

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM PREFERENCES Year 9 -2025/26

Worthing High School is part of South Downs Education Trust



WHY IS NEXT YEAR DIFFERENT?

Dear Student,

You are about to enter a particularly exciting time in your education at Worthing High.

You will now be able to express a preference to study a combination of subjects that will prepare you for the career you wish to follow. However, not many students of your age know exactly what they want to do when they leave school.

Currently evidence shows that most people who are joining the world of work will end up having at least three - five different types of jobs during their life-time. This means, it is very important that you follow a wide range of different subjects, that allow you the flexibility to explore different career paths should the need arise. Your choices, therefore, should allow you to gain a wide variety of skills and knowledge to equip you for your future. Our Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) courses are all chosen to ensure you have a balance of subjects.

Some subjects must be studied as a requirement of the core curriculum, and others, which are equally as important, are the subjects you are able to express a preference for.

This booklet should ensure that you and your parents or carers have a clear understanding of all the core and curriculum choices, the qualification that each course leads to, and the importance of choosing a balanced curriculum for your time in Key Stage 4.



Adrian Cook
Headteacher



INTRODUCTION TO QUALIFICATIONS IN YEARS 10 AND 11

Academic, Vocational and Work Related Pathways for 14-19 Year Olds

As you are aware, there is an increasing need for students to gain skills and qualifications that will prepare them for study and work beyond the age of 16. In an ever changing world, learners must be able to show the flexibility to be successful in a range of academic and work related environments. Accordingly, Worthing High School is providing a curriculum offer at Key Stage 4 that ensures students can maximise their potential both at the end of Year 11 and beyond. We seek to enable students to continue to follow nationally recognised pathways when they leave school and follow either a route of further education at college, apprenticeships or employment.

What is a GCSE?

This is the General Certificate of Secondary Education. These are traditional qualifications and all require a final examination. Often these qualifications require students to carry out extended written tasks based around classroom study. The new GCSEs are assessed on a 1-9 scale, with 5 being as a “good pass” and 9 the highest.

What are vocational courses?

In Year 10 we will be offering vocational qualifications in Music Practice and Child Development. These qualifications require different skills from students than those needed for GCSE study but, crucially, are equivalent to GCSE level. The vocational courses are more practical and have a work related element of study. Students learn by completing projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations. Assessment is ongoing and rigorous. External marking is required during the course and part of the final grade will be decided by an external exam or task. These courses benefit students who have an interest in a particular subject and who may want to work in this field in the future. The vocational courses are delivered in a more practical way with a direct link to the practical area and help prepare students for further vocational study post 16.



INTRODUCTION TO QUALIFICATIONS IN YEARS 10 AND 11

Controlled Assessments/ Coursework/ NEA (Non-examination assessments)

Controlled assessments are completed over the two year examination course in Years 10 and 11. Students are able to prepare for controlled assessments during guided learning time before the controlled assessment is completed in specified lessons under exam conditions. Some pieces of controlled assessment/coursework may require individual research work such as a survey; others will require you to look up information from a wide range of sources. This means that the work may be spread out over a period of several weeks and you will need to organise your time very carefully so that you meet the deadline. Your teachers will give you a course outline at the beginning of every term. You will be expected to complete your controlled assessment to a level which is appropriate to your ability and teaching staff will support you to meet high expectations, and to meet particular deadline dates.

How much does controlled assessment matter?

This depends on the subject. Your subject teachers will be able to tell you how much the controlled assessment is worth in each subject.

Independent Learning

In Year 10 and 11, you will be expected to complete a significant amount of independent study because so many of your courses require you to revise effectively for final exams. Your teachers will support you to learn strategies to revise and will set you homework to help you prepare for exams, as well as to consolidate your learning of course content

One of the most important skills that you will need to achieve academic success in your GCSEs/vocational qualifications is the ability to work independently and complete independent learning tasks/ revision. Your teachers will expect you to complete a lot of work outside school hours in order to be ready for the demands of the new GCSEs and being organised by using ClassCharts and Google Classroom alongside various platforms used at individual subject level such as Sparx Science and Maths, effectively will be really important.

When are the final examinations?

Most of these take place during May and June of your final year (2028). However, all subjects have regular assessments and therefore it is important that parents do not organise holidays during Year 10 or Year 11 as this will conflict with preparation for exams and controlled tasks.



WHAT WILL THE KEY STAGE 4 TIMETABLE LOOK LIKE FOR MY CHILD?

When students move into Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), their timetable will include a mixture of core GCSE subjects, statutory non-examined subjects, and three optional subjects chosen during the Year 9 options process.

This structure ensures that all students continue to develop strong skills in the core academic subjects while also studying areas that reflect their interests and strengths.

All students will study the following core GCSE subjects as part of their timetable:

English

Students will study:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
-

There will be 10 English lessons across the timetable for Language and Literature.

Mathematics

All students will study GCSE Mathematics, those students that are in sets 1 and 2 in year 10 will also complete a GCSE in Statistics at the end of year 10.

There will be 9 Mathematics lessons across the timetable.

Science

All students will study GCSE Science. There are two possible pathways:

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy:

- Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- This course results in two GCSE qualifications

GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Science)

- Students study GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics
- This pathway results in three separate GCSE qualifications

Placement on the science pathway will be based on teacher guidance and prior attainment.

There will be 12 Science lessons across the timetable.

