examinations, one in year 10 and one in year 11.

Further Course Details

Homework is compulsory and forms part of the coursework. You will need to produce a sustained piece of homework each week at the start of every new project, which is an important element of this course. You will also be expected to spend at least two hours every week completing coursework in the art rooms so you can benefit from teacher support. Art trips are organised, including visits to major galleries in this country and abroad.

The equipment you will need: (Ready for the first week of September)

- A set of drawing pencils – HB, B, 2B – 6B
- A set of water soluble colour pencils
- Two black fine liners
- A set of water colour paints and a no. 4 size paint brush
- A set of acrylic paints
- An A3 size flip file
- A glue stick
- A good quality eraser and sharpener
- A3 cartridge paper
- An A3 polyholdall with handle

An Art Pack containing all of the above equipment will be available for purchase in July and September.

A GCSE in Art and Design would be helpful in pursuing the following career opportunities:

Theatre, Film and Television Design; Interior Design; Graphic Design; Computer and Video Graphics; Film Animation; Fashion wear Design; Fine Art; Floristry, Teaching – especially Primary teaching and working with young children; Community Arts; Art Therapy; Industrial Design; Model Making; Textiles Design; Jewellery Design; Window Dressing; Exhibition Design; Photography, Landscape Design and Architectural Work.

For further information contact Mr Sunday Acting Head of Art.

B: Business and Communication Systems

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Business and Communication Systems
Course code:	GCSE / 4134
Examination Board:	AQA
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

There are three elements to assessment with some external assessment and some internal assessment. The written paper and practical task are set by AQA. Controlled Assessment takes place during normal lessons.

- Written Paper (1 hour) - 60 marks / 40%
- Controlled Assessment (15 hours) - 40 marks / 25%
- Practical Exam Paper (1 hour 30 minutes) - 60 marks / 35%

General Course Information

The course is based on 3 units of work.

ICT Systems in Business - In this section of the course you will be introduced to the importance of business and communication systems which contribute to the success of the business, in achieving its objectives. Also you will consider how ICT systems affect the way people work and how they can help improve communication in the organisation and with customers and other groups who are linked with the business. Also the health and safety of staff and security of data will be studied.

Using ICT in Business - This unit involves you knowing about and using the range of software associated with supporting each function within a business. You will learn how to use software to capture, store, retrieve and analyse data to meet the requirements of the business.

Investigating ICT in Business - This is the very practical part of the course where you will enhance your knowledge, understanding and practical skills which are needed to maintain and use business communication systems based on standard office software.

Further Course Details

This course provides good preparation for further study and employment - through exploring and suggesting improvements to communication systems within a business environment.

- A Level in Business Studies and ICT, Applied Business Studies
- Apprenticeship Framework (Levels 2 & 3)
- Diplomas/Principal Learning in Engineering (Levels 1, 2 & 3)

Additionally, other Business and ICT related qualifications available at Post 16 study include:

- Level 2/3 Certificate/Diploma in Administration (Business Professional)
- Level 2/3 Certificate/Diploma in Text Processing (Business Professional)
- Level 2 Diploma in Customer Service
- Level 2/3 Cambridge Technical Diploma in Business
- Level 2/3 Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate/Diploma in Business
- Level 3 Cambridge Technical Certificate in Business
- Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory / Subsidiary / Extended Diploma in Business

For further information contact Mr Galliano, Faculty Leader for Business, Communications and Information Technology.

C: Citizenship Studies

Optional Subject

Full course title:	GCSE (9-1) Citizenship Studies
Course code:	J270 /01/02/03
Examination Board:	OCRI
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

- Component 1: 25% - 45 minutes examination paper
- Component 2: 50% - 1 hour 45 minutes examination paper
- Component 3: 25% - 1 hour examination paper

General Course Information

Component 1: Our rights responsibilities and the law.

