

Key Stage 4

Options

2026-2028

'Be the best you can be'

Guidance for the successful selection
of GCSE courses



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Introduction

At St Martin's, our overarching vision is that all pupils strive to *Be the best they can be*, regardless of the starting point. This is underpinned by our three core values:

- Traditional Values
- Learning for the Future
- Outstanding Personal Achievement

Our whole school curriculum is designed to shape the 'whole' pupil across their seven-year journey. Our **Traditional values** are founded on: *Be Kind, Be Safe, Be Responsible*, encouraging all pupils to be respectful and tolerant citizens, as well as courageous advocates of the future.

Learning for the future is underpinned by THRIVE. Each element forms part of our character education, providing pupils with the skills, values and attributes not just for school life but for adult life as well.

Outstanding personal achievement represents our commitment to ensuring each pupil is enabled to *Be the best they can be*. What 'the best' looks like will vary for each pupil. Examination results are important and will unlock different pathways for pupils going forward. However, we recognise our responsibility to deliver 'beyond the curriculum.' Here, St Martin's excels, offering the widest range of extra-curricular activities in the area.

As such, and in line with national expectations, pupils experience a broad and balanced curriculum; with our intention being for each pupil to foster a love of learning, as well as nurture and develop a range of skills, interests and aptitudes.

We take the same approach to options at St Martin's. Broad, in that we are fortunate enough to be able to offer a wide range of subjects to meet pupils' interests and balanced, in that pupils are grounded in the subjects they need to progress to post-16 education and beyond.

The decisions made over the coming weeks are important. We want all our young people to make informed choices, guided by the relevant information provided. This will ensure a successful Key Stage 4 and see your child on the right path to achieve their full potential and '*Be the best you can be*'.

Mrs Annabel Day
Deputy Headteacher





What are the key dates?

Wednesday 21 January 2026 – Year 9 Reports

Thursday 22 January 2026 – Year 9 Parents' Evening (online)

W/B Monday 2 February 2026 (Year 9 Options Launch Week)

- Options booklet, Options form and additional information sent out to parents/carers.
- Options booklet and additional information available on school website.

Monday 2 February 2026

- Year 9 'assembly' – an introduction to the Year 9 Options.

Thursday 5 February 2026 – Options Fayre (an opportunity to speak to subject staff about subject courses)

- To facilitate the evening, and to avoid large numbers of parents arriving at the same time, we would be grateful if you could attend during the times allocated to your child's form group.

16:00 – 17:00	S1, S2, A1, A2, I1
17:15 – 18:15	I2, N1, N2, T1, T2

Monday 2 March 2026

- **Deadline to submit completed Options Form**

Please do not be late – we will process all forms received by the deadline before any received late. If you hand in your form late, you risk the chance of disadvantaging yourself.

July 2026

- **Key Stage 4 option subjects will be confirmed to pupils and parents/carers.**

N.B. All pupils with Special Educational Needs will be contacted by the SEND department to discuss and support the decision-making process.

If you have any queries or would like further advice regarding options, please email:
options@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

Our Aim

At St Martin's, our aim is for pupils to experience a broad and balanced curriculum, facilitating the foundations for success at post-16 and beyond.

Where pupils do have the opportunity to make choices, we want to ensure that they undertake courses that:

- They take pleasure in.
- Reflect their academic potential, skills and aptitude.
- Keep their sixth form, higher education and eventual career paths open.

We recognise that not all subjects will appeal to all pupils. To that end, we are extremely fortunate that we are able to provide a wide range of choices to meet pupil interests and needs.

Subjects

Pupils will study up to 9 or 10 GCSEs.

The Core

All pupils must study the following core subjects at GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

In addition, pupils will continue to have lessons in Core PE, as well as Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education (PSHCE)

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

At St Martin's we believe in offering a curriculum that will best prepare our pupils for life beyond school.

We also believe in enabling as many pupils as possible who want to attend university to do so, and in particular, Russell Group Universities. Therefore, we encourage all pupils who want to pursue this route to choose EBacc subjects and will recommend this pathway if appropriate. The English Baccalaureate is a set of traditional academic subjects that gives pupils a range of skills for the future, and which show breadth of learning. Increasingly, universities look favourably on someone who has this scope of knowledge as it provides a firm foundation for pupils' future success.



Our options process enables all pupils to achieve the full English Baccalaureate should they so desire. Pupils must aim to achieve a grade 4 or above in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History or Geography
- French or German

Pupils with an aptitude or enthusiasm for languages will be recommended to take an Ebacc pathway.

Additional Subjects

St Martin's is fortunate to be able to offer a wide range of subjects to meet pupils' needs, aptitudes and interests.

Art and Design
Business Studies
Computer Science*
Design and Technology
Drama
Food Preparation and Nutrition
French*
Geography*
German*
Health and Social Care (Cambridge National Award)
History*
ICT Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Eduqas
Media Studies
Music
Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)
Physical Education (PE)
Psychology (new for 2026)
Sociology
Learning Support (in consultation with the SENDCo)

* Indicates an Ebacc subject

The Selection Process

You will be sent a Microsoft Forms link to complete the Options process. There are two recommended pathways for pupils: Pathway A and Pathway B (a pupil's recommended pathway will be determined their aptitude in languages.)

Pathway A		Pathway B	
Pupils continue with either French or German		Pupils select either:	
Pupils select either: History Geography		History Geography	
Pupils select two subjects from the choices below and two reserve choices:		Pupils select three subjects from the choices below and two reserve choices:	
Art and Design Business Studies Computer Science Design and Technology Drama Food Preparation and Nutrition Geography Health and Social Care History ICT Media Studies Music Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) Physical Education (PE) Psychology Sociology Learning Support (in consultation with the SENDCo)		Art and Design Business Studies Computer Science Design and Technology Drama Food Preparation and Nutrition French Geography German Health and Social Care History ICT Media Studies Music Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) Physical Education (PE) Psychology Sociology Learning Support (in consultation with the SENDCo)	

The only difference between Pathway A and B is the expectation that pupils on Pathway A continue with a language. However, if a pupil on Pathway B wishes to take a language, they can opt to do so as one of their 3 choices.

Please note that the pathway your child is placed on **will not affect** the setting or grouping for any subject.

If you wish to query your child's recommended pathway, please
email: options@st-martins.essex.sch.uk

What subjects should I choose?

National data enables us to predict your chances of success in particular subjects with considerable accuracy. We believe it is important to use that information when making appropriate choices of courses. The decisions that you will take should be guided by your prior and current attainment. We want you to achieve the very best results and help you to select the right subjects to ensure that you are successful. Your recent data report will help support you in your decision making.

