

LAWNSWOOD
— SCHOOL —

Embed confidence; fuel ambition.

Year 9

Key Stage 4

Options

2026

Year 10 and 11 Options 2026-27

This booklet provides a guide to the Key Stage 4 (KS4 - Years 10 and 11) options process and a summary of all subjects offered in the curriculum.

Key dates

Tuesday 20 January	Options Evening 5.30-7pm,
Wednesday 25 February	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening.
Friday 27 February	Final deadline to submit options form, online.

Which subjects must you study and why?

English language, English literature, maths, science and PE are **compulsory subjects**. Personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE) is taught through the Extended Provision Programme. The examination course content for English, maths and science can be found within this booklet.

In addition, most students should study a modern foreign language and either history or geography.

This means that students then have two remaining 'free' choices.

Making your choice of options subjects

You will study fewer subjects at Key Stage 4 (KS4) than in Key Stage 3 (KS3). This means that you can choose subjects in which you are more interested and/or where your strengths are; but it does mean that you will stop studying some subjects.

A broad and balanced curriculum

Lawnswood School has always valued and offered a balanced curriculum that ensures students are well prepared to move on to study A levels, CTEC (level 3) and are ready for apprenticeships. We aim to future-proof students' qualifications in line with the Government's White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' (2010), which aims to ensure that British schools have a 'curriculum and qualifications which allow us to learn from and outpace the world's best [education systems]'.

As such, the government has recognised universities and employers' continued preference for people with a wide range of qualifications. Emphasis has been placed on supporting students in securing the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) combination of subjects.

The EBacc combination is achieved when a student gains a good GCSE pass in English language, maths, at least two sciences (including computer science), a modern foreign language and a humanities subject (geography or history).

What can you choose:

You will choose four subjects, plus a reserve.

You must choose either geography or history as one of your choices. (It is absolutely fine if you wish to study geography and history together. This would just leave you with only two further free choices.)

You then have three 'free' choices from any of the other option subjects. If you wish to attain the EBacc qualification, then one of these choices must be French.

Please note that some subjects cannot be selected together as they cover much of the same content, for example you cannot choose GCSE Business and CNAT Enterprise & Marketing. It is clear on the form which subjects cannot be selected together. Details about the subjects on offer can be found in this booklet.

Your online options form will be set up in advance to help you select the best options for you.

Bilingual / multilingual students

Students who are able to speak, read and write languages other than English can be entered for GCSE exams at their request following discussion with Mrs Mason (EAL Coordinator) and Mrs Wormwell.

Making your subject choices for Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Students make their choices by completing a paper form and returning this to their form tutor by Friday 27 February. Please note that forms handed in early will not receive special treatment. It is important that students take their time to make the decision. However, forms handed in after 27 February may mean that they don't get all their subject choices.

We urge you to think carefully about your choices. Talk to teachers and collect further information about subjects you are considering. Particularly, find out about subjects you have not studied in KS3 before you either choose or reject them. Ask your subject teachers questions about the content of subjects and ask to see KS4 textbooks and sample assessments. Some subjects can be picked up again at A level/Level 3 CTEC without the need to study them in KS4 (subject to other entry requirements).

Your choices should reflect your interests and strengths. Remember that you are unlikely to have the same teachers next year and you may well be in different classes from your friends. It is very important that you think through these choices carefully now and make the choices that are right for you as the timetable will be designed around your choices.

You must complete the options process by **Friday 27 February**, if options are submitted late then it is less likely that we will be able to accommodate your top four choices.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Can Lawnswood School guarantee that students will be given their first choice of subjects?

We aim to make every attempt to give students their first choice of subjects. However, we have asked you to choose a reserve subject. If we are unable to offer first choice subjects, we will speak to you personally about their reserve choice. If you do not choose reserve options, you may be given a subject in which you have no interest.

Please list your subjects in order of preference on the options form.

How will Key Stage 4 courses be assessed?