Here students will study the legal system, crime and punishment, issues surrounding rights and responsibilities, UK organisations, European Union and issues of law.

Component 2: Citizenship in action

Here students will be required to reflect upon an active citizenship action that they undertake as part of the course. They will also study the economy, democracy and society, the British Constitution and the role of the media in society.

Component 3: Our society and our links with the wider world.

Here students will study issues of diversity in the UK and how the UK interacts with the wider world.

Students most suited to taking GCSE Citizenship Studies are those who:

- have an interest in government and politics;
- are interested in working in the legal system;
- are interested in society and human rights;
- are interested in working in business;
- are interested in work surrounding human rights;
- are interested in joining the police force;
- are interested in working in public services.

Further Course Details

Students that take this course would be able to progress at college or sixth form onto the following A Level courses: Government and Politics, Economics, Law, Citizenship, Business Studies, Sociology and Psychology.

For further information please contact Mr Ledwidge.

D: Drama

Optional Subject

*The new Edexcel GCSE Drama syllabus is due to begin in September 2016 and contains some exciting new challenges.*¹

The course is composed of 3 components:

Component 1: Devising

This component deals with devising, which is an exciting and challenging opportunity to work collaboratively with others to explore a range of stimuli in order to create an original performance piece. During this unit you will develop skills in group work, research and negotiation, whilst also developing creativity and performance skills. You will also consider the impact that you have upon the audience as you develop the ideas you want to communicate.

Three areas of focus are:

1. Creating and developing a devised piece from stimuli
2. Group performance of the devised piece
3. Analysing and evaluating the creative process and group devised performance.

You will be assessed on:

- a. Your portfolio documenting, analysing and evaluating your creative process. With a final analysis and evaluation of the final performance.
- b. A recording of the group devised final performance.

Component 2: Performance from Text

This component provides you with the opportunities to explore plot, structure, narrative and stories from around the world and from different periods. It also develops knowledge, understanding and skills in exploring and performing from a performance text. You will interpret this text and rehearse and realise two key extracts, leading to a final performance. You will demonstrate and use a wide range of acting skills to communicate your interpretation in performance.

The areas of focus are:

1. Interpretation of the text
2. Performance of the text

You will be assessed on:

1. Your performance in 2 key extracts from a given play text.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

During this component you will explore practically how a complete performance text might be interpreted and realised from 'page to stage'. You will explore a full play text both in theory and in practical work.

You will also analyse and evaluate your experience of a live theatre performance as a member of the audience.

In this component you will sit an external exam. The first part of the exam will be to respond to an unseen extract of the studied play text, commenting on how it should be performed. You will be asked to discuss: acting style, set and props, lighting and sound, costume, stage space, intended impact on the audience.

¹ This specification is due to start in 2016, for first certification in 2018. This specification, however, is awaiting accreditation. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Harvey.

The second part of the exam is a written response to a live performance you have been to see. This section is composed of 2 questions that will encourage you to consider the impact the performance has had upon you as an audience and will focus on the specifics of the performance itself.

This is a written paper and will be undertaken under controlled conditions.

For further information please contact Mrs Harvey, Head of Drama.

E: Design and Technology: Award in Construction

Optional Subject

Full course title:	BTEC First Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment
Course code:	600/6817/6
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Qualification to be obtained:	Level 2 BTEC Award

Assessment Information

Candidates will complete two core modules, one mandatory module and one specialist module, from a selection of three practical units.

The core modules are as follows:

- Construction Technology. This unit covers the different forms of construction that can be used for low-rise offices, retail units and homes. There will be an understanding of structural properties of buildings and the exploration of how substructures and superstructures are constructed. This unit will be externally assessed.
- Construction and Design. Students will develop a broad understanding of the construction industry, the sort of tasks it undertakes and the contribution it makes to the wider community.
- In addition, candidates will complete the following mandatory unit: Scientific and Mathematical Applications for construction. In this unit Students will apply Scientific and Mathematical knowledge, understanding and skills to practical construction contexts.