Why do I have to choose options?

The next two years are a foundation for the rest of your life. Whatever you decide now will make a difference and secure your success in the future.

It is very important that you choose your options carefully in order to increase your chances of success. Think about the subjects that you enjoy, are interested in and do well at. Do not choose subjects because your friends have picked them or because you like the teacher. Your decisions should be made based on the pathway that will guarantee you the greatest chance of success.

Will I get my first choices?

Whilst it is our aim to ensure that as many of you as possible can study your preferred choices, we cannot guarantee that all of you will get your top option choices. With the number of pupils all choosing different subjects, it is sometimes impossible to give everyone their top choices.

There is always a possibility that not enough pupils will choose a particular subject to make up a class; in this case, the subject will be withdrawn and second choices automatically inserted. It is also possible that more pupils wish to take a subject than can be accommodated; in this case, some pupils will be given an alternative option.

You should therefore make sure that all of your choices are subjects that you definitely want to study as it will be difficult to change afterwards.

Post-16 and Beyond

St Martin's School Sixth Form

St Martin's Sixth Form offers the opportunity for young people to study, socialise and thrive in a structured and caring environment. Our vision ensures that pupils in St Martin's Sixth Form have both the outstanding academic development, as well as personal development to support their future journeys. We are a hugely popular Sixth Form with 350 pupils across both year groups, with a wide variety of A-Level and vocational qualifications.

When considering your GCSE subject options, you might want to think about the entry requirements for each subject offered at St Martin's in the future.



You can find a link St Martin's sixth form entry requirements here: [Link](#)

Core Subjects

English Language

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn to identify and interpret themes, ideas and information in a range of texts. You will also read, compare and evaluate texts.

You will be able to justify your ideas about a text using quotes to support your ideas. You will develop your ability to construct and convey meaning in your own writing.

You will write for a range of different purposes with a focus on the way the text is organised and the use of grammar choices to suit the task and audience.

You will use speaking and listening to help develop your ideas with a particular focus on presenting ideas and information, responding to questions from others and expressing ideas using Standard English whenever appropriate.



How will I learn?

You will learn through speaking and listening activities in a range of contexts. You will also take part in individual and group work, class discussions, drama activities, reading and writing activities, independent research and a wide variety of other tasks.

Skills for Success

You will need to read a wide range of texts and use knowledge gained from your reading to inform and improve your own writing. You need to write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately. You will need to use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately.

You will also need to develop your confidence for speaking and listening tasks. Successful candidates will also benefit from good research skills.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (50%) 1 hr 45 min Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	20 th /21 st century literary fiction; writing to describe, narrate
Paper 2 (50%) 1 hr 45 min Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	19 th /20 th /21 st century non-fiction and literary non-fiction; writing to discuss, argue, persuade
Non-examination assessment – Spoken Language: Individual Presentation	

Be the best you can be

Further Education

English Language and Literature
Linguistics
Journalism
Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Sociology

Career Routes

Law
Journalism
Advertising/Marketing
Education
Copy writing

English Literature

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

You will learn to understand, analyse, discuss and respond to novels, plays and poetry. Your analysis will focus on writers' language, themes, attitude and techniques.

You will develop an awareness of social, historical and cultural contexts and influences in your study of texts.

You will also learn about the literary heritage of texts and examine how writers help readers to understand or question issues and ideas.

You will learn how to synthesise a range of interpretations and develop evaluation skills.

How will I learn?

You will read and respond to a variety of texts, both modern and pre-20th Century.

You will learn through class discussion, individual and group work, drama activities, reading and writing activities, independent research and a wide variety of tasks.

Skills for Success



You will need to develop an understanding of literary devices and the conventions of poetry, prose and drama.

Experience of writing analytically will also be very beneficial.



How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 (40%) 1hr 45 mins Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel	"The Merchant of Venice" William Shakespeare "A Christmas Carol" C. Dickens
Paper 2 (60%) 2 hr 15 min Modern Texts and Poetry	"An Inspector Calls" J.B. Priestley AQA Poetry Anthology: Power & Conflict Unseen Poetry

Be the best you can be

Further Education
English Literature
Law
Drama
History of Art
History

Career Routes
Law
Journalism
Publishing
Media
Novelist

Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE Edexcel

What will I learn?

Mathematics is very important in equipping you with the knowledge and understanding appropriate to a citizen of a modern society.

You will study topics from a variety of themes, including: Using and Applying Mathematics, Number and Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data. The biggest change from your Key Stage 3 work is the emphasis on algebra.

Domain Area	Weighting of marks per Assessment Series	
	Foundation tier	Higher tier
Number	25%	15%
Algebra	20%	30%
Ratio, proportion and rates of change	25%	20%
Geometry	15%	20%
Probability and statistics	15%	15%

How will I learn?

During Years 10 and 11, you will continue to work in classes that are set based on your ability. You will follow a course designed to meet the requirements of the exam specification at a level that is appropriate to your ability. You will be stretched and challenged to achieve the best possible outcomes.

You will use a variety of resources which include Sparx Maths and Corbett Maths. The use of a scientific calculator is essential for the course.

Skills for Success

You will be encouraged to be organised and take responsibility for your own learning. The most successful mathematicians will supplement their learning with individual study. GCSE Mathematics relies on your effective use of mathematical equipment. You will learn to use all equipment including calculators, rulers, compasses and protractors accurately, efficiently and effectively.



How will I be assessed?

The examination will consist of three 1 hour 30-minute exam papers – one Non-Calculator, two Calculator.

The examination has three Assessment Objectives: AO1

– Use and apply standard techniques

AO2 – Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically AO3

- Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts

Be the best you can be

Further Education
Pure Mathematics
Statistics
Finance
Economics
Computer Science

Career Routes
Chartered Accountant
Investment Banker
Game Designer
Engineer
Analyst

Combined Science

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

GCSE Combined Science is worth two GCSEs. You will study all of the three science disciplines (Biology, Chemistry and Physics).

Your study of Combined Science will place all scientific innovations firmly in the context of the modern world. You will look at the impact of scientific developments on our everyday lives and will learn the importance of science and investigate 'How Science Works'.

(N.B. Pupils that have an aptitude and enthusiasm for Science will be invited to take Triple Science. This will not count as an option choice.)

Combined Science (Trilogy) - 8464		
Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cell biology Organisation Infection and response Bioenergetics Homeostasis and response Inheritance, variation and evolution Ecology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forces Energy Waves Electricity Magnetism and electromagnetism Particle model of matter Atomic structure

How will I learn?