GCSE assessment - General Certificate Secondary Education courses follow nationally agreed guidelines on the specific skills to be taught and the subject content to be covered. The nature of assessment is largely through exams that will be taken in summer 2028 at the end of a two-year linear course. In some subjects, the exam paper has two tiers: Foundation and Higher. Students and parents will be informed of their tier of entry as the students' progress through the course. Controlled assessments are no longer used in the new GCSE. However, certain subjects do have a practical or performance element: please refer to individual subject pages within this booklet.

CNAT/BTEc assessment - this includes an assessment system with fewer exams and is based on a series of assignments assessed by the class teacher and moderated both within school and by external verifiers to ensure a national level of consistency. All CNATs now include an online exam. Only students who achieve a pass in that exam will achieve a level 2 CNAT (4+ equivalent). On the whole, these vocational courses use a more practical approach and teach students to develop their knowledge and understanding by applying them to work related contexts. Students develop responsibility for their learning and must meet a series of deadlines for assignments that build into a portfolio. CNATs are awarded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass grades (nationally recognised equivalent GCSE grades shown in brackets).

Which subjects would be best for my child?

The choice that your child makes is very much down to personal preference. All students must study a humanities subject, and many will also be allocated to study a language.

BTEC

Digital Information Technology

Type of subject:

Vocational

This subject goes well with:

Maths, science but, in practice, almost anything.

If you pass this course you could achieve:

Level 1: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*



Example of topics studied:

Understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. Learners will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface. Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information. Learners will also explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

How is the course assessed?

There are portfolios of work to produce and one external examination. 60% portfolio (2 units), 40% exam (1 unit).

Additional information:

No prior knowledge is required but a genuine interest in the workings of information and creative technology is desirable.

This is a good subject to choose if you want to become a web designer, games programmer, graphics artist and more. This course also opens doors to progression into further study (Level 3) or responsibility within the workplace.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mr T Ditta

Cambridge National ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING

Type of subject:

Vocational

This subject goes well with:

Maths, English, art and design, creative imedia but, in practice, almost anything.

If you pass this course you could achieve:

Level 1: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

**Example of topics studied:**

Enterprise and marketing concepts; designing a business proposal. You will market and pitch a business proposal. You will understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business. You will develop the skills to design a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge. You will develop the skills to create a brand identity and promotional plan for your specific business product proposal.

How is the course assessed?

There are portfolios of work to produce and one external examination. 50% portfolio (2 units), 50% exam (1 unit).

Additional information:

No prior knowledge is required but a genuine interest in enterprise and marketing is desirable.

This is a good subject to choose if you wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in enterprise and marketing. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further study of qualifications in enterprise, marketing or business. This course also opens doors to progression into further study (Level 3) or responsibility within the workplace.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Mr T Ditta

Cambridge National SPORTS STUDIES

Type of subject:

Practical and theoretical.

This subject goes well with:

Science,

If you pass either of these courses you could achieve:

Level 1: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*



Examples of topics studied:

The qualification covers three units:

- Practical skill & Sports leadership
- Contemporary issues in sport
- Outdoor adventurous activities

In addition to completing portfolio work, students will take part in practical lessons to develop skills and ideas to help them and others stay fit and healthy.

How are the courses assessed?

- 20% Outdoor activities (Coursework and practical, including a trip canoeing!)
- 40% Practical sport and leadership. This includes marks for your practical ability, leadership skills and your ability to plan and reflect.
- 40% exam.

Additional information:

Some of the work is classroom-based theory with the practical element demanding a commitment to participation in practical sessions. 75% of lessons will be in the classroom based.

This subject is a good choice if you want to become a sports coach, professional performer, physiotherapist, sport and recreation assistant, personal trainer.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Mr G Sowerby or any member of the PE team.

Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care

Type of subject:

Vocational

Exam board: OCR



How is the course assessed?