Candidates will also have the chance to experience three specialist units where they can choose their preferred course to submit as their final Unit of work:

- Exploring Carpentry and Joinery. This involves working with a range of tools and carpentry processes.
- Exploring Trowel operations. This involves working with a range of tools related to brick and block work.
- Exploring Painting and Decorating. This involves finishing a range of materials using painting and decorating methods.

The externally assessed unit uses an examination as its method of assessment; this can be done at different times during the course. All other units are internally assessed. Candidates must complete all four units to pass level achieve an award. All work is practical based however there is research work to be undertaken, therefore the ability to work independently is important.

General Course Information

BTEC qualifications are designed to provide specialist work-related qualifications in a range of sectors. They have been developed to provide the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to prepare learners for employment and/or provide career development.

Further Course Details

This course is a BTEC first Award in construction and the built environment. The BTEC first level 2 Award is equivalent to one GCSE pass, A* to C. Candidates are awarded either a pass (equivalent to GCSE, grade C), Merit (equivalent to GCSE, grade B) or a Distinction (equivalent to GCSE, grade A).

For further information contact Mr Oakins, Faculty Leader for Design and Technology.

F: Design and Technology: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Food Preparation and Nutrition
Course code:	8585
Examination Board:	AQA
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

Unit 1: 2 hour exam - 50%

Unit 2: Non Exam Assessment (NEA) – 50%

General Course Information

CONTENT

You will be taught how to cook a wide variety of food products, using a range of techniques and cooking methods. You will learn about nutrition and the importance of healthy food choices. You will look into where food comes from and how it is processed.

All the areas below will be included in the course:

- Food preparation skills
- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance
- Food preparation and cooking techniques.

The Non Exam Assessment (NEA) component will provide opportunities for a focussed investigation into the science behind the food that you make as well as a chance to create your own three course meal within a timed, three hour assessment period, at the end of year 11.

Further Course Details

Some of the GCSE courses complement each other and some students choose to do two Design and Technology courses. However, this will mean completing two major coursework elements. If you are considering opting for two Design Technology courses you must contact Mr Oakins prior to your interview as a matter of urgency.

Some of the GCSE courses complement each other and some students choose to do two Design and Technology courses. However, this will mean completing two major coursework elements.

If you are considering opting for two Design Technology courses you must contact Mr Oakins prior to your interview as a matter of urgency.

For further information contact Mr Oakins, Faculty Leader for Design and Technology.

G: Design and Technology: Resistant Materials

Optional Subject

Full course title: Design Technology: Resistant Materials
Course code: 500/4418/7
Examination Board: EDEXCEL
Qualification Obtained: GCSE

Assessment Information

Unit 1: Creative Design and Make Activities (Controlled assessment – 40 hours) 60%

Unit 2: Knowledge/understanding of Resistant Materials Technology (1½ hour exam) 40%

General Course Information

CONTENT

Materials used: Resistant Materials (woods, metals, polymers (plastics), composites, modern and smart materials)

The course will involve researching, designing, making, testing and evaluating products made from a wide range of materials including wood, metal and plastics and learning about the materials and techniques needed to make them. CAD/CAM will be an integral part of the course.

All the areas below will be included in the course:

- Materials and Components (Woods, metals, polymers (plastics), composites, modern and smart materials)
- Tools and equipment
- Industrial and commercial processes (Scale of production, material processing and forming, joining methods, adhesives, heat treatment, finishing techniques, manufacturing processes for batch production, health and safety)
- Analysing Products (specification criteria, materials and components, manufacturing processes)
- Designing Products (specification criteria, designing skills, application of knowledge and understanding)
- Technology (ICT, digital media and new technology, CAD/CAM)
- Sustainability (minimising waste production, renewable sources of energy, climate control)
- Ethical design and manufacture (moral, social and cultural issues)

Further Course Details

Some of the GCSE courses complement each other and some students choose to do two Design and Technology courses. However, this will mean completing two major coursework elements. If you are considering opting for two Design Technology courses you must contact Mr Oakins prior to your interview as a matter of urgency.