You will learn in a variety of ways to gain a greater understanding of how science is related to everyday life, including:

- Practical investigations in controlled conditions in our laboratories.
- Using your numerical skills to solve mathematical problems.
- Using ICT simulations, data-logging and class discussion.
- Practice questions and quizzes.



Skills for Success

You will need to develop your numeracy and literacy skills throughout the course, as well as an understanding of data logging and practical investigations.

You will also benefit from good communication skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will take a linear course, meaning you will take all of your exams at the end of Year 11.

There are no controlled assessments but there are a series of compulsory experiments which must be completed over the two years. A percentage of your exam grade will be based on questions related to these experiments.

Exams

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes (with Foundation and Higher tiers for each)

You will achieve 2 GCSEs; these will be calculated using all of your results.



Biology Paper 1

Biology topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2

Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry Paper 1

Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2

Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics Paper 1

Physics topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2

Physics topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Biochemistry
Forensic science
Pharmaceutical science
Engineering.
Veterinary science

Career Routes

Doctor
Vet
Dentist
Physiotherapist
Engineer

Separate Sciences

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

Pupils that have an aptitude and enthusiasm for Science will be invited to take Triple Science. They should be working at least grade 5 or above. This will not count as an option choice.

Pupils will study the same topics as those on the Combined Science GCSE (with the addition of Space Physics), but in greater depth.

How will I learn?

You will learn in a variety of ways to gain a greater understanding of how science is related to everyday life, including:

- Practical investigations in controlled conditions in our laboratories.
- Using your numerical skills to solve mathematical problems.
- Using ICT simulations, data-logging, class discussion, practice questions and quizzes.
- Practise questions and quizzes.



Skills for Success

- The course is demanding in terms of content. You will need to be organised and resilient throughout.
- You will need to develop your numeracy and literacy skills throughout the course, as well as an understanding of data logging and practical investigations.
- You will also benefit from good communication skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will take a linear course, meaning you will take all of your exams at the end of Year 11.

There are no controlled assessments but there are a series of compulsory experiments which must be completed over the two years. A percentage of your exam grade will be based on questions related to these experiments.

Exams

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Each paper is 1 hour 45 mins (with pupils expected to take the higher tier for each)

You will achieve 3GCSEs; these will be calculated using all of your results.

Be the best you can be

Further Education

- Biochemistry
- Forensic science
- Pharmaceutical science
- Engineering.
- Veterinary science

Career Routes

- Doctor
- Vet
- Dentist
- Physiotherapist
- Engineer

Personal, Social Health, Citizenship and Economic Studies (PSHCE)

Qualification: N/A (non-examined)

What will I learn?

All KS4 pupils' study PSHCE as part of the St Martin's curriculum. PSHCE is not a GCSE subject but is taught so that pupils are able to gain knowledge and skills that they can utilize in school, out of school and in their futures.

Pupils study PSHCE from Year 7, with each year building upon prior learning and age appropriate content. Pupils study a range of topics including careers, relationship and sex education and money management with the intention that they are able to utilise the knowledge and skills in their own lives and make safe and sensible choices as they mature.

The curriculum below is subject to change as trends and events occur locally and nationally which may mean the lessons adapt and change to cover these as they occur.

PSHCE Year 10 and Year 11		
Health and Wellbeing	Relationships and Sex Education	Living in the Wider World
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance Use and Assessing Risk • Substance Use and Managing Influence • Help Seeking and Sources of Support • Body Image • Understanding our own Emotional Needs and Wellbeing • Managing Stress • Using Self-Management and Efficacy Tools • Smoking and Vaping • Drugs Refresher • Donation (Blood, Organ and Stem Cell) • Online Safety • Managing Exam Stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Relationship Conflict • Pressure, Persuasion and Coercion • Addressing Relationship Abuse • The Impact of Pornography • Discrimination in Different Forms • Challenging Extremism • Promoting Diversity and Equality in the Community • Online Relationship Safety • Family Conflict • The Role of Intimacy and Pleasure • Sexual Health, Fertility and the Routes to Parenthood • Long-Term Commitments • Pregnancy and Pregnancy Challenges (Fertility, Miscarriages, Adoption and Abortion) • Changing Relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirations and Career Progression • Writing a Successful CV • Interview Techniques • Debt and Gambling • Fraud and Cybercrime • Financial Exploitation • Managing Money Safely • Post 16 Options • Understanding Politics (Voting)

How will I learn?

You will learn in a variety of ways, embedding much from the THRIVE model. You will look at evidence, research and current thinking, using a range of different resources to stimulate understanding and discussion.

Skills for Success

You will need to develop flexibility and be open minded in your approach to topics. PSHCE is an opportunity to develop all aspects of Our THRIVE model.



Additional Subjects

Art and Design

Qualification: GCSE AQA
Fine Art

What will I learn?

Year 10

When pupils start their GCSE in Art, they begin their coursework unit (Component 1) with an emphasis on foundation skills. This foundation course provides the pupils' a series of practical workshops in which they explore techniques and materials whilst developing and refining their skills in observation and development. Thereafter, in Year 10, pupils are supported to choose a title from a range of given themes. This will form their extended portfolio and pupils are supported to use their own ideas and initiative, to complete this work throughout the year, including Year 10 exams and holiday work. As trips are an essential part of the course, the department will organise a visit to London galleries, however parents and carers should also encourage pupils to widen their knowledge of art, craft and design by visiting exhibitions in and around London.

Year 11

Pupils will develop and consolidate their extended portfolios, which will be completed in the first term of Year 11. This extended portfolio of coursework, alongside the workshops completed in Year 10, counts for 60% of the final GCSE grade. Their Externally Set Task (Component 2) paper is then issued. Pupils are expected to work on preparation material for this exam both in class and at home, resulting in a ten-hour exam sat in school; this makes up the remaining 40% of their overall grade.

How will I learn?

Pupils will use a wide range of media tailored specifically to their own interests and talents. This includes work in 2D, pencil, pen, pastel, watercolour, acrylic paint, printmaking methods, and photography as well as photo editing.



Skills for Success

You should be able to work independently, researching and gathering primary sources and artist methodology to help you complete your coursework. Success in this examination depends not only on the ability to draw accurately and work from observation, but also on being able to work independently, imaginatively and creatively in response to different ideas, themes and subjects.

How will I be assessed?

LEVEL OF ENTRY	Component 1 Portfolio	Component 2 Externally Set Assignment	AVAILABLE GRADES
GCSE	60%	40%	9-1

Component 1 Portfolio (60%) - Pupils choose from pre-set themes provided by the art department, working independently developing ideas. This is assessed out of 96 marks (24 marks per Assessment Objective).