Option Subjects

Alongside the core subjects, students will study three option subjects that they select during the options process.

These subjects allow students to:

- Develop their interests and talents
- Study subjects they enjoy
- Gain additional GCSE or equivalent qualifications

Further information about each available subject can be found later in this booklet.

There will be 5 lessons a fortnight for each of the 3 option subjects.

Statutory Non-Examined Subjects

In addition to their GCSE subjects, students will also continue to take part in several important subjects that do not lead to a GCSE qualification, but are required as part of the school curriculum.

These include:

- Core Physical Education (PE) (3 lessons per fortnight)
- PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) (1 lesson per fortnight)

These subjects support students' personal development, wellbeing and preparation for life beyond school.



What do current Year 10 students think of GCSE studies?

“There is more homework which is more challenging, but you get a better feeling when you hand in a good piece of work you’re proud of.”

“You get lots of help and support from your teachers with your class work and preparation for controlled assessments which is great when it counts towards your GCSE.”

“Learning is more in depth and interesting.”

“There are lots of choices about what you can do and you get to learn lots more about the subjects that you like.”

CHOOSING YOUR KS4 COURSES

In Years 10 and 11, all students study accredited courses in English Language, English Literature, Science and Mathematics. There are also compulsory non-examination courses in Physical Education and Personal, Social and Health Education.

Other subjects are selected, with the guidance of staff, from the preferences given; however, you should try to ensure there is balance in these preferences.

Balance means that you should opt for a range of subjects rather than courses from similar subject areas.

Your preference of subjects may have very important implications for your future. Teachers will try to guide you to the subjects which are most suited to you as an individual and to your potential requirements for further and higher education.

After you submit your Key Stage 4 Curriculum Preferences, careful consideration is given to your preferred choices. Preferences should be completed in priority order for students on the online form. We try to accommodate these where practicable, however, this does not guarantee this preference. This is why we ask students to select more preferences than options they take as any of the preferences can be assigned.



WHO MAKES THE PREFERENCES?

You make the selection of subjects, but you do this with the help and guidance of your teachers and with the agreement of your parents. To ensure balance and challenges, students will be placed on an appropriate Pathway.

How do I decide whether to select a certain subject or not?

Important questions to consider when choosing a subject:

- Will the study of this subject help to give you a well balanced timetable?
- Are you interested enough and prepared to spend time both in and out of school studying it?
- Do you enjoy the subject?
- Have you done well in this subject in the past? (Look back at your reports).
- If you do not include this subject, are you limiting the range of university courses/jobs/professions which may be open to you in the future?

Ask your teachers

If you do not fully understand any of the points made so far in this booklet, there are a number of teachers to help you. Subject teachers, tutors, our careers leader and your Community Leaders will be pleased to give you advice to help make your decisions.



COMPLETING THE CURRICULUM PREFERENCES PROCESS

Once you have received confirmation of your pathway and taken all the available advice, read this booklet thoroughly, look at the website and make sure that you complete your online Key Stage 4 Curriculum Preferences form.

Our Curriculum Preferences evening will be held on the 19th March 2026 where we will share more information. Please ensure you attend.

To complete the form you must:

Complete all the preference boxes in order of preference

All of the subjects and courses are described in this booklet.

For further specific information ask the teacher whose name is indicated against each subject and speak to them in the Sports Hall in the Subject Market place

HERE ARE THE FIVE CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
AND
ENGLISH
LITERATURE

MATHS

SCIENCE

PHYSICAL
EDUCATION

PSHE



CORE SUBJECT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

The English Language course will give you the opportunity to study a wide range of fiction and non-fiction and provide you with the skills to communicate effectively in both the spoken and written word. Through the study of heritage and contemporary texts, you will be able to interpret and analyse texts from a critical perspective.

Teacher to speak to
for further details:

Miss H Davies

How will I be assessed?

English Language is now assessed entirely through terminal examination. You will complete two examinations, both with a reading and writing section. You will also gain an additional certificate in spoken language by preparing and delivering a speech on a topic of your choice.

Are there any costs involved?

No, although revision guide sare available if you wish to use one to support your revision.

What will I be expected to do?

- distinguish between fact and opinion;
- study the different ways
- information is presented and the impact of structural and language devices;
- follow an argument; learn about the different forms of language and the importance of using a wide and varied vocabulary;
- write to persuade, argue, inform describe and narrate;
- write analytical essays on a selection of texts;
- use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar;
- complete a non-examination assessment in speaking



CORE SUBJECT

ENGLISH LITERATURE

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

The English Literature course will expose you to a variety of canonical and contemporary texts as well as encouraging you to read widely. You will study a novel, poetry and plays throughout the course.

*Teacher to speak to
for further details:*

Miss H Davies

How will I be assessed?

English Literature is now assessed entirely through terminal examination. You will complete two examinations: one on Shakespeare and a 19th Century Novel and one on a modern play and poetry.

Are there any costs involved?

No. However, you may find it useful to have your own copy of the key texts to support your studies in class and at home. There will be an opportunity to purchase copies of the set texts at a reduced price via the English Department at the end of Year 9 in preparation for Year 10.

What will I be expected to do?