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If you are considering opting for two Design Technology courses you must contact Mr Oakins prior to your interview as a matter of urgency.

For further information contact Mr Oakins, Faculty Leader for Design and Technology.

H: Design and Technology: Textiles

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Design and Technology: Textiles
Course code:	500/4588/X
Examination Board:	AQA
Qualification Gained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

Unit 1: 2 hour exam counting 40% towards the final mark

Unit 2: Design and Making Practice (Controlled assessment – 45 hours) – 60%

General Course Information

CONTENT

Materials used: Textile materials and components

The course will involve researching, designing, making, testing and evaluating products made from a variety of materials and learning about the materials and techniques needed to make them. CAD/CAM will be an integral part of the course.

All the areas below will be included in the course:

- Materials and components
- Fibres and fabrics, finishing processes, components.
- Design and Market Influences
- Product Analysis.
- Social, Cultural, Moral, Health and Safety and Environmental Issues.
- Environmental Effects: the disposal of chemicals used to manufacture products: the need to dispose of waste in a safe and environmentally friendly way.
- Processes and Manufacture
- Techniques and processes
- Production planning
- ICT (Computer Technology and Communication), use of CAD and CAM

Further Course Details

Some of the GCSE courses complement each other and some students choose to do two Design and Technology courses. However, this will mean completing two major Controlled Assessed elements.

If you are considering opting for two Design Technology courses you must contact Mr Oakins prior to your options interview as a matter of urgency.

For further information contact Mr Oakins, Faculty Leader for Design and Technology.

I: Health and Social Care

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Health and Social Care
Course code:	5HSO1
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

- Unit 1: 40% - 1 hour 15 min examination paper
- Unit 2: 60% - Controlled Assessment task

General Course Information

Course Structure:

- Unit 1: Understanding Personal Development and Relationships
- Unit 2: Exploring Health, Social care & Early Years Provision

Students most suited to taking GCSE Health & Social Care are those who:

- Are prepared to visit workplaces and interview people.
- Are responsible enough to organise their work.
- Are able to meet all required deadlines.
- Are prepared to do research by themselves or in groups.
- Would like to find out about work in health and social care sectors.

Further Course Details

Vocational Learning: GCSE Health & Social care is a vocational GCSE course therefore it prepares students for life in the workplace. As such students will learn about and develop skills that are necessary in a working environment, for example:

- Communication
- Report writing
- Teamwork
- Research
- Presentation
- Organisation
- Resources

Students must access the Internet for research and write up reports on a word processor. Related career opportunities would include:

- Health service work
- Working with young or new-born children
- Youth work
- Social work
- Working with older people, adults and people with disabilities

For further information contact Ms Hampton.

J: ICT

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Cambridge Nationals in ICT
Course code:	ICT Level 1/2 - J810 (Certificate),
Examination Board:	OCR
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE (Equivalent)

Assessment Information

The course is broken down into Mandatory and Optional elements that are assessed by written exam and controlled assessment. The written exam (R001) is one hour in duration. Controlled Assessments (R002-R07) are based on 10-15 hours of practical class work.

Students will complete a Certificate equivalent to One GCSE. The assessment range encompasses "Pass", "Merit", "Distinction" and "Distinction*", equivalent to "C", "B", "A" and "A*" grades at GCSE. In order to successfully achieve the OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 2 Certificate, students must complete:

Two mandatory units plus two optional units.

General Course Information

From personal computers to smart phones, from apps to websites, all of our lives, every day, are enhanced through the use of ICT. The Cambridge Nationals in ICT qualifications reflect this and provide students with a solid foundation for understanding and applying this subject in their future working lives.