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment (40%) - Pupils will have a choice of themes from set starting points provided by the AQA exam paper. This is assessed out of 96 marks (24 marks per Assessment Objective).

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Fine Art
Art History
Printmaking
Illustration
Photography
Graphic Design
Digital Arts
Animation
Fashion Design and Marketing
Set Design
Fashion

Career Routes

Fashion designer
Architect
Interior designer
Advertising
Game designer
Multimedia Artist
Commercial Artist
Animator
Illustrator
Art teacher
Art Therapist

Business Studies

**Qualification: GCSE
Edexcel**

What will I learn?

Year 10: Investigating small business (50% of the qualification)

This unit concentrates on the key issues and skills involved in enterprise. It provides a framework to consider the marketing, financial, human and operational issues involved in starting and running a small business.

- Topic 1.1** Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2** Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3** Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4** Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5** Understanding external influences on a business

Year 11: Building a business (50% of the qualification)

This unit builds on Year 10 and examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on practical methods used to build up a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, customer service, financial and people management. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the success or failure of a business.

- Topic 2.1** Growing the business
- Topic 2.2** Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3** Making operational decisions
- Topic 2.4** Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5** Making human resource decisions

How will I learn?

Learning will be delivered through a creative blend of discussion, 'real life' application and theoretical content delivery of lessons.



Skills for Success

You will need to be interested in all aspects of business and enjoy finding out about how businesses work and the processes behind them. You should be able to communicate effectively in both written and verbal forms, be numerate and be able to work independently and with others. You will need to contribute to lessons and respond independently to critical questions. You will have ample opportunities to debate and question ideas.

How will I be assessed?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business (50%) Written Examination 1 hour and 45 mins

The paper is un-tiered and is made up of multiple-choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

Theme 2: Building a Business (50%) Written Examination 1 hour 45 mins

The paper is divided into three sections. Questions will include a mixture of multiple-choice selection, short and extended/long-answers.

Be the best you can be

Further Education	Career Routes
Business Studies	Banking
Economics	Accountancy
Accountancy	Financial journalism
International relations	Insurance
Marketing	Financial/wealth management

Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE AQA

N. B. Students should be on track to achieve a grade 5 or above when selecting this option due to level of Maths content and programming required.

What will I learn?

Unit title and description	
<p>Paper 1: Computational thinking and programming skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translators and facilities of languages Algorithms High- and low-level programming Computational logic Data representation 	<p>Paper 2: Computing concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems architecture Memory Storage Wired and wireless networks Network topologies, protocols and layers Network security System software Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

How will I learn?

Learning will be delivered through a creative blend of practical and theoretical lessons. Pupils are given the opportunity to develop practical programming skills, and also develop vital understanding across a range of relevant computer science topics. They will:

- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work
- look at the use of algorithms in computer programs
- acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts
- develop computer programs to solve problems
- evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of computer technology in society

Skills for Success

You will need to take a systematic approach to problem solving, including the use of decomposition and abstraction. You will need to be able to design, write, test and refine programs, using Python, either to a specification or to solve a problem. You should have an aptitude for mathematics as you will need to apply computing-related mathematics.



How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 2 hours (50%). Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)

Be the best you can be	
<p>Further Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer Science Mathematics Electrical engineering Software engineering Physics 	<p>Career Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer programmer Cybersecurity Software developer Games developer Artificial Intelligence

Design and Technology (Product Design and Textiles)

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

Pupils will study core technical, design and making principles, including a broad range of design techniques, making processes, materials and equipment. Pupils will also study one chosen specialist material in greater depth i.e. Product Design or Textiles. Science and maths principles underpin some of the technical knowledge, with 15% of the exam using maths within the questions.

Year 10 includes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical lessons to manufacture prototype products using specialist equipment. Designing and making for a need/problem. 2D and 3D drawing skills. Theory work linked to materials and processes used in chosen material specialism. Evaluation of existing products. Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) project work. (50% of the final grade)
Year 11 includes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) project Theory work in chosen material specialism, core materials and the design processes used in Design and Technology

Year 10 and Year 11, will include homework as an integral part of the course, allowing projects to progress and learning to be tested and reinforced.

This course will focus on designing, drawing, modelling, product analysis, problem solving and manufacturing prototype products through 7 specified units. Theoretical studies are covered to some extent through practical making activities but are underpinned by written work including one unit of core technical principles, one unit of specialist material principles and several units covering designing and making principles. Pupils will learn relevant mathematical techniques to enable them to justify design decisions.

GCSE Design & Technology is delivered via the following specialist units, pupils can choose which option they prefer to study in:

- Product Design – All materials categories & Timber specialist materials
- Textiles – All materials categories & Fabric specialist materials

The course will build on knowledge gained in Years 7, 8 and 9 and can be further extended at Advanced Level in the Sixth Form. Computer based designing and making forms a small part of the course.



Finance/Materials

In general terms, the course is free. We try to stock as many materials as possible but there may be some expense to parents including the sourcing/buying of materials/components for project work.

Health and Safety

This subject is taught in potentially dangerous environments. Health and Safety rules are taught and frequently reviewed. Pupils are expected to understand and comply fully with all health and safety rules.

How will I learn?

The majority of the course will be delivered through written, drawing and practical activities. You will be able to make the connections between theory and practice, to apply an understanding of the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating.

Skills for Success

Pupils will develop problem-solving and decision-making abilities. You will need good communication skills, as well as project management and time management. Pupils are encouraged to make connections between theoretical concepts and real-world applications.

How will I be assessed?

Design and Technology 100 marks: 2 hour written examination paper (50% of total GCSE). Covering technical, design and making principles. **Please note: pupils can only choose Product Design or Textiles as they sit the same exam.**

Design and Make Task 100 marks: Non-examined assessment (NEA) which includes the production of a written design portfolio and a prototype product (50% of total GCSE) completed in the chosen material specialism and any other suitable and relevant materials.

Be the best you can be	
Further Education Product design Graphic design Architecture Fashion & Textiles Engineering	Career Routes Graphic/product/fashion designer Architect Web/games designer Animator Visual merchandising Costume Designer Engineer

Drama

Qualification: GCSE Edexcel

What will I learn?

- Pupils will explore a range of play texts, a range of styles and genres of theatre and practitioners who have influenced drama form and style.
- They will undertake a number of practical devising and scripted projects based on a range of themes and styles.
- We offer at least one theatre visit per year and pupils will write a critical evaluation of their experience as an audience member.
- They will take part in two pieces of practical work presented to an audience of peers and younger years during year 10 and two formally assessed practical performances in Year 11.
- Pupils will prepare for a written examination in which they will answer questions from the perspective of an actor, director and designer.