1. **Mandatory Unit: one externally assessed unit (exam) - R032:** Principles of care in health and social care settings. In this unit you will learn about the key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care. Topics include:
 - o Topic Area 1 The rights of service users in health and social care settings
 - o Topic Area 2 Person-centred values
 - o Topic Area 3 Effective communication in health and social care settings
 - o Topic Area 4 Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings (40% of grade)
2. **Mandatory Unit: controlled assessment unit - R033: Supporting individuals through life events.** This unit is assessed by a Set Assignment. In this unit you will learn about growth and development through the life stages. You will also learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs. Topics include:
 - o Topic Area 1 Life stages
 - o Topic Area 2 Impacts of life events
 - o Topic Area 3 Sources of support (60% of overall grade)
3. **Mandatory Unit: controlled assessment unit – R035: Health Promotion Campaigns.** This unit is assessed through a set assignment. In this unit you will research health promotion campaigns and learn about their benefits to society. You will also plan and deliver your own health promotion campaign. Topics include:
 - o Topic Area 1 Current public health issues and the impact on society
 - o Topic Area 2 Factors influencing health
 - o Topic Area 3 Plan and create a health promotion campaign
 - o Topic Area 4 Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign

If you pass this course you could achieve: Health Promotion Campaign

Level 2: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction* equivalent of the new 4-9 grades

Additional information:

The projects included in the course are designed to appeal to both male and female students. The skills gained include logical problem-solving, communication, evaluation, investigation, organisation and time management; all of which are useful and beneficial to any future profession.

This is a good subject to choose if you want a career within the health and social care sector, for example working as a registered nurse, paramedic, social worker, health visitor, teacher, youth offending officer, doctor, military and mental health nursing, research and healthcare policy making, nursery assistant, midwife, support practitioner, physiotherapist or speech and/or language therapist.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Ms K Mahmood F09



GCSE Art & Design

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical and research abilities, then Art, Craft & Design would be a great choice for you.

The course covers a broad range of areas such as drawing, illustration, print making, photography, ceramics and 3D. Students will develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to produce their own ideas in a range of medium. The course is very experimental and practical so there is no written exam.

Cross-curricular skills include problem solving, open mindset, cultural understanding, time management, critical analysis.

If you take this course you will achieve: One GCSE in Art and Design grade (9-1).

Component 1: Coursework – 60%

Project 1 – A series of workshops to learn and develop new skills.

Workshops include Drawing and painting, Ceramics, Textiles, 3D modelling, Architecture, and Printmaking techniques including lino, etching and mono printing.

Project 2 – Choice of 3 broad themes

Pupils will

- Work individually and demonstrate their skills.
- Tailor the theme to their interests.
- Be inspired by artists and designers
- Demonstrate skills in drawing and observation
- Experiment with a variety of media and techniques.
- Document their creative journey.

Component 2: Exam – 40%

The externally set task is an early release paper issued at the beginning of January each year and has a range of different starting points to choose from.

Students choose one and create preparatory work which shows their creative journey towards a final piece.

Students respond to one of the questions and will create a range of design ideas, practical outcomes and techniques.

Pupils will have 10 hours to create and complete an informed response (final piece)

The 10 hours will be split up over a few days and will be in exam conditions.

Additional information:

This is a good subject to choose if you

- Enjoy to work in an experimental and practical way.
 - Want to develop and improve your skills.
 - Want to learn about art from a variety of cultures and time periods.
 - Want to create something unique.
 - Develop critical thinking skills
 - Develop your ideas and think for yourself.
 - Want to peruse career options in the creative industries;
- The diversity of this course means it can lead to many careers such as a designer for theatre, film and industries, education, product designer, product manufacturer, stylist, materials engineer, production manager, jeweller, furniture designer, textiles designer.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Ms Hird / Mrs Warden



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Type of subject:

Academic

This subject goes well with:

Geography

If you pick this subject, don't also pick:

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Enterprise and Marketing



If you pass this course you could achieve:

GCSE grade 9-1

Examples of topics studied:

The course covers many aspects of business including: marketing, business ownership, business growth, recruitment, motivational theories, finance, production and the external business environment.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through a combination of two written exams. Each exam is 90 minutes long and each is worth 50% of the qualification.

Additional information:

GCSE Business Studies is suitable for students who have a genuine interest in business and how it operates. It is relevant to everyday life and it will help provide you with an insight into the workings of different departments within a business organisation and help you understand how and why businesses do what they do.

It will also help you to develop a range of useful skills such as how to collect, interpret and present market research data; problem solving; understanding business decision making processes; and investigating business issues.

This is a good subject to choose if you have an interest in the world of business and want to understand how businesses operate. It is relevant to all aspects of future employment and not just for those who would like to own their own business one day.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mr T Ditta

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Type of subject:

Academic, technical

This subject goes well with:

Maths

If you pick this subject, don't also pick:

Cambridge National Level 1/2 Creative iMedia

**Example of topics studied:**

The GCSE in Computer Science will involve the following topics:

- Computer Hardware
- Computer Networking
- Algorithms
- Programming Techniques
- Software Development Life Cycle
- Database Concepts

Additional information:

This qualification:

- prepares students to learn, work and live in an increasingly digital world
- develops creativity, logic, independent learning and self-evaluation
- gives students a chance to design apps and software for technologies they use: mobile phones, games consoles and the internet
- teaches computing which is of enormous importance to the economy and focuses on computer technologies that are relevant in the modern world
- has content overlaps with Microsoft Technology Associate certifications to give industry recognised skills
- gives a thorough grounding in computing, creating opportunities for students to move on to A levels, vocational courses, industry recognised IT qualifications and employment
- also supports progress in other areas such as technology, science, engineering and the creative industries.

How is the course assessed?

Two written exam papers (100% of overall grade) test students' understanding of the themes of study. One controlled assessment tests practical programming skills using a theme provided by the exam board. Learners will code their solutions in a suitable programming language.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Mr T Ditta



GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Type of subject: Creative, practical, technical, academic

Examples of topics studied:

Design Technology is now a single subject combining a wide range of materials and skills previously only offered as specific disciplines. This exciting course will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences of Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.



What will you be doing?

- Understanding users – people, culture and society.
- Learning about a wide range of materials - paper, timber, metals, polymers, textiles, modern and smart materials, and their working properties.
- Designing – 2D & 3D sketching, modelling, using computer aided design (CAD)
- Making – using a range of materials and components. Using a range of tools and equipment, including computer aided manufacture (CAM)
- Evaluating your own and the work of other designers.



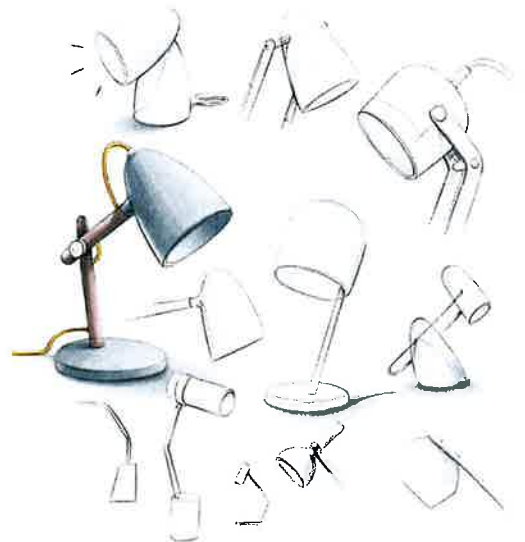
You will get the opportunity to work creatively applying technical and practical skills using a wide range of materials including wood, metals, plastics, textiles, modern and smart materials.

How will this course be assessed?

- **50% written exam** (2 hours) investigating core and technical knowledge (in chosen material area)
- **50% Practical coursework** (non-exam assessment). A contextual challenge set by the exam board in Y11

Choose Design Technology - if you enjoy creating solutions, designing and making products using a range of materials and techniques.

If you study Design Technology, you could go on to study or work in art, product design, automotive design, engineering, architecture, jewellery design, set design, fashion design and many other areas. This course provides a good foundation to progress to A Level in Product Design or to diversify into other creative subjects. It is a good route for students wishing to study via apprenticeships.



Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

- **Ms K Briggs** – Second in Faculty/ **Ms L Ridley** – Subject Teacher

GCSE DRAMA

Type of subject:

Creative, practical and academic

Additional information:

In the devised unit, students study the skills techniques and knowledge required to create and perform their own play. Students are set a thought-provoking stimulus; encouraged to research the themes and issues around that topic; and use theatre making techniques to produce a meaningful and skilfully executed performance.

The study of a set text is designed to enable students to analyse a play in a practical style. The texts are chosen by the exam board and we spend two years generating ideas about the meaning of the work, the symbols, social, historical, cultural and political context of the play as well as developing a directorial concept for the play.

Texts in practice is the acting unit of the course. Students study a full, contrasting text to the set text and develop performance skills in order to create a quality performance. This is assessed by a visiting examiner and you are welcome to watch the work. We regularly see live theatre and have had trips to Manchester, Bradford, Ralph Thorsby Theatre and have external practitioners visit and work with students.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Understanding Drama

- Written paper – 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks – 40% of GCSE)
- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of live theatre makers

Component 2: Devising Drama

- Devising log (60 marks) } 80 marks in total -
- Devised performance (20 marks) } 40% of GCSE
- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Texts in practice

- Performance of two extracts from one play
- Free choice of play
- Performance of extract 1 20 marks } 40 marks in total -
- Performance of extract 2 20 marks } 40% of GCSE

This is externally marked by a visiting AQA examiner.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Ms K Mitchell

Miss C Brooks



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Type of subjects: Academic, creative, evaluative.

These subjects go well with:

Everything!

Also gaining a good grade in English is often the key to accessing courses post 16+.



English Language

GCSE English Language is studied by all students. Like maths, it is an important subject for providing students with skills that are essential for life, and a subject that employers and further education establishments always ask for.

Examples of topics studied:

English Language involves the study of both spoken and written texts. It is assessed by two final examinations at the end of the two-year period which assess both reading and writing. There is also a Spoken Language component which is assessed by the teacher. The aim of the course is to teach students to read fluently and write effectively. Students should be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and to analyse texts. In achieving this aim, students will study a wide variety of pre- and post-twentieth century texts, with fiction and non-fiction.



English Literature - All students will also study GCSE English Literature, which involves the analysis of plays, novels and poetry, including Shakespeare and a nineteenth century novel. This concludes with two exams at the end of the second year.



Additional information:

We follow the AQA specification for both English Language and English Literature. See www.aqa.org.uk for further information.



How is the course assessed?

Both the Literature and Language courses are assessed through final examinations at the end of the course.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mr D Mellor



Mrs L Bebbington Walker

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION and NUTRITION

AQA Specification code – 8585

Type of subject:

Creative, practical, technical, academic

If you pass this course you could achieve:

One GCSE grade (9-1)

Examples of topics studied:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance



How is the course assessed?

50% of the course is a non-exam assessment comprising two tasks.

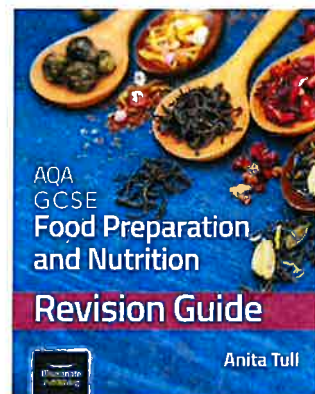
Task 1: Food investigation (15%) – a written or electronic report of 1500–2000 words, including photographic evidence of the practical investigation and planning.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%) - students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

The remaining 50% of the course is assessed by a written examination (1 hour 45 minutes) in May or June of Year 11.

Additional information:

This creative course focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. This qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. You should have a passion for all aspects of food which combines the practical element with science. You will need knowledge of good health and safety practice; you must be able to demonstrate a high level of competence in a range of practical food skills, methods and processes to produce quality outcomes. This is a good subject to choose if you want to become a professional caterer, chef, manager of your own food business, teaching and further study of food sciences, which in itself can lead to many more careers such as food technologist and nutritionist, dietician.



Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mrs S Ellis (G25)

Ms Y Smith (G23)

GCSE FRENCH

Type of subject:

Academic

This subject goes well with:

Business Studies, IT, Geography, History, Travel and Tourism, and Law.
French also helps to improve English skills as it is literacy based.

**Examples of topics studied:**

Holidays, travel and tourism; education, work, future plans; media and current events; relationships and friendships; sport and leisure; the environment; Francophone culture, festivals and food.

Additional information:

You must have studied French for at least two years at Key Stage 3.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through a final examination in Year 11. There is no coursework or controlled assessment. You will study a wide range of topics to prepare you for the final exam, as well as studying translation skills, short essay writing and conversation skills. At the end of the two-year course, you will sit exams that cover the core skills of writing, speaking, listening and reading.

Language skills and study support careers in almost every field. In particular within travel, tourism, education, politics, civil service, military, medical and engineering fields. Universities offer joint honours degrees where you can keep up language study alongside the main subject and study abroad for part of your course. Having a language qualification will also increase your average earnings in the workplace with any job you do.

If you choose French you will get the opportunity to go on a trip to France, which will allow you to use your French in real life scenarios.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Mrs Rogers

Harriet.rogers@elawnswood.co.uk

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Type of subject: Academic, Ebacc

This subject goes well with:

Science (in particular Biology and Chemistry), Maths, History, English.

If you pick this subject don't also pick:

There are no discounting subjects

Examples of topics studied:

The challenge posed by natural hazards like the eruption of volcanoes and tropical storms. Current global issues such as climate change and the threat of deforestation in tropical rainforests. What happens on rivers and at coastlines and how humans are impacted by this.

The challenge of living in ever-growing cities, and how this impacts the natural environment. Managing world resources for a sustainable future, including energy futures. The causes and impacts of different levels of economic development in the twenty first century.

The course also includes a minimum of two days of fieldwork, where practical geography is studied, alongside the chance to secure understanding of core concepts by observing them in real life.

How is the course assessed?

Students sit three papers. Two written exam papers (70%) test students' understanding of the six themes of study. A third paper (30%) tests students' decision-making skills using a pre-released theme, alongside field work skills.

Additional information:

"We all live our lives geographically. Planet Earth is our home. It is awesome, diverse, inspiring and ever changing. Studying geography invites us to participate more fully in the excitement, enjoyment and challenge of this dynamic world." This is the view of the Geographical Association, and is shared by the Geography Department at Lawnswood. We want to encourage students to be curious about the world, understand current global concepts, and become proactive international citizens.

GCSE Geography teaches you skills like, problem solving, understanding decision making, data presentation interpreting maps and satellite images, using geographical information systems (GIS) like Google Earth and multi-map, investigating issues and how to collect, organise and present information.

Geography is useful because it helps you prepare for careers in areas like engineering, environmental law, urban planning, disaster management, construction, army, relief and charity work, and many others. It also helps to keeps your options open; Geography is a facilitating subject because we do lots of skills work, across a wide range of topics and look at lots of different issues.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mr Tom Byrne
(Subject Leader)



Miss Vicky Shaw



Mr Jamie Rhodes



Miss Charlotte Higham



Mrs Yasmin Thorpe



GCSE HISTORY

Type of subject:

Creative, academic, EBacc

This subject goes well with

Geography, English

Examples of topics studied:

Germany 1890-1945: democracy and dictatorship

Conflict and tension in Asia, 1950-1975 (Korea and Vietnam wars)

Britain: Health and the people c.1000 to present day

Elizabethan England, c.1568-1603

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1; 2 hours (Germany and Conflict in Asia)

Paper 2; 2 hours (Health and Elizabethan England)

Additional information:

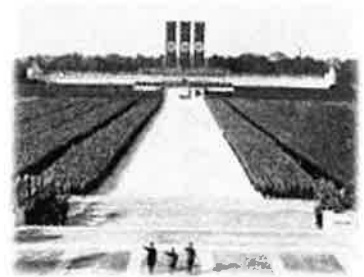
Entry is open to all, but you need to be confident in your reading and writing skills. This is a challenging, but rewarding course. You will do well if you are prepared to work hard, think for yourself, and are willing to be challenged.