The OCR Cambridge Nationals are vocationally related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.

During Year 10 and Year 11 students will complete two compulsory units (R001 and R002) as well as two other optional units from the following:

- R003: Handling data using spreadsheets
- R004: Handling data using databases
- R005: Creating an interactive product using multimedia components
- R006: Creating digital images
- R007: Creating dynamic products using sound and vision

Why should students choose this course?

ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. Cambridge Nationals deliver these skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

K: Media Studies

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Media Studies
Course code:	4812
Examination Board:	AQA
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

GCSE Media Studies is split between:

- 60% Coursework
- 40% Examination

Coursework

Assignments are set and assessed by the class teacher. There is the opportunity for pupils to research and prepare their work thoroughly, and also ask for guidance and help. Work can then be drafted, marked, and then any alterations can be made, before the final version is submitted.

In Year 10 pupils continue to complete their coursework folders, 60% of their final grade depends on the quality of coursework submitted. To achieve highly in Media Studies pupils need to have a folder of work that shows a good balance between practical and theoretical work, detailed knowledge and understanding of the key concepts of form, convention, representation, institution and audience.

In Year 11 pupils finalise their coursework folders. The practical production piece undertaken this year is particularly important, as it is worth one quarter of the overall marks in the final assessment. In the spring term pupils are carefully prepared for the final controlled test, which is sat at the end of the course as a formal examination in the school hall.

The Examination

The controlled test is set and assessed by the board. This will change from year to year. For example, for 2011 it was 'Action Adventure Films' and for 2012 it was 'TV Crime Drama'. This Year's topic is 'Video Games'. The topic area of the test is taught and prepared thoroughly in lessons. Pupils are given the test paper in advance of the exam, at the start of the summer term, so that they can research and prepare their answers. They must then complete the test over a 1 and a half hour period, under examination conditions.

Put simply, the mass media is everywhere in our daily lives and Media Studies attempts to prevent the ideas, ideals and messages of different media from just washing over students. It strives to make them critical readers and producers of different media texts.

GCSE Media Studies is not only an interesting and different option choice; it is also a valuable one. The study and understanding of the mass media, allows students to become active and knowledgeable members of our modern society. Both colleges and employers recognise the worth of Media Studies as a GCSE qualification. The course is both challenging and rewarding and as such good organisational skills, independent thinking and a willingness to embrace new concepts are a must for anyone selecting this as a subject for study.

General Course Information

This course would be a good option for anyone who is considering studying media at key stage 5 or pursuing a future career in the creative media industries.

The mass media (film, television, newspapers, magazines, comics, radio, the music industry, the internet, computer software and advertising) play an increasingly important role in our society. They not only provide us with information and entertainment, but they also communicate social values to individuals. The media industries are very powerful organisations in contemporary society, and therefore need to be understood.

Further Course Details

Media Studies is essentially the study of the media - including the industries or companies, which produce media (e.g. the press), the media products themselves and how they work (e.g. newspapers), and the ways in which audiences read and react to these products (e.g. the response of the public).

The course content is divided into four key concepts, which include:

- Media Language: forms and conventions
- Representation
- Institutions
- Audience

These concepts are interrelated, and provide a base for the assignments given. They are also linked to three skills, or assessment objectives, which students must demonstrate:

- Knowledge and Understanding;
- Analysis and Interpretation;
- Production Skills and Evaluation.

The range of possible assignments for GCSE Media Studies is vast. A few examples might include:

- Look at the film genre of horror. Why do horror films frighten us so much?
- Explain how advertisements persuade us to buy a certain product.
- Construct a trailer for a new action film, which is to be released at cinemas soon.
- Produce a marketing campaign for a new perfume.
- Produce a breakfast radio broadcast.
- Consider how women are presented in the mass media.
- Produce a promotional video for a new, up-and-coming band.
- How is the news reported on the television and in the press?
- Write a page for a teenage magazine, aimed at an appropriate audience.