- read widely and enthusiastically;
- understand and engage with the themes and ideas texts explore;
- write critically about all aspects of text;
- understand how writers use structure and language;
- recognise and explain how writers achieve different effects;
- appreciate the social, cultural and historical context of texts;
- explore reader responses



CORE SUBJECT

MATHEMATICS

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

Mathematics is an essential requirement for many jobs and for college entry.

Increasingly there is a need to recognise 'functional maths' in real life situations.

Calculation and problem solving skills learnt at school help students to be able to tackle these situations successfully. This theme runs throughout the maths taught in lessons, whenever possible.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Ms A Fallahi

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Mathematics Linear Exams

Paper 1 - Non-calculator, 80 marks - 1hr 30mins

Paper 2 - Calculator, 80 marks - 1hr 30mins

Paper 3 - Calculator, 80 marks - 1hr 30mins

Are there any costs involved?

It is essential to be properly equipped. This includes a scientific calculator, ruler, compass, pencil and protractor. It is recommended students buy a revision guide and/or workbook. Internet access is regularly required but is available in the school's Learning Resource Centre.

Course structure

The GCSE Mathematics course is a 2-year course, building on the learning from years 7, 8 and 9. Students will study towards the higher tier or the foundation tier GCSE Mathematics, and will be set appropriately. Tier changes are constantly reviewed to ensure the best outcomes for our students. Grades 9-4 can be achieved on the higher tier and grades 5-1 on the foundation tier (with 9 being the highest grade). The programme of study is divided into six areas: Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry, Probability, and Statistics. Problem Solving skills are embedded throughout the course. Students will be required to work independently and in groups to develop their mathematical skills and understanding of the concepts within the course. Students will receive weekly homework in order to consolidate their understanding of what they have learnt in the previous half term. This will be set on Sparx.



STATISTICS

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

We recognise that our students will, in the future, have to work with data, managing large data sets and becoming super-forecasters. We also recognise that statistical and probabilistic thinking will equip our students for the challenges of the future.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Ms A Fallahi

Course structure

We offer our higher tier GCSE students the opportunity to study for a second GCSE qualification, by interweaving the topics throughout their studies in Mathematics in year 9 and 10.

Students will learn about:

- The statistical enquiry cycle
- Data presentation
- Data analysis
- Probability

Are there any costs involved?

It is essential to be properly equipped. This includes a scientific calculator, ruler, compass, pencil and protractor. It is recommended students buy a revision guide and/or workbook. Internet access is regularly required but is available in the school's Learning Resource Centre.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 2 – 1hr 45min calculator exam
Paper 1 – 1hr 45min calculator exam



CORE SUBJECT

COMBINED SCIENCE

GCSE BOARD: AQA

Course Code AQA Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

GCSE Combined Science is a linear course with all exams taken in May and June, This course started in September 2016. There is no coursework element. There are 20 required practical's that Students will study in class and be examined in the terminal exams.

Combined Science will have a 17 point grading scale, from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1. With the majority of students being awarded the same grade for each of their two Science GCSEs.

How will I be assessed?

Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics.

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.

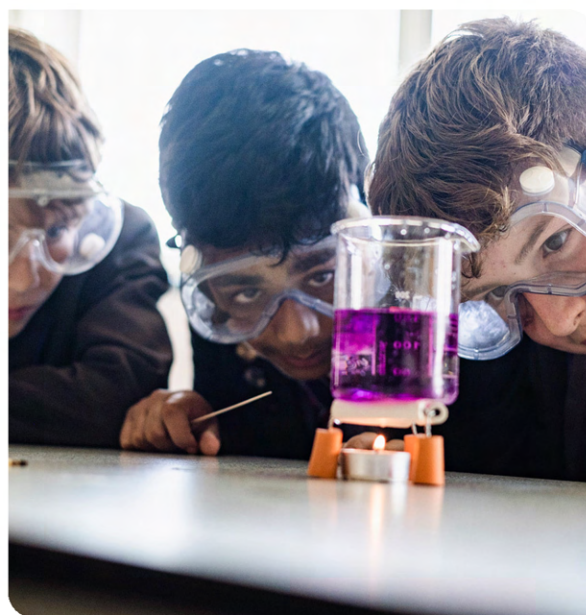
Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

Are there any costs involved?

No. However, the faculty strongly recommends the purchase of revision guides.

What courses might link with this post 16?

- AS/A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics
- AS/A Level Environmental Science.
- AS Science for Public Understanding.
- Other courses with a science content.
- AS/A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics AS/A Level Environmental Science.
- AS Science for Public Understanding.
- Other courses with a science content.



What is included on the course?

BIOLOGY

- Biology
- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

*Teacher to speak to
for further details:*

Mr A Kent

CHEMISTRY

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis -Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

PHYSICS

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetis
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure



CORE SUBJECT

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

GCSE BOARD: AQA

CourseCode AQA Separate Sciences: Triple

Students who are in the top two sets in both bands by the end of Year 9 will automatically be entered into Triple Science. This ensures that those who have consistently shown strong performance, aptitude and effort in science are given the opportunity to study all three separate sciences - Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

About the course

There is no coursework element. Each subject has 8 required practical's that will be studied in class and will be examined in the terminal exams.

What courses might link with this post 16?

- AS/A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics
- AS/A Level Environmental Science.
- AS Science for Public Understanding.
- Other courses with a science content.
- AS/A Level Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics AS/A Level Environmental Science.
- AS Science for Public Understanding.
- Other courses with a science content.

What is included on the course?

AQA GCSE Biology (8461)

BIOLOGY

summary of content

- Cellbiology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- -Ecology

TWO PAPERS

Each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clearer and simpler language to assess students only on their scientific ability.

What's assessed in Paper one?

Topics 1-4; Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response and Bioenergetics

What's assessed in Paper two?

Topics 5-7; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mr A Kent

Are there any costs involved?

No. However, the faculty strongly recommends the purchase of revision guides.



AQA GCSE Chemistry (8462)

CHEMISTRY

summary of content

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere -Using resources

TWO PAPERS

Each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clearer and simpler language to assess students only on their scientific ability.

What's assessed in Paper one?

Topics 1-5; Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

What's assessed in Paper two?

Topics 6-10; The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources.

Duration:

both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes

Tier: Foundation and Higher

AQA GCSE Physics (8463)

PHYSICS

summary of content

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space

TWO PAPERS

Each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clearer and simpler language to assess students only on their scientific ability.

What's assessed in Paper one?

Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter and Atomic structure

What's assessed in Paper two?

Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism and Space physics

Weighting : the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response



CORE SUBJECT

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What is included in this course?

In Years 10 and 11 you will reinforce and develop work done in KS3. You will study a range of activities, which will include both individual activities and team sports. You may also be offered the opportunity to experience working with outside coaches.

How will I choose the best pathway suited to me?

At the end of year 9, with teacher support, you will select a pathway which you feel is best suited to you.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Miss M Field

The activities which may be offered include:

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Dance
- Fitness
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Handball
- Netball
- Table tennis
- Rounders
- Rugby
- Softball
- Volleyball



CORE SUBJECT

THE PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME (PSHE)

The Personal, Social and Health Education Programme (PSHE) is a single lesson per fortnight which operates as a series of compulsory courses.

Teachers to speak to for further details:

Ms H Schuler
Miss K Boyce

PSHE education at Worthing High is a subject through which pupils develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and prepare for life and work in modern Britain.

The courses you will undertake over Years 10 and 11 will cover the following themes:

- Living in the wider world
- Health and wellbeing
- Relationship and sex education (RSE).

You will cover a range of topics within each of these themes across Year 10 and 11.



CURRICULUM CHOICES

THE CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
AND ENGLISH
LITERATURE

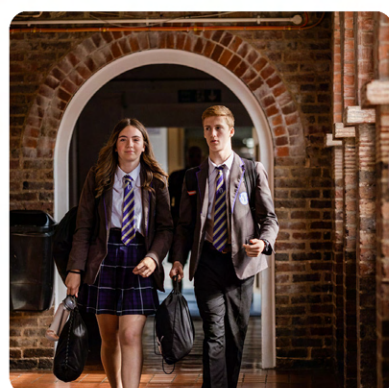
MATHS



PHYSICAL
EDUCATION

SCIENCE

PSHE



Community - Resilience - Excellence - Respect - Integrity

SUBJECTS

ART

BUSINESS
GCSE

CHILD
DEVELOPMENT

COMPUTER
SCIENCE

DESIGN
TECHNOLOGY

DRAMA

FOOD
PREPARATION
& NUTRITION

GEOGRAPHY

HISTORY

MEDIA
STUDIES

MFL
(FRENCH /
SPANISH)

MUSIC
PRACTICE

PHYSICAL
EDUCATION

PHILOSOPHY
AND ETHICS



Community - Resilience - Excellence - Respect - Integrity

ART

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

The first two terms will be spent on a specific project trying out different materials and techniques. These can include materials such as drawing, painting, clay work, printing, and photography, helping you to discover your strengths and interests as well as give you the opportunity to experiment with new methods and media. This will form your first assessed unit of coursework. As the course develops, you will be expected to make more choices about the direction of your own work and what materials you use. You will be expected to investigate and understand the work of other artists and designers as part of your coursework.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on everything you have produced: ideas, research and reference, experiments, sketches, drawings etc, and your “final” pieces. Assessments take place every three weeks and all homework is assessed as well. Your coursework counts for 60% of your final grade. You will also have an exam at the end of the course, which carries 40% of your final grade. The examination is entirely PRACTICAL, not written. Please note that although the controlled test does not involve writing, there will be a small proportion of the course that involves some written work. There is also an expectation that you attend after school enrichment activities.

Why should I take this course?

You will enjoy Art if:

- you enjoy practical work
- you complete homework diligently
- you are imaginative and willing to try new ideas
- you can work on your own
- you have self motivation
- you are interested in any kind of design as a possible career
- you enjoy drawing

Teachers to speak to for further details:

Mrs M Hunt
Mr R Whitaker

Are there any costs involved?

Sketch books are recommended for each unit of work and art materials e.g. paints, pastels, pencils etc, are very helpful for working at home.

Are there any excursions involved?

There will also be trips to the London galleries, (where appropriate to coursework) for which we must ask parents for a financial contribution to cover costs.



BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE BOARD: OCR

What is included in this course?

This up-to-date and engaging qualification provides students with the skills and confidence to understand real-world business scenarios. It helps learners explore how different business situations impact decision-making and provides a well-rounded introduction to the subject.

Course Structure

The course is divided into two key sections:

Business Activity, Marketing and People (50%) - Written examination (1 hour 30 minutes)

This section covers:

- Business start
- ups and growth
- Business ownership and stakeholders
- Business planning and risks
- Marketing strategies
- Human resources and recruitment

Operations, Finance and Influences on Business (50%) - Written examination (1 hour 30 minutes)

This section covers:

- Production processes and quality control
- Customer service, e-commerce and sales
- UK business legislation (Consumer Rights Act 2015)
- Procurement and supply chain management
- Financial statements and business performance analysis
- External influences such as the economy, technology, and ethics

Who Should Choose This Course?

- Students interested in how businesses operate
- Those considering careers in business, finance, or marketing
- Learners who enjoy problem-solving and decision-making

Key Skills Developed

- Understanding of business concepts and real-world applications
- Entrepreneurial and decision-making skills
- Application of theory to real organisations
- Analytical skills using both qualitative and quantitative data

How will I be assessed?

- Two externally assessed exam papers
- Each worth 50% of the final grade

What can I do after I've completed the course?

This qualification prepares students for:

- A-Level Business Studies
- Vocational business-related courses
- Apprenticeships in business, finance, and marketing
- Careers in management, finance, marketing, and entrepreneurship

Are there any excursions involved?

Where appropriate visits to businesses and visit from business people will form part of this course.

Teachers to speak to for further details:

Mr N Mariosa

Mr M Morris



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS LEVEL 1/2 CERTIFICATE

What is a Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Certificate in Child Development?

The Cambridge National in Child Development covers all aspects of child development and parental responsibility, from conception to five years. Students develop the essential theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to create the best conditions for a child's development and well-being.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners aged 14-16 who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in child development. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in many aspects of Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology.

What can I do at the end of the course?

This Child Development course enables learners to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable progression to related courses at college, including A Level Biology, Psychology and Sociology, Applied A levels - Health and Social Care, BTEC Health and Social Care Level 1, 2 and 3, Cache Certificate - Child care and education 2 and 3, Cache Certificate - Caring for Children Level 1 and 2.

What does the course involve?

The Cambridge National Level 1/2 Certificate in Child Development is a two year course taught throughout year 10 and year 11. All students study

three mandatory topics. The course will be assessed with a one hour and 15 minute written paper (70 marks) and two internally assessed controlled assessments (60 marks each).

Internally assessed components:

Component 1

- Health and well-being for Child Development

Component 2

- Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional need of children from birth to five years

Externally assessed component:

Component 3

- Understand the development of a child from one to five years

The course is a Cambridge National Level 1/2 qualification with the certificate awarded at pass, merit, distinction or distinction * level.

What are the requirements for student success?

- Be prepared to work hard for two years
- Be committed to meet deadlines - Enjoy being well organised and working with children
- Intrigued to research the understanding of the sociology behind family life

Teachers to speak to for further details:

Mrs C Vilday
Mrs J Petrie



COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE Board: Edexcel

Why Choose Computer Science?

Computer Science is an essential subject in the modern digital world. This course will develop students' problem-solving, programming, and computational thinking skills. It provides an excellent foundation for further studies and careers in technology-related fields.

Who Should Choose This Course?

- Students with a passion for technology and logical problem-solving
- Those interested in software development and computer systems
- Anyone considering a career in the digital sector

Course Structure

The course consists of two key components:

Component 1:

Principles of Computer Science (50%)

Written examination (1 hour 30 minutes)
75 marks

Topics include:

- Algorithms
- Programming concepts
- Data representation (binary, hexadecimal, images, sound)
- Computer systems (hardware, software, networks)
- Cyber security
- Ethical, legal, and environmental impacts of digital technology

Component 2:

Application of Computational Thinking
(50%) - On-screen assessment (2 hours)
75 marks

Focuses on:

- Computational thinking skills
- Problem-solving strategies
- Programming fundamentals Students demonstrate their ability to design, develop, and test programs using Python.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Ms T La

Key Skills Developed

- Logical reasoning and problem-solving
- Coding proficiency (Python programming)
- Understanding of computer architecture and networking
- Awareness of digital security and ethical issues

How will I be assessed?:

- No coursework or controlled assessment
- All assessment through examinations

Future Pathways

This qualification prepares students for:

- A-Level Computer Science - Vocational IT courses
- Apprenticeships in software development, cyber security, and data analysis
- Careers in programming, game design, AI, and system administration



Community - Resilience - Excellence - Respect - Integrity

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

The GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. They learn both life skills and skills to help with a range of careers. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world: be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social/ cultural, environmental and economic factors.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: A written exam paper
The Design and Technology exam is 2 hours long and worth 50% of qualification (100 marks).

Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of:

- **Core technical principles (20 marks).** A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions
- **Specialist technical principles (30 marks).** Short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response
- **Designing and making principles (50 marks).** A mix of short answer and extended response questions.

Component 2: Non-exam assessment (Coursework)

The design and make task is approximately 35 hours and 50% of qualification. It is a sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by exam board, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify and investigate design possibilities
- Produce a design brief and specification
- Generate design ideas
- Develop design ideas
- Realise design ideas
- Analyse & evaluate

Are there any costs involved?

You will be invited to make a £10 voluntary contribution towards materials. You will need to purchase revision materials and a folder to help keep your work organised.

Teachers to speak to for further details:

Mr Rasarathnam
Mrs M Knight



DRAMA

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

During this exciting and highly creative course, students are given the opportunity to develop an imaginative approach to the making and studying of theatre. Through a range of practical projects, students develop their skills in analysing Drama texts and performance, responding to and evaluating Drama work, and communicating and expressing ideas. The course focuses on developing the practical and theoretical skills of the actor through both performance and written response.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: 40% A written exam paper

Section 1: Multiple choice questions based on general theatre knowledge.

Section 2: Set text study, questions on your interpretations of the play.

Section 3: Live performance review, 1 question on a theatre review of a play you have seen.

Component 2: 40% Devising drama

Section 1: Devised performance piece based on a theme.

Section 2: Written log, broken into three sections.

Component 3: 20% Performance of script

Section 1: Performance of a piece of script from a play contrasting your set text.

Section 2: 2nd extract performed from the same play.

Teacherto speak to for further details:

Mrs J Batchelor

Should I take this course?

Yes, if you enjoy performing, being creative and trying out ideas practically. You will enjoy this course if you enjoy working as part of a team as Drama involves a lot of group work and afterschool rehearsals. If you enjoy reading scripts and analysing theatrical potential.

Are there any costs involved?

There will be a subsidised cost for trips to the theatre and at least two trips should be taken during the course.

Are there any excursions involved?

Theatre trips will be organised during the course to give you experience of live performance and provide the necessary opportunity to prepare for the live performance exam question.

Please be aware that you may be asked to attend a brief workshop audition to establish your suitability for the course.



GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

GCSE BOARD: EDUQAS

What is included in this course?

During the 2 years course you will make food products on a regular basis and develop good practical skills. The course is designed to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills to cook both sweet and savoury products. All of the dishes will be made to a high quality and finish.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition covers a wide range of topics including:

- Diet and good health: exploring the relationship between diet, nutrition and health
- Food science: looking at the effect of cooking on foods
- Food safety: learning about food spoilage, contamination, high risk foods and safe food storage
- Food choice: looking at different commodities eg cereals, dairy foods, meat, fish and vegetarian alternatives
- Food provenance: learning about where food comes from and its environmental impact

Teacherto speak to for further details:

Mrs C Whitby

How will I be assessed?

Assessment 1- 50% of GCSE Knowledge of food preparation and nutrition

**Written exam: 1 hour 45 mins
100 marks**

Assessment 2-50% of GCSE

Task1: Food investigation (8 hours) - A scientific food experiment in which you will show your understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients and how they affect the preparation and cooking of food products (report 1500-2000 words)

Task2: Food preparation assessment (12 hours) You will plan, prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses your application of nutrition related to a set task. You will cook three dishes within a single period of time (3hours). You will produce research in an electronic portfolio with photographic evidence of three final dishes)

Should I take this course?

Yes, if you really enjoy cooking and preparing food products and enjoy learning about the properties of foods and people's dietary needs.

Are there any costs involved?

You will be expected to bring in ingredients to cook on a regular basis and these will need to be taken home in a suitable container provided by the student. If you are Pupil Premium, your ingredients would continue to be provided.



GEOGRAPHY

GCSE BOARD: AQA

Background to the course

The course you will follow is one that is sure to capture your interest, leaving you with a sense of awe and wonder about the world around you. In choosing to study Geography at GCSE you will explore a wide range of contemporary geographical issues, which will lead you to ask:

- **whether climate change is really a new phenomenon?**
- **whether it really is a good idea to be living on the slopes of an active volcano?**
- **whether it is possible for all countries of the world to develop to the same level as the UK?**

In studying Geography at GCSE, you will complete the course with a detailed understanding of the world in which you live. However, perhaps more importantly, you will complete the course with a wealth of skills, which as statistics show, make Geographers the most employable people around.

Should I take this course?

By choosing Geography at GCSE, you are joining a course, which is current, practical, interactive and above all fun! You will have plenty of opportunities to leave the classroom behind as you head out on fieldwork activities which will allow you to interact with the world in which you live.

How will I be assessed?

There will be three final examinations (worth 30 - 35% each), each taking place at the end of Year 11. The materials for one of the exams is released before the exam so you get a chance to prepare!

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mrs C Glover

Are there any costs involved?

Only for international field work activities, which are optional.

Are there any excursions involved?

A mixture of optional and compulsory fieldwork activities are offered throughout as an integral part of this course. All compulsory fieldwork opportunities are local and free and an optional four day residential trip to Italy offer the opportunity for a real geographical adventure. You will be given the opportunity to jet off to Italy where you can visit real life volcanoes.



HISTORY

GCSE BOARD: EDEXCEL

What is included in this course?

There are four main areas:

- **Medicine in Britain c1250 - present**
- **The British sector of the Western Front 1914-1918**

You will explore how Britain has been shaped by the development of medicine from the medieval period to the present day.

You will also study the nature of illness and provision of medical care through the linked historical environment of the theatre of war in Flanders and northern France, during the First World War.

- **Early Elizabethan England (1558 - 1588)**

Explore England with topics such as challenges to Elizabeth's reign, Mary Queen of Scots, The Spanish Armada and Elizabethan society.

- **Super Power relations in the Cold War**

Understand the world we live in today by exploring the development of the Cold War including NATO, Warsaw Pact, Cuban Missile Crisis, Berlin Wall and the collapse of Soviet control of Eastern Europe.

- **Weimar and Nazi Germany (1918 - 1939)**

An in-depth study looking at the Weimar Republic, the rise of Hitler and the impact of Nazi policies on the lives of ordinary Germans.

How will I be assessed?

Three exam papers varying in length from 1hr 15 mins to 1 hr 45 mins.

Should I take this course?

Do you like investigating and piecing together evidence to make your own decisions? Are you good at understanding other points of view and motives? If so, you will enjoy GCSE History. If you are contemplating a career which requires you to make informed decisions, whether it is in law, politics, medicine, broadcasting and journalism or finance then History is the logical choice.

Are there any costs involved?

No

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mr J Oram



MEDIA STUDIES

GCSE BOARD: EDUQAS

What is included in this course?

GCSE Media Studies explores various aspects of the Media Industry and how it works:

TV, Film, Radio, Print Media, Advertising, Music and online Media.

What will I be expected to do?

Explore the four concept skills

1. Representations
2. Audience
3. Language
4. Institution

- Complete independent study on aspects of the media
- Be self-reflective about your work
- Link theory to practice
- Create imaginative and sophisticated media products
- Use ICT
- Work in pairs/groups
- Use accurate punctuation, spelling and grammar

Are there any costs involved?

No



How will I be assessed?

- 1 x Controlled assessment (30%)
- 2 x 1 hour 30 minutes exam (70%)

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Miss N Hoad

Are there any excursions involved?

Workshops, such as TV News and Film Classification.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE - FRENCH

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

The context for learning the language is organised under three broad themes:

- People & lifestyle
- Popular culture
- Communication and the world around us

Each broad theme is divided into sub-themes similar to the ones you have been studying in Key Stage 3. The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing which you have been practising in the lower school will be developed further in Years 10 and 11.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit exams in all four skill sat the end of Year 11. The exam for each skill is worth 25% of your GCSE grade. Speaking exams will be completed individually by each student. Students will have to take part in conversation tasks as well as role-plays where they have to be able to react to unprepared language tasks.

Why should I take this course?

As we live in an increasingly integrated world, the ability to communicate in another modern language becomes ever more important. It is a skill that will enhance your professional and personal life in the future. Being able to speak a foreign language is a much admired skill and can improve your job prospects and makes travelling abroad more enjoyable.



Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mrs H Varley
Miss J Baptiste

“Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem.”

You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once. (Czech proverb).

To improve chances of entry into college or university, to improve your employment potential, to sharpen cognitive and life skills (“We have strong evidence today that studying a foreign language has a ripple effect, helping to improve student performance in other subjects.”

-Richard Riley, U.S. Secretary of Education under Bill Clinton).

Are there any costs involved?

No, although students are strongly encouraged to purchase our low-cost revision guides and exam skills workbooks.

Are there any excursions involved?

The faculty will organise study visits and enrichment activities.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE - SPANISH

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

The context for learning the language is organised under three broad themes:

- People & lifestyle
- Popular culture
- Communication and the world around us

Each broad theme is divided into sub-themes similar to the ones you have been studying in Key Stage 3. The four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing which you have been practising in the lower school will be developed further in Years 10 and 11.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit exams in all four skill sat the end of Year 11. The exam for each skill is worth 25% of your GCSE grade. Speaking exams will be completed individually by each student. Students will have to take part in conversation tasks as well as role-plays where they have to be able to react to unprepared language tasks.

Why should I take this course?

As we live in an increasingly integrated world, the ability to communicate in another modern language becomes ever more important. It is a skill that will enhance your professional and personal life in the future. Being able to speak a foreign language is a much admired skill and can improve your job prospects and makes travelling abroad more enjoyable.



Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mrs H Varley
Mr S Ygon

“Kolik jazyků znáš, tolikrát jsi člověkem.”

You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once. (Czech proverb).

To improve chances of entry into college or university, to improve your employment potential, to sharpen cognitive and life skills (“We have strong evidence today that studying a foreign language has a ripple effect, helping to improve student performance in other subjects.”

-Richard Riley, U.S. Secretary of Education under Bill Clinton).

Are there any costs involved?

No, although students are strongly encouraged to purchase our low-cost revision guides and exam skills workbooks.

Are there any excursions involved?

The faculty will organise study visits and enrichment activities.



MUSIC

Btec Technical Award in Music Practice: Pearson

What is included in this course?

This exciting new course is designed for students who are interested in all aspects of listening to, composing and performing music. The opportunity to learn about all types of music is an exciting prospect for students who are passionate about the subject. It is a very rewarding course and will best suit those that enjoy singing/playing an instrument, using ICT in music or composing. As part of the course you take part in rehearsals for and participate in public performances, e.g. Christmas concerts and open evenings.

Do I have to be able to play an instrument or sing?

Although performance skills are important, ICT can be used to create and perform your own compositions or realisations. The course is flexible enough to allow you to choose to specialise in music performance, production or composition. Hard work and practice will help improve the skills you already have picked up in class in Year 7, 8 and 9.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mr Martin

What will lessons be like?

Lessons will be focused on improving skills in performing, composing and IT. Understanding of diverse genres of music including Classical, Film Music and Rock/Pop will be developed through workshops, performances and listening projects. We will also be rehearsing for showcases and performances.

Do I have to read and write using music notation?

No you do not have to be able to read music notation fluently. We will however encounter several different ways of writing music using staff notation or Guitar/Drum Tab as part of the performing and composing process. We will study some music theory in class in order to notate and analyse pieces of music successfully.

How will I be assessed?

This is a continually assessed course. The three assessments must be completed within dates set by the exam board.

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Assessment: internally assessed assignments - Weighting 30%

Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles and genres.

Component 2: Music Skills Development

Assessment: internally assessed assignments - Weighting: 30%

Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.

Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

Assessment: externally assessed task - Weighting: 40%

Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given commercial music brief.



PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

GCSE BOARD: AQA

What is included in this course?

There are two main areas:

- **A study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.**
This will include key beliefs and practices so that there is an understanding of what Christians and Muslims believe and do.
- **A study of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes from the list below:**
 - Relationships and families
 - Religion and life
 - The existence of God and revelation
 - Religion, peace and conflict
 - Religion, crime and punishment
 - Religion, human rights and social justice

The application of religious and non-religious responses to the themes that are studied.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam based.

Two exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each.

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Mr R Mashford

Why should I take this course?

You like asking questions and having discussions but you also like writing. You want to have knowledgeable answers not just opinions. You are interested in learning what religious people believe and how they behave because of their beliefs.

If you are contemplating a career which requires you to make informed decisions, whether it is law, sociology, psychology, the armed forces, medicine and the caring professions then RE is the logical choice.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE BOARD: OCR

What is included in this course?

The course comprises of 3 components:

1. Physical Factors Affecting Performance - (30%) Written Paper
2. Socio-Cultural And Sports Psychology (30%) Written Paper
3. Performance within Physical Education (40%) Non Exam Assessments - (30% Practical, 10% coursework)

How will I be assessed?

- Non-examined assessments (NEA). Three practical performances (30%)
- NEA One performance analysis task (10%)
- A total of two hours assessment split over two examination papers (2 x 1 hour) taken at the end of the two year course.
- A wide range of question types, including: multiple choice, single mark, short answer and extended response questions.
- The opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of the theory and performance skills in both your NEA and the theory and performance skills in both your NEA and through the exams

Why should I take this course?

Do you want to become a Personal Trainer or Sport Coach? Think that Physiotherapy or PE teaching might be a career choice for you? Want the knowledge to keep yourself fit, healthy and active for life? Find the human body fascinating? If so, GCSE PE is for you.

Team Activities

- Acrobatic gymnastics
- Association Football
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Blind Cricket
- Camogie
- Cycling
- Dance
- Figure skating
- Futsal
- Gaelic Football
- Goal Ball
- Handball
- Hurling
- Inline roller hockey
- Lacrosse
- Netball
- Power Chair Football
- Rowing
- Rugby League
- Rugby Union
- Sailing
- Sculling
- Squash
- Table Cricket
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Water polo
- Wheelchair Basketball
- Wheelchair Rugby

Individual Activities

- Amateur Boxing
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Boccia
- Canoeing
- Cross country
- Running
- Cycling
- Dance
- Diving
- Equestrian
- Figure skating
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Kayaking
- Polybat
- Rock Climbing
- Sailing
- Sculling
- Skiing
- Snowboarding
- Squash
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Tennis
- Trampolining
- Windsurfing

Teacher to speak to for further details:

Miss M Field

Are there any costs involved?

Yes, they may include National and international sporting venues and educational visits.

Are there any excursions involved?

Possibly if there are specialist sports you wish to participate in or if you join any of the excursions listed below. You will be expected to purchase a revision guide at the start of the course.



CURRICULUM CHOICE PROCESS 2026

- Website launch with key information and subject videos**
<https://www.worthinghigh.net/page/?title=Curriculum+Choices+2025&pid=224>
- W/C March 16th 2026** - Parents and Students will receive information about the pathway they have been placed on and the options online process.
- 19th March 2026** - our Curriculum Preferences evening will be held.
- 20th March 2026** - Electronic Options Online forms go live (instructions are on a separate guidance page).
- 17th April 2026** - Date by which all Online forms must be completed

**If you require further information or have specific questions, please contact Subject Teachers/ Leaders and Tutors in the first instance then Progress Leader: Mr Townsend: stownsend@worthinghigh.net
Tel: 01903 237864**



THE NEXT STEP

After our curriculum choices event on 19th March 2026, parents/carers will receive an invitation email on 20th March 2026 which will contain a direct link and a personal invitation code. This will enable parents to gain access to SIMS Options. This is the platform we use for selecting subject choices.

Please Note: This invitation email will be sent to the priority one parent using their primary email address that the school holds on their system. If this has changed and you have not informed the school please do so as soon as possible. The invitation email will look like this:

From: noreply@sims.co.uk <noreply@sims.co.uk>
Sent: 02 February 2023 09:37
To: someone@email.com
Subject: Worthing High School invites you to SIMS Online Services

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hi Someone,

You're invited to start using SIMS Online Services, an online portal providing access to a range of services including SIMS Admin, SIMS Engagement, SIMS Activities and SIMS Options.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.

[Accept Invitation](#)

If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: **P9VT7CYGVK**

Ahead of this, please continue to have discussions with your child, before making their preferences and we look forward to seeing you at our Curriculum Preferences evening on 19th March 2026. We also encourage students to watch the online option videos and to have discussions with their teachers and tutor. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact your child's tutor, who will be happy to support you.





Worthing High School is part of the South Downs Education Trust

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Community - Resilience - Excellence - Respect - Integrity