This is a good subject to choose if you want to keep your options open. You can become a journalist, a lawyer, or work in advertising, the media, and the arts, but scientists, doctors etc. also need the valuable skills History teaches you. History is valued by employers and educators as a 'gold standard' subject - you develop valuable, transferable key skills such as using explanations and arguments carefully; weighing up evidence; debating; showing empathy; and thinking for yourself.

History is an excellent, adaptable qualification to give you the life skills to support any career or further study. It shows you have the critical research and writing skills to tackle any problem and work with facts and evidence. It is a subject that goes beyond just learning for the exam to provide you with knowledge, skills and understanding for any career. It is taught by experienced, specialist History staff who love their subject.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Miss M Brough (maddy.brough@elawnswood.co.uk) or your history teacher



GCSE HOME LANGUAGES

Type of subject:

Academic

This subject goes well with:

All subjects.

If you pass this course you could achieve:

GCSE grade 9-1



Home Languages GCSEs:

Edexcel: Arabic, Persian, Chinese, Russian, Turkish, Greek, Portuguese, Japanese, Modern Hebrew

AQA: Italian, French, German, Polish, Panjabi

Examples of topics studied:

Pupils **will not study** a full-time course for these exams in school but will sit mock exams and a final examination at the end of Year 10 or Year 11. It is expected that pupils are already able to read and write to a high standard in their home language and possibly also attend lessons outside of school.

Examples of topics on the paper:

Holidays, travel and tourism; education, work, future plans; media and current events; relationships and friendships; sport and leisure; the environment; culture, festivals and food.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through a final examination. There is no coursework or controlled assessment. You will need translation skills, short essay writing and conversation skills. You will sit 4 exams that cover the core skills of writing, speaking, listening and reading.

Language skills and study support careers in almost every field. In particular within travel, tourism, education, politics, civil service, military, medical and engineering fields. Universities offer joint honours degrees where you can keep up language study alongside the main subject and study abroad for part of your course. Having a language qualification will also increase your average earnings in the workplace with any job you do.

Additional information:

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?

Mrs Mason EAL Coordinator.
anna.mason@elawnswood.co.uk



You will need to register interest in taking this exam and decide whether you wish to be entered in Year 10 or Year 11 for the exam. During the September term names are collated for entry.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Type of subject:

Academic, scientific

GCSE Maths is an academic subject studied by all students.

Like English, it is an important subject for providing students with skills that are essential for life, and a subject that employers and further education establishments always ask for. Gaining a good grade in maths is often the key to accessing post 16 courses. This is an academic subject with elements of functional skills.



Examples of topics studied:

Within the GCSE, you study aspects of algebra, number, shape and space, handling data.

How is the course assessed?

We have frequent topic assessments as well as formal internal examinations throughout the year. The new style assessment will be 3 papers of 1 hour 30 minutes.

Students will take either Foundation Tier grades 1 - 5 or the Higher Tier grades 3 – 9.

Grade 5 is likely to be the national benchmark although a grade 4 currently equates to a 'standard pass'.

We follow the AQA exam specification.

Additional information:

The current curriculum for mathematics began in September 2015 and was first examined in 2017. The GCSE is a two year course. Students will take their GCSE examination at the end of the two year course. The GCSE is awarded on three final examinations, each 1 hour and 30 minutes long. There is no coursework.

Correct equipment is essential; this includes having a scientific calculator!

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mr R Redwin



Mr M Smith



Mr O Onoviran

Type of subject: Creative, practical and academic

This subject goes well with:

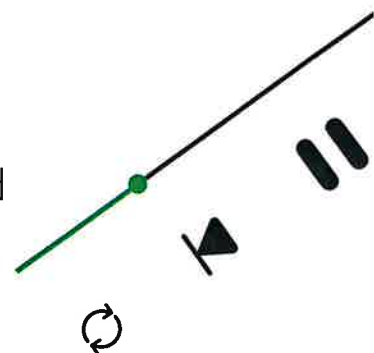
Any other combination of subjects but particularly drama

If you pass this course you could achieve:

GCSE Grade 9-1

Component One:

Exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music.



Component Two:

Music performance

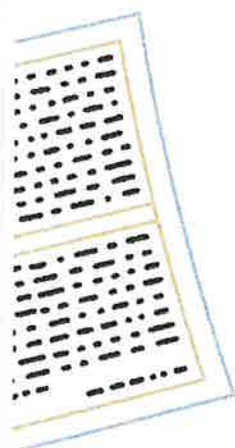
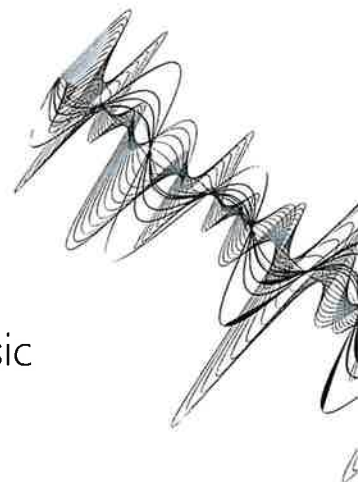
Component Three:

Composition

Who should you talk to?

Mrs Rachel Rushton - Subject Leader of Music

Mr James Heaton - Teacher of Music



GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Type of subject:

Practical and theoretical.

Examples of topics studied:

- Physical factors affecting performance – anatomy, movement, training, data (Exam 1)
- Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology – health, motivation, ethics (Exam 2)

How is the course assessed?

- 60% written examinations (2 Exams)
- 30% practical performance (three practical activities)
- 10% analysis and evaluation coursework

Additional information:

Most learning will take place in the classroom.

Students must have a good track record of participating in sport beyond PE lessons.

Is this course right for me?

Ideal for students who enjoy sport, are willing to revise, and may consider A Level PE or sport-related careers.

Who should I talk to?

Mr G Sowerby or any member of the PE department.

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (EPR)

Type of subject:

Humanity

This subject goes well with:

English, history, law.

It goes with all subjects as it develops your analytical thinking and your reasoned evaluation which is needed in all subjects.

Examples of topics studied:

Why do people believe in God? Should abortion be allowed? Is war ever justified? Should we be allowed to bring back the death penalty? Should seriously or terminally ill people be given the right to end their own lives? What right do people have to play 'God' in medical matters – euthanasia, transplant surgery, genetic engineering, and animal experimentation? How can religious people explain their view in the modern world – creation, evolution, evil, and suffering?

How is the course assessed?

You will have two exams at the end of the second year. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Additional information:

EPR is useful in a wide range of professions – journalism and media, politics, medicine, law, sports, Armed Forces, police, social care and education. It is actively sought for when applying for an arts degree from Oxford and Cambridge universities and other top universities.

Students will develop high level skills which are required for success at A level and further education, such as analytical and strategic thinking, critical judgment, ability to understand both sides of an argument in order to resolve conflict. Students will also establish the ability to present a logical argument and develop clarity in written and verbal argument. They will show open mindedness and an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems and cultural and spiritual experiences. These are essentials skills to possess in today's current climate.

This is a good subject to choose because religion is an inescapable part of our world today. It's reflected in the media, in politics, in economics, culture and foreign policy.

Across the globe, religious agendas have fuelled conflict and encouraged acts of terrorism and ethnic cleansing. But religious traditions have also laid the foundation for human rights, social justice and international peace. This is a subject which reaches beyond the classroom.

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mrs L Roberts



GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES (Triple)

Type of subject:

Academic, scientific

This subject goes well with:

Anything!

If you pass this course you could achieve:

Three GCSEs grade 9 to 1
(Biology, Chemistry and Physics)



Examples of topics studied:

Cell Biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, atomic structure, bonding, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, atmosphere, energy, electricity, particle model, forces, waves, magnetism and space.

How is the course assessed?

Six written exams, worth 100 marks and each taking 105 minutes. Each exam is worth half of one GCSE.

Additional information:

There are two tiers of entry for this course, we will use KS3 data to decide which course is most appropriate. This will either be foundation tier (up to grade 5 can be achieved) or higher tier (up to grade 9 can be achieved).

Who should I talk to if I want to ask about this subject?



Mr I Bamford