For further information contact Mr Murphy, Head of Media

L: Music

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Music
Course code:	5MU01, 5MU02, 5MU03
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

This course takes two years to complete, consisting of 60% coursework. It comprises of 3 main activities; Performing, Composing, Appraising and Listening to music, which relate to four Areas of Study as prescribed by the Board. (These include Dance Music, Jazz and Pop Ballads). The formal examination is the 1½ hour Listening paper, details of which are outlined below. Students should consider this option if they are grade 2 or higher in an instrument for which they are currently having regular lessons.

- PAPER 1 (30%)
- PAPER 2 (30%)
- PAPER 3 (40%)

General Course Information

PAPER 1

- Performing - (no examination) - Solo - 1 piece or song - 15%. Throughout the course you will have opportunities to perform music. You will be able to play in a style that suits you, on any instrument (or voice). You must choose a piece of music or song that you like and perform it so that it can be recorded and marked by your teacher. If you play an instrument or sing, a backing (played by your teacher on piano, for instance) is permitted. You should aim to be a standard of around grade 3 or higher when choosing your piece. This piece of coursework will be sent away for moderation closer to the exam.
- Ensemble – 1 piece or song - 15%. You must choose a piece of music or song you like, this time performing it with friends, peers, the teacher or other musicians. The performance may involve other performers if you belong to a band outside of school – this is a valid submission. The recording is then marked by the teacher and sent to the Board for moderation. You should aim for a piece that is the equivalent to grade 3 or higher in standard when choosing this.

PAPER 2

- Composition (no examination) 30%. You will compose 2 pieces of music based on the Board's Areas of Study over the two years. This will be done in controlled conditions and will take place over 10 hours. Both pieces must be recorded during the course, marked by the teacher and sent out to the Board for moderation. You do not necessarily need to play/sing your composition work although it is advisable that you do.

PAPER 3

- Listening Paper (examination) 20%. This is the only formal examination paper, taken by every Music GCSE student in the country at the same time. The exam is of 1½ hour duration and consists of listening to short extracts of music, answering questions about each along the way. Once again, listening content is governed by the same Areas of Study. You will be asked to identify styles, instruments, types of music etc. Your answer paper is marked directly by the Board – there is no teacher intervention here.

- Terminal Task (controlled assessment) 20%. You will be asked to compose a short piece of music based upon an idea, called a stimulus. This unit is worth 20% of your total mark for the exam. This will be sat under exam conditions determined by Mr Parsliffe. At the beginning of the exam you will be given a sheet with six stimuli on it to choose from, and you will then have a further 45 minutes in which to compose and present a piece which will be recorded and sent off to OCR for marking.

For further information please contact Mr Parsliffe.

M: Religious Studies

Optional Subject

Full Course Title:	Religious Studies B
Course code:	Religion and Ethics 1RBO/1A – 1G and Religion, Peace and Conflict 1RBO/2A – 2G
Exam board:	Edexcel
Qualification:	G.C.S.E.

Assessment Information:

Two written examinations of 1 hour and 45 minutes each. Each exam paper will consist of four questions.

The paper will assess spelling, punctuation and grammar and use of specialist terminology. It will contribute a maximum of 5% of marks to the overall grade.

Each paper will make up 50 % of the final grade.

General Course Information:

Course Structure:

Religion and Ethics

Students must study all four content sections based on their chosen religion.

- Belief in God
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Religious Life
- Matters of Life and Death

Religion, Peace and Conflict

Students must study all four content sections based on their chosen religion.

- Belief in God
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Religious Life
- Peace and Conflict

Students most suited to taking GCSE Religious Studies are those who:

- respect and understand diversity in faith and practice;
- have the ability to develop critical and analytical faculties;
- are aware of the personal and social responsibilities demanded by religious faith and practice;
- understand how faith and practice affects relationships with family, friends, school and the wider community;
- can make informed decisions about issues of faith.