How will I learn?

The course encourages you to explore a wide range of themes and ideas and to work in a range of ways, including in groups, using improvisation and role play. There will be a mix of practical drama and written work. You will create, develop and perform devised piece of Drama from a stimulus.

You will need to analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance through a written portfolio.



Skills for Success

You will need a positive attitude towards successful practical group work, including high attendance and a commitment to lunch or after school rehearsals is a priority. As well as opportunities through the department, you are encouraged to visit the professional or amateur theatre independently as this will greatly enhance their studies. You will need an understanding of the written commitment of the subject, including coursework, theatre evaluations, research and a written examination.

How will I be assessed?



Component 1: Devising

Coursework 40% of the qualification – 60 marks

Component 2: Performance from Text

Coursework 20% of the qualification – 48 marks

Pupils will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text (24marks).

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes, 40% of the qualification – 60 marks

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Drama
Performing arts
Stage management
Drama theatre, film and television
English Literature

Career Routes

Acting
Director
Lighting/sound/costume designer
Stage management
Speech therapy

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

There are five sections of the course:

- A. Food, nutrition and health
- B. Food science
- C. Food safety
- D. Food choice
- E. Food provenance



Pupils are required to have a good working knowledge and background of Science to be able to complete scientific investigation tasks with confidence. The course sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Finance/Materials

A financial commitment is required from parents to fund the ingredients for food products and anything related to practical work and practical exams e.g. digital scales, containers etc.

Practical Lessons

Practical lessons take place on a weekly basis throughout two years of study.

Health and Safety

This subject is taught in potentially dangerous environments. Health and Safety rules are taught and frequently reviewed. Pupils are expected to understand and comply fully with all health and safety rules.

How will I learn?

The majority of the course will be delivered through preparation and making activities. You will be able to make the connections between theory and practice to apply an understanding of food and nutrition to practical preparation.

Skills for Success

You will need to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills. You will need to be organised and be able to meet deadlines for both the practical and written based elements of the course.

How will I be assessed?

Food Preparation and Nutrition 100 marks: 1 hour 45 minutes written examination paper (50% of total GCSE)

Food Investigation Task (Food Science) 30 marks: Non-examined assessment 1 (NEA 1) A written report of approximately 2000 words including photographic evidence of the practical investigation. (15% of total GCSE)

Food Preparation Task 70 marks: Non-examined assessment 2 (NEA 2) Three-hour practical exam and a written portfolio including photographic evidence of the three final dishes. (35% of total GCSE)

Be the best you can be

Further Education

- Food Science
- Food Technology
- Food sustainability and management
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Hospitality

Career Routes

- Chef
- Dietitian and nursing
- Nutritionist
- Environmental Health Officer
- Food Scientist
- Food product Development Manager

Geography

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

Pupils will study topics from both Unit 1 and Unit 2 (details below).

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment (Physical Geography)

Topic 1 - The challenge of natural hazards

Topic 2 - The Living World

Topic 3 - Physical landscapes of the UK



Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment (Human Geography)

Topic 1 - Urban issues and challenges

Topic 2 - The changing economic world

Topic 3 - The challenge of resource management

Unit 3: Geographical applications

Unit 3 is a synoptic paper which is split into two sections, section A and section B. A pre-released resource booklet will be available 12 weeks before the exam. In section A, pupils will be required to apply the knowledge they have gained from units 1 and 2 to a geographical issue. Section B is based around fieldwork which pupils will carry out during the course. Pupils will carry out two pieces of fieldwork; one linked to their physical geography, the other with their human geography.

How will I learn?

Discussions, group work, documentaries and problem-solving exercises are all used to engage learners throughout the course. Pupils will also have to complete two separate days of fieldwork over the GCSE course.

Skills for Success

You will develop a wide range of transferable skills throughout the course acquired through fieldwork, investigation, write up and practice questions.

For the examination you will be expected to do the following:

- use maps at a variety of scales
- interpret photographs and diagrams
- extract data from graphs, tables and other diagrams
- depict information in simple map and diagrammatical form, e.g. drawing graphs
- use appropriate geographical vocabulary in written word

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1, 1 hour 30 mins (35%); Paper 2, 1 hour 30 mins (35%); Paper 3, 1 hour 30 mins (30%)

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Geography and environmental science
Computer science and programming
Business and economics
Law
Engineering

Career Routes

Civil engineering
Environmental science and conservation
Tourism and journalism
Business
Law

Health and Social Care

What will I learn?

Qualification: Cambridge National Award

The Level 1/ 2 Cambridge National tech award in Health and Social Care is equivalent to one GCSE grade 8/9 – 1/2.

Component	Title	Level
1.	RO32 – Principles of Care in health and Social Care settings (exam)	1/2
2.	RO33 – Supporting individuals through life events (NEA - coursework)	1/2
3.	RO35 – Health Promotion Campaigns (NEA - coursework)	1/2

How will I learn?

You will learn by using ICT generated research. You will be expected to analyse and interpret data from primary and secondary sources, as well as conduct research in Health, Social Care and Early Years settings. It will be taught in the context of real, anonymous, health and social care situations, including evaluating case studies, role plays, and guest speakers, delivering presentations and creating reports.



Skills for Success

The Cambridge National tech award has been designed to encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop the skills essential for employment, as well as progression into further vocational training or academic education. To be successful, it is vital that pupils are able to work independently, and they must be very well organised in order to meet all of the coursework deadlines.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment of each of the units is based on the achievement of learning aims with specified assessment criteria that must be met.

A grading scale of Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* is applied at Level 2. It is also possible to gain a qualification at Level 1.

Component	Title	Level	Assessment	% overall Grade
1.	Principles of care in Health and Social Care settings	1/2	External exam	40%
2.	Supporting individuals through life events (NEA - coursework)	1/2	Internal assessment -NEA	30%
3.	Health Promotion campaigns (NEA - coursework)	1/2	Internal assessment -NEA	30%

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Health and Social Care
Public Health and Wellbeing
Healthcare and Health Science
Health Sciences
Nursing

Career Routes

Nurse
Counsellor
Education mental health practitioner
Equality, diversity and inclusion officer
Social worker

History

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

This **GCSE** course covers a wide range of British, European and World History, from the 11th century to the present day, with a focus on Modern World History. The course is broken into two modules, with each module being assessed by a final exam at the end of the course. Each module contains two sections.

Module: UNDERSTANDING THE MODERN WORLD:

Period study: **Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship**

Wider World Study: **Conflict and Tension 1919-1939**

Module: SHAPING THE NATION

Thematic study: **Health and the people 1100 – to the present day**

British Depth Study: **Elizabethan England c1568-1603**

How will I learn?

You will learn independently and through group and discussion work. You will use film, pictures and cartoons, along with an interesting range of written sources and the internet to consider the different ways people have acted in the past and their links to today's world.

You will learn how to weigh up evidence before coming to a critical decision. You will be analytical and critical when considering information presented to you.

Skills for Success

You will need to think for yourself and respond independently to key historical events. You will need to be well organised and have a good memory. You will need to contribute to lessons and enjoy finding out more about a variety of historical sources.

You will develop your historical research skills, including:

- o Formulating inquiry questions about the past (and today)
- o Finding, analysing and interrogating sources
- o Evaluating sources for relevance and credibility
- o Accurately citing sources
- o Taking organised and accurate notes

How will I be assessed?



UNDERSTANDING THE MODERN WORLD:

This section is 50% of the overall final grade after a 2-hour exam worth 84 marks.

Module: SHAPING THE NATION

This section is 50% of the overall final grade after a 2-hour exam worth 84 marks.

Be the best you can be

Further Education
History
Law
Politics
Archaeology
Ancient History

Career Routes
Journalism
Politics
Law
Archaeology
Civil Service

ICT

Qualification: Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Eduqas

What will I learn?

Unit title and description	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 (40% of the qualification) <p>Unit 1 provides learners with the opportunity to explore the diverse applications of hardware, software, and specialist tools in modern society. They will examine how information technology is utilized across various contexts, including businesses, organisations, education, and everyday home use.</p> <p>Through this unit, learners will gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of IT in different environments, preparing them for diverse challenges and opportunities in the ICT landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 (60% of the qualification) <p>ICT has become an integral part of daily life as people increasingly rely on digital devices. In the workplace, ICT plays a crucial role in streamlining everyday tasks and enabling organisations to operate more efficiently.</p> <p>This unit equips learners with a broad, practical knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents, and image editing. Learners will also develop the ability to apply this knowledge to solve real-world problems in vocational contexts.</p>

How will I learn?

Learning will be delivered through a creative blend of practical and theoretical lessons. The Vocational Award in ICT will develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the ICT sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers ICT in Society, allowing learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software, and ICT in context, introducing learners to a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images.

Skills for Success

You will need to demonstrate problem solving skills, initiative, good organisation and the ability to apply your understanding to real world contexts.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 (40%) – external examination (online test for 1-hour and 20 minutes).

Unit 2 (60%) – internally assessed assignment (40 hours)



Be the best you can be

Further Education

Degree apprenticeship
Computer Science
ICT
Digital Media
Software engineering

Career Routes

Web developer
Network developer
Data analyst
Software engineer
IT Manager

Media Studies

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

In **Year 10**, pupils study the four crucial media concepts - FORM, AUDIENCE, INSTITUTION and REPRESENTATION. Pupils will look at the effects of the media, by investigating proposed theories, and study how texts are constructed to create those effects.

Pupils will sit a Pre-Public Examination at the end of the year to prepare them for their final assessment in Year 11.

In **Year 11**, pupils will produce one piece of coursework which will require them to respond to a media brief in the role of a media professional. For the practical piece a written evaluation will also be required. An external examination will take place in May/June of that year. Two exams will be completed in total. Both exams focus on CSPs (close study products); which are from varying media platforms. Pupils will study these products in class explicitly connecting them to the core concepts in media – FAIR (form, audience, institution and representation).



Revision sessions and examination practice are also essential components of the year 11 curriculum.

How will I learn?

You will study a range of media texts, traditional schools of thought and contemporary media theory. You will have the opportunity to learn about media through practical production and by creating your own media texts in the final year. You will find out first-hand which skills are required to create media texts.

Skills for Success

You will need to be organised and prepared to work with others as well as independently. With 30% of the course being coursework, you will need to show commitment to planning and written work.

How will I be assessed?

Pupils will produce one piece of coursework; this will form 30% of their final grade and will be internally moderated and assessed. The other 70% will be assessed by means of two external examinations at the end of year 11.

Be the best you can be

Further Education
Media Studies
Journalism
Marketing
Film Studies
Digital Media

Career Routes
Presenter
Copywriter
Media researcher
Journalism
Social media manager

Modern Foreign Languages (French and German)

Qualification: GCSE Edexcel

What will I learn?

As of September 2024, pupils will follow the new Edexcel specifications for French and German. The GCSE language course is designed to give pupils a thorough knowledge of everyday French/German which can be used whilst in French or German speaking countries or whilst entertaining French or German guests in this country.

The course not only provides a sound foundation for coping with everyday situations but it also provides a structured and challenging grammatical basis for those who wish to pursue their language studies at a higher level such as A-level. The course also offers an insight into the culture of French and German speaking countries.

The content is as follows:



- Theme 1: My personal world
- Theme 2: Media and technology
- Theme 3: Lifestyle and well-being
- Theme 4: Studying my future
- Theme 5: My neighbourhood
- Theme 6: Travel and tourism

Within this, pupils will be expected to learn prescribed grammar and vocabulary appropriate to tier of entry. For more subject specific information, please click on the language link below:

[French](#)

[German](#)

How will I learn?

You will use the four language skills to become a competent communicator. You will practise your spoken and written alongside a native/fluent speaker. You will also have the opportunity to practise your language in a variety of 'real life' simulations.

You will work independently and in groups. You will grow in confidence as you work in pairs and small groups and take part in role plays.

Skills for Success

You need to develop your spoken language to communicate successfully.

You will need to work to master grammatical structures and vocabulary in your chosen language.

You will need to work well independently and in groups.

How will I be assessed?

Each element (listening, speaking, reading and writing) is worth 25% of the GCSE.

Be the best you can be

Further Education

French/German
Law
Politics
Economics
Philosophy

Career Routes

Banking
Translation
Civil and Diplomatic service
Travel and Tourism
Law

What will I learn?

GCSE Music is a hugely enjoyable course for **all** pupils that is about playing music, composing music and listening to music.

In performing work, pupils will develop their skills on an instrument of their choice, voice or music technology. There is no minimum standard required, just a love of music and a willingness to work hard and develop musical skills. It would be helpful if pupils have some ability on an instrument or voice before they start the course, to help with confidence and creativity, however pupils can choose to use an iMac as their “instrument” in which case they are assessed on how well they can use the music software to create music. Reading musical notation is not an essential skill for the early stages of this course, but it would help pupils to have knowledge of different musical styles and an ability to improvise on their instrument or voice.

How will I learn?

You will learn through taught sessions where you will be able to practice composition tasks with your peers, linked to topics and areas of study. During composing work, you will develop your ability to make up your own music in groups before completing your coursework individually. During listening tasks, you will listen to and learn about a wide variety of songs from many different musical styles. Throughout the course you will develop an ability to read from notation and understand new musical concepts with clear guidance and support from your music teacher.

Skills for Success



You do not need to be able to read music to do this course and you do not need any Music Theory exam grades. The main requirement is that you enjoy playing music and making music up on your instrument or voice.

How will I be assessed?

Exam – 40%: There is one Listening and Appraising exam sat in the summer of Year 11. It lasts for approximately an hour and a half in which pupils listen to a CD and answer **questions** on the four Areas of Study: The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop. This exam is worth 40% of the Music GCSE.

Coursework – 60%: Pupils submit four pieces of coursework worth 60% of the course:

1. A solo performance on your chosen instrument or GarageBand
2. A group performance with at least one other pupil, or GarageBand project
3. A free composition set by the learner
4. A composition to a brief set by the exam board

Be the best you can be

Further Education

- Music
- Music Technology
- Music and Drama
- Performing Arts
- Sound Technology

Career Routes

- Music Management
- Music Producer
- Music Therapist
- Performer/Session Musician
- Sound Engineer

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)

Qualification: GCSF AQA (Religious Studies A)

What will I learn?

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

	Christianity	Islam
Section A Beliefs and Teachings	The Nature of God Beliefs about the Trinity Sin and Salvation The Problem of Evil	Sunni and Shi'a Islam Beliefs about God, angels and life after death Prophethood and the Qur'an
Section B Practices	Forms of worship The purpose of prayer Persecution and Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Iona	The Five Pillars of Islam The meaning of Jihad Festivals, including Eid-ul-Adha, Eid-ul-Fitr and Ashura

Component 2: Thematic studies

Crime and Punishment	Pupils explore concepts of right and wrong, conscience, the appropriateness of different forms of punishment such, the debate surrounding the death penalty and religious beliefs about repentance and forgiveness.
Peace and Conflict	Pupils study different responses to war and the use of violence considering questions such as when is it ok to go to war? What weapons are morally acceptable in war?
Religion and Life	Pupils explore contrasting responses to Abortion, Euthanasia and Animal experimentation in addition to studying the relationship between religion and science.
The Existence of God and Revelation	Pupils will examine the concept of God with reference to divine revelation and philosophical proofs for His existence.

How will I learn?

You will have the opportunity to study real life issues that affect us all and engage in discussions about the impact of religious **and** non-religious belief on today's society. You will develop skills in analysing and constructing arguments, as well as supporting your viewpoints through discussion.



Skills for Success

Empathy, resilience and strong communication skills, both verbal and written.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination at the end of Year 11. Pupils will sit two 1 hour 45-minute exams. Each has a common structure of four five-part questions of 1, 4, 6 and 12 marks.

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Theology
Philosophy
Law
History
Sociology

Career Routes

Law/Legal work
Social work
Charity work
Journalism
Ministry

What will I learn?

PRACTICAL PERFORMANCE - 30% OF THE COURSE

Pupils will complete one practical lesson per fortnight where they will participate in blocks of work in most mainstream sports. Candidates are assessed in all of these areas, but will eventually only perform in three activity areas for the final exam. It is expected that all the pupils will attend extra-curricular clubs, represent the school at fixtures and maintain a high level of fitness throughout the duration of the course.

Practical lessons will focus on the acquisition, development and improvement of skills, both in competitive and non-competitive situations, to help to attain higher grades. Towards the end of the course, pupils will perform their sports in an exam environment.

THE THEORY OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 70% OF THE COURSE

Pupils will complete four theoretical lessons per fortnight many of which involve active learning. During these lesson times, pupils will develop an in-depth knowledge and understanding of many topics (e.g. sports psychology, sociology, basic biomechanics, fitness, anatomy and physiology, training and injuries). Theory lessons will require pupils to maintain a comprehensive folder of notes and worksheets. Regular formal assessments will need to be completed and homework will be set every week. In the summer of year 11, the pupils will have to complete two final written exams worth 60% of the final mark.

In addition to this, pupils will need to produce a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP). This will require pupils to analyse and evaluate their performance which is worth 10% of the final grade. This reflective piece of work will be assessed and presented to an external examiner.



How will I learn?

Through a mixture of practical and theory lessons (as described above)



Skills for Success

Any pupil who wishes to choose this subject as an option must already be participating at a competitive level in at least three different activities. Where this is not possible outside of school, candidates must engage in extra-curricular sessions provided where attendance will be monitored. The activities chosen must include both team sports (such as football/netball/basketball) and individual events (such as athletics/swimming/skiing).

How will I be assessed?

30% practical, 60 % written exam, 10% analysis/evaluation of a Personal Exercise Programme.

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Sport and Exercise science
PE with QTS
Anatomy
Sports technology
Biology

Career Routes

PE Teacher
Sports Coach
Physiotherapist
Sports marketing
Physiologist

Psychology

Qualification: GCSE

What will I learn?

The GCSE Psychology course examines key psychological theories which inform our understanding of the human mind and behaviour. The course will also look at the research behind the theories and how we might evaluate the value of the many different research methods used when investigating human behaviour.

Year 10 - Paper 1 - Cognition and Behaviour

This includes topics such as Memory, Perception, Development and Research methods.



How will I learn?

Through the use of work booklets and exam practice you will develop a range of skills including critical thinking, research analysis, academic essay writing, mathematical and statistical analysis and scientific evaluation.

Skills for Success

You will need a good level of reading and comprehension with a keenness for writing essays. You will need to be able to compare and contrast theories and research studies and their wider implications. You will need to have a good understanding of the principles of sciences and apply a scientific approach to research. A basic knowledge and application of mathematics including percentages, measures of central tendency, ratios and statistical display and analysis.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 & 2 written exams both each 1 hour and 45 minutes. Each worth 100 marks and 50% of the GCSE.

Be the best you can be	
Further Education Psychology Sociology Biology Criminology	Career Routes Education Child Care Mental Health/Therapy Clinical Criminal justice system Health and Wellbeing Social Care

Sociology

Qualification: GCSE AQA

What will I learn?

The GCSE Sociology course examines key debates within sociology including conflict versus consensus, how sociological knowledge and ideas change over time and how these ideas inform our understanding of the social world.

Year 10 - Paper 1 - The Sociology of Families and Education The Sociology of Families

This topic examines the function and purpose of families, different family types and how and why they have developed. Pupils will also examine the changing nature of family relationships and the changing patterns in divorce since 1945.

The Sociology of Education

This topic looks at the purpose and functions of schools and the factors which impact on educational achievement such as social class, ethnicity and gender. Pupils will also examine processes within school such as setting, labelling and the self-fulfilling prophecy.

Year 11 - Paper 2 - The Sociology of Crime and Deviance

Crime and Deviance

This topic examines the causes of crime and deviance from various sociological approaches.

Pupils will examine the factors that cause crime by examining the impact of social class, gender, age and ethnicity.

Social Stratification

This topic examines the differing theories of stratification and the impact of social class. Pupils will also examine the ways in which life chances are influenced by difference in wealth, power and status. This topic examines other factors which influence our life chances such as gender, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, age and belief.



How will I learn?

You will build upon a range of skills from research and source-analysis to mathematical and scientific. You will also be supported in developing debating and critical analysis skills, and encouraged to carry out your own independent research.

Skills for Success

You will need to be able to research, to compare and contrast social issues and their impact on British society, drawing on information and evidence from different sources. You will need good written skills to construct arguments and debates, to formulate your own conclusions, for key sociological theories and studies. You will also be developing mathematical and scientific skills to analyse and evaluate different research methods used by sociologists.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 & 2 Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes. Each worth 100 marks and 50% of GCSE.

Be the best you can be

Further Education

Sociology
Psychology
Law
Criminology
Social Sciences

Career Routes

Education
Criminal Justice system
Health care
Social care
Mental Health

Learning Support

The Learning Support option is an inclusive opportunity for St Martin's pupils who do not wish to take the full suite of subjects on offer. Pupils will be provided with the opportunity to gain suitable short courses or secure their learning in core subject areas such as mathematics and English.

The Learning Support option is open to, and tailored to meet the needs of SEND pupils and non-SEND pupils. Pupils will have the option to opt back in to an academic subject should they be assessed and, in a position to do so. This decision to opt in to an academic subject will be in consultation with the pupil and the Heads' of Faculty/Head of Subject.

The Learning Support sessions will be led by experienced staff.

If you feel your child would benefit from taking Learning Support or would like to discuss this option further, please contact Mrs O Bamigbele (SENDCo)

obamigbele@st-martins.essex.sch.uk





Careers Guidance

Careers education is an important part of a pupil's journey through school. As well as providing an education that leads to successful receipt of qualifications, teachers are responsible for shaping the future of the working world. To that end, St Martin's provides not only careers education and guidance, but the opportunity to develop employability skills that will enable our pupils to become successful working adults.

During PSHE lessons and form time activities, pupils have the opportunity to develop their employability skills and learn about the world of work. Pupils also have the opportunity to use our online platform Unifrog to explore the world of work and the routes required.

In Years 10 and 11 pupils will learn more about the world of work, career possibilities, choices after school, CV and interview preparation. Our aim is to ensure that pupils are informed about what they can do after their GCSEs. Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to complete a two-hour CV writing workshop with the Department for Work and Pensions in the Autumn term. In the Spring term students use their CVs and have a mock interview with an employer who provides feedback on their CV and their interview technique. In the Summer term all students complete a week-long work experience placement which provides them with a first-hand opportunity in a working environment. Many pupils progress to courses offered in St Martin's School Sixth Form. Pupils, whose education and career pathways mean leaving St Martin's School at the end of Year 11, will have the necessary support given to them to help plan for their future.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to meet with our Careers Advisor, during Key Stage 4. This will take the form of an individual interview, where the pupil will develop an action plan to enable them to plan their future pathway effectively. Record of this guidance is logged on Unifrog. The support continues into Key Stage 5, with the careers team working closely with the Sixth Form team to ensure that all pupils have the best possible support for their futures.



As part of our comprehensive careers provision, we will be registering all pupils with a fantastic online service called Unifrog. Through this platform, pupils will be able to explore information about their future destinations and careers choices. They will also learn more about the world of work, and crucially, they will be able to track their progress throughout their time at St Martin's.

We will continue to do our utmost to maintain good relationships with industry, commerce, other educational establishments and the local careers service, in order to assist in the furtherance of our pupils' future careers. We have run Enterprise Days to help pupils develop their employability skills. In Year 12, pupils will take part in an Insight to Management day, where they will be able to further harness the skills required for a successful future.



Community Languages



St Martin's is a vibrant community, with pupils possessing many additional talents. We believe this is something to be proud of, and something to celebrate and share.

We know that a number of the pupils in our community are fluent in an additional language. This may be their home language or a second language. Some pupils actively attend a language college, have a tutor or speak an additional language at home.

If you are fluent (can speak, listen, read and write) in an additional language and would like to take a GCSE in it, then St Martin's will aim to support you to sit the exam at school. The expectation is that you are working at a Grade 7-9.

The grade you achieve will count alongside all your other GCSEs and will count towards your Sixth Form applications. The language may also count towards the EBacc qualification.

Please look at the information below to see which languages are eligible for a GCSE qualification.

These exams are prepared for by pupils who have the **necessary skills and fluency outside of lesson times on a voluntary basis**. **St Martin's cannot prepare pupils for exams. External Language entry form can be accessed by clicking [here](#).**

List of GCSE Language Exams currently available from exam boards*

AQA	Edexcel	OCR
Bengali	Arabic	Classical Greek
Chinese (Mandarin)	Biblical Hebrew	Latin
French	French	
German	German	
Italian	Greek	
Modern Hebrew	Gujarati	
Punjabi	Italian	
Polish	Japanese	
Spanish	Persian	
Urdu	Portuguese	
	Russian	
	Spanish	
	Turkish	
	Urdu	

*subject to change

GCSE Language Exams

The exam is composed of four units, speaking, listening, reading and writing. The examination will occur at the end of Year 10 or Year 11 in the summer season.

Speaking Exam

Please note, we will do our best to source an examiner but be aware that this may not always be possible. Where pupils are taking a language more commonly taught in a neighbouring school we may also arrange for them to take the speaking exam there. The Listening, Reading and Writing aspects of the exam will all take place at St Martin's. One aspect common to most speaking exams is a 5-minute topic presentation and/or a dialogue with the examiner. Role play and discussion of a photograph may also be included.

A full list of the topics and all syllabus requirements can be obtained from the examination boards:

www.ocr.org.uk www.edexcel.com www.aqa.org.uk

If you are interested in taking a community language, please contact exams@st-martins.essex.sch.uk for further information, advice and to see whether it is possible to source an examiner.