Progression for students who take GCSE Religious Studies

A levels and university degrees connected to GCSE Religious Studies are:

- Philosophy and Ethics
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Psychology

Careers connected to Religious Studies:

- Business (particularly international business)
- Counselling and Social Work
- Education, teaching
- Journalism
- Law
- Medicine

For further details, please contact Ms Locke.

N: Sport Science

Optional Subject

Full course title:	Sport Science
Course code:	
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Qualification to be obtained:	GCSE

Assessment Information

The GCSE course is assessed over two units.

Unit 1 is externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes. This will contribute a maximum of 40 per cent towards your total marks.

Unit 2 is assessed in two sections.

- Section 1 – four practical performances in the role of player/participant, leader or official. You can achieve 48 per cent of the marks from your four performances, two of which may be in the role of a leader or official.
- Section 2 – analysis of performance in one of the chosen activities. This will be worth 12 per cent of the marks and should include planning, performing and evaluating a Personal Exercise Programme.

General Course Information

Is this the right subject for you?

The GCSE Physical Education course will appeal to you if you:

- have a keen interest in sport and recreation and always look forward to your PE lessons
- take part in sport/recreation outside of class time
- want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through practical involvement
- want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise
- want to improve your own performance in a range of sports roles
- want to study a course that is active and that you will enjoy
- are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/higher education course

What do you need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

- The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education.
- It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.
- You can perform in one or all of the following roles: player/participant, leader or official.
- You should have an interest in PE and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

What will you learn?

- develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities
- examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance
- find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity appreciate the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'.

Further Course Details

What can you do after you have completed the course?

- As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, GCSE PE allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Firsts and Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences.
- The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in such areas as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the Civil Service.

For further information contact Mr Torrance, Faculty Leader for Physical Education

Emerson Park Academy

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

Option Choices Form

You MUST bring this COMPLETED FORM to your Options Interview

Full Name:		Form:	
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Instructions

- **Choice 1:** select any **ONE** of the **FOUR** EBacc subjects you wish to study from the list below. Make sure you read the subject information in the booklet before making a choice.
- Then complete the 'Option Choices and Reserve' boxes in order from your 'choice 2' subject to your 'choice 4' subject. To help there is an 'option choices available' list below.
- The two reserves boxes are in case it is not possible to give you all your preferred choices. The Academy will consult with you and your parents before any reserves might be used.
- If you have not chosen **six** different subjects, we will assume that you are happy for the Academy to choose any option available on your behalf.

Choice 1

Please tick **ONE** of the four EBacc subjects below.

Please fill in all **FIVE** boxes below.

French		Option Choices and Reserves	
Geography		Choice 2	
History		Choice 3	
Triple Science		Choice 4	
		First reserve choice	
		Second reserve choice	

Note: You may choose other EBacc as well as non-EBacc subjects in your second/third/fourth and reserve choices. Please ensure you have indicated **6 different** options altogether.

Options choices available

GCSE Art	GCSE History
GCSE Business and Communication Systems	Dip/Cert ICT
GCSE Citizenship	GCSE Media Studies
GCSE Computer Science - <i>(Level 6 and above only)</i>	GCSE Music - <i>(You should play a graded instrument)</i>
BTEC DT Award in Construction*	GCSE Religious Studies
GCSE Drama	GCSE Resistant Materials*
GCSE Food and Nutrition*	GCSE Spanish <i>(must take French as well)</i>
GCSE French	GCSE Sport Science
GCSE Geography	GCSE Textiles Technology*
GCSE Health and Social Care	GCSE Triple Science

* In certain circumstances it might be possible to take TWO Design and Technology options. If you are considering opting for two DT courses you must contact Mr Oakins prior to your options interview as a matter of urgency.

Signed by student:		Date:
Signed by Parent/Guardian:		Date:
Signed by Interviewer:		Date: