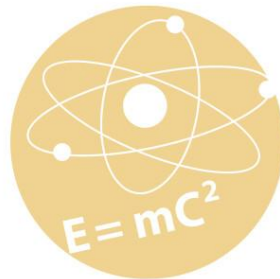




**PARKSIDE**  
SCHOOL

## Year 9 Options: Curriculum Guide 2025-2027



### Combined Science Pathway

The time has come for you to select preferences for subjects you would like to study over the next two years as you move into Year 10 and start your Key Stage Four studies. The decisions around what you want to study for the next two years will not only shape the rest of your time at Parkside School, but also help you to determine your possible future careers and educational pathway. We hope that this booklet will provide you with all the information you need to help make these decisions and it is important that your choices give you a wide breadth of subjects as you progress into further education.

You also have a huge amount of other support available to you:

- Your family and friends
- Your Coach
- Subject teachers and Heads of Faculty
- Your Head of Year and Student Support Leader
- Mrs Stewart and Mr Grant, our Careers & Future Choices team
- Members of the Senior Leadership Team or other Trusted Adults

## **The Options process and timeline**

It is important that you spend time thinking carefully about your subject preferences. You do not have to submit your form earlier than the deadline, and there is no advantage to doing so. It is very important to take time making these choices, speaking to staff and ensuring that you make the right decisions. If you submit the form after the deadline, however, you will risk not getting your choices at all.

## **Key dates in the Options process:**

- Year 9 Options Assembly: w/c 20th January 2025
- Year 9 Options Evening: Thursday 23 January 2025
- Deadline for submitting Options choices: Thursday 30th January 2025
- Final options preferences shared with students and parents: June 2025

## **How do I submit my subject preferences?**

The Options preferences form is to be completed via a Google Form. A link to the Google Form will be given to students during Coaching and also sent out to parents and carers, via email, following the Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 23 January 2025. It must be completed by Thursday 30th January 2025.

# How do you make a decision about your options preferences?



The subjects included in the 2025 – 2027 curriculum for Year 10 and Year 11 are listed in this booklet, with information about Core subjects being found first. While making your Options preferences, you should make sure that you consider carefully your prior academic attainment, your attendance and your enthusiasm and commitment for the subject.

Courses will only run if there are sufficient numbers of students to make them viable and in some cases might depend on your performance in other subject areas (e.g., Separate Sciences requires a high degree of scientific and mathematical ability therefore we recommend this Pathway to students based upon our knowledge of you as a learner rather than it being available as preference.)

It is important that you:

- Spend time talking with your family, teachers and coaches as you consider new subjects alongside those you are already familiar with.
- Make preferences based upon what you enjoy but also those you are good at and that play to your strengths as a learner.
- Consider what you'd like to pursue as a possible future career. Keep this in mind as you make your decisions, but make balanced choices to keep your options open. If you do not know what you want to do in the future, don't panic! Pick subjects that create a timetable that is manageable but also interests you. You will study these for the next two years! The hints below may help you in making your decision:

Do	Don't
Talk to parents and carers, family and teachers for their advice and support	Choose subjects based on your friends' decisions – this is about your future and career aspirations
Read more about the subjects on offer to understand fully what will be required of you	Choose or not choose a subject because of the teacher – staffing varies each year depending on the timetable
Choose a range of subjects to study. Remember, you have to study them all at once, so it may be helpful to pick a good balance of different types of subjects	Avoid a subject because of one negative previous experience. Teachers are always there to offer you support and guidance throughout your studies
Talk to older students who are currently following the course you may be interested in. They can offer advice and help with your decision making	Be misled by the title of a subject and think it leads directly to a certain career. Look carefully at the information in each subject to see how it links to future job opportunities and transferable skills
Think about your strengths and your ability (do you prefer subjects that have a greater practical element? Are you organised and have good attendance so you can work methodically through coursework?)	Choose subjects you won't enjoy or will find very hard

# The Key Stage 4 Curriculum



Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum caters to the wide range of interests of our students. In Years 10 and 11, the curriculum is divided into four sections:

**Core Qualifications:** Students study **all** of these qualifications, they are assessed and graded at the end of Year 11.

**Non-accredited subjects:** Students study these as part of their wider personal development curriculum at Parkside. They do not lead to qualifications.

You will also study **four** options subjects. We ask you to select preferences from two lists to help us put together your Key Stage 4 curriculum.

**List A:** You need to choose **one** first choice preference and **one** second choice preference from this list.

**List B:** You need to choose **five** preferences from this list. These preferences should be ranked from 1 to 5, 1 being the subject you most want to do on this list.

## Core Qualifications Combined Sciences Pathway

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science

### List A

- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science

### List B

- History
- Geography
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Performing Arts (Dance)
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality & Catering
- iMedia
- Music
- Physical Education
- Photography
- Religious Studies
- Textiles

## Non-accredited subjects

- Physical Education
- Personal, Social, Health & Careers Education



## **Why do you have to choose?**

All secondary schools go through the same process with their Year 9s too because studying for Key Stage 4 qualifications is more intensive than your curriculum in Years 7 to 9. This means that there isn't enough time in the school timetable to study all subjects, so you need to identify which subjects you would prefer to continue with so we can build your curriculum for Years 10 and 11.

## **Why are there some subjects that are 'core'?**

The core subjects are those which are statutory. This means you have to study them up to the end of Year 11 level; these include English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, PE and PSHCE. The Government also encourages you to take a subject from the English Baccalaureate to ensure you are getting a broad and balanced curriculum.

## **What is the English Baccalaureate?**

This is a group of subjects (known as the EBacc) that keeps your options open for further study and future careers. They are considered as essential to many degrees and open up a lot of doors.

The EBacc is:

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- The Sciences (including Computer Science)
- Geography or History
- A Language

But ... all subjects are just as important as each other. Parkside prides itself on offering a broad range of options for you to choose from, including practical subjects. We strongly encourage you to make subject preferences based upon what you are most interested in and are likely to really enjoy. Our core curriculum ensures you have a solid foundation for future study so you should not be afraid to choose a combination outside of the EBacc subjects.

## **Why do I have to rank my subject preferences?**

Despite our best efforts, we cannot offer an infinite number of subject combinations. Sometimes, your options preferences will clash (this means that two subjects you have picked will be being taught at the same time) which means we need to ensure we have a reserve option for you. Furthermore, if there are not enough students selecting a course, we may not be able to run it.

## **Can I change my mind?**

If you change your mind before the end of Year 9, you should see your Head of Year or SSL. Once the course has started, you need to have a very strong reason for wanting to change and we may not be able to give you what you want due to student numbers. We do not make course changes after the end of September in Year 10.



## **Why are some of the subjects listed not GCSEs?**

We offer a range of qualifications at Key Stage 4. Some of these subjects are 'GCSEs', others are 'Cambridge Nationals' or 'BTECs'. They are all the same level of study – they're just different approaches to the way you learn and the way you are examined. Whilst GCSEs are graded 9 to 1, Cambridge Nationals, BTECs and WJEC qualifications are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\*

Music, Health & Social Care, Drama, Dance (Performing Arts), Engineering, Hospitality & Catering and iMedia (ICT) are all graded using the Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* system.

You should look carefully at the subject pages in this booklet as GCSEs typically have a greater number of exams than the vocational subjects. Vocational subjects typically have a greater amount of independent written work throughout the course alongside practical 'hands on' experience.

## **Will all students have to follow the Pathways listed?**

The Options available and number of subjects studied are in line with most schools and will support success for most students. However, we will work with our Assistant Principal for Inclusion, Mrs Woodstock, to identify students who may benefit from a bespoke curriculum provision. A member of the SEND team will speak to you and your family if we think this might apply.

Instead of four options subjects, you may be invited to study:

- Level 1 Humanities (History & Geography)
- The Asdan Personal Development Programme

## **Will I be with my friends in Year 10 and Year 11?**

You may find that you have been placed into classes with people you already know but your year group is large and timetabling you all is a very tricky job so you may find you are in classes with new people in September. If you're worried about this, speak to your Coach or another Trusted Adult.

Remember, you shouldn't select a subject just because your friend is picking it too. Your subject preferences are yours – this is about you and what you enjoy or are interested in.





**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE English Language

**Course Overview:** The GCSE specification in English Language requires students to study the following content

Critical Reading & Comprehension	Writing	Spoken Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Critical reading &amp; comprehension e.g. making inferences &amp; justifying them; reading in different ways for different purposes; identifying bias</li><li>Summary and synthesis e.g. identifying the main themes</li><li>Evaluation of a writer's choices e.g. analysing vocabulary, form, structure</li><li>Comparison of two or more texts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Producing clear and coherent text e.g. writing effectively for different purposes and audiences; using language imaginatively and creatively</li><li>Writing for Impact e.g. selecting, organising and emphasising facts, ideas and key points; citing evidence and quotation effectively and to support views; creating emotional impact</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Presenting information and ideas: e.g. selecting and organising information and ideas effectively and persuasively for prepared spoken presentations; planning effectively; making presentations and speeches</li><li>Responding to spoken language: e.g. listening to and responding appropriately to any questions and feedback</li><li>Spoken Standard English</li></ul>

**You will study:**

- Non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st century including articles, reports, letters, diaries and quality journalism.
- Works of literature, considering how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture readers' interests.
- Comparing linked sources from different time periods, considering perspectives or views over time and how authors influence the reader.
- How to respond to unseen literature extracts.
- Writing creatively and accurately for a number of different audiences and purposes.
- How to develop your presentation skills and discussion skills in front of an audience.

**How will you be assessed?**

You will have 2 exams at the end of Year 11, both lasting 1 hour 45 minutes with questions on a range of non-fiction texts and 2 creative writing tasks.

Paper 1 (50% Of grade) Exam: 1 hr 45 mins	Paper 2 (50% Of grade) Exam: 1 hr 45 mins	Non Examination Assessment No exam
Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Writers' Viewpoint and Perspectives	Spoken Language
<b>Section A:</b> Reading Answer 4 questions on unseen C20th or C21st extracts	<b>Section A:</b> Reading Answer 4 questions on 2 linked non-fiction texts from different time periods	Separately reported grade. <b>Focus:</b> Formal presentation
<b>Section B:</b> Writing Answer one question in response to a stimulus	<b>Section B:</b> Writing Answer one extended writing question e.g. responding to an opinion	Respond to a questions and feedback, ask questions. Use standard spoken English

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

The key skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are required in all academic courses and all careers. These skills are particularly useful for a career in: journalism; advertising; marketing; management; education and training; publishing; law; television; film; radio; arts; administration and the civil service. At Parkside 6th Form you can go on to study English Language & Literature at A Level.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Ms Napier, Head of Faculty (English, Drama & Law)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE English Literature

**Course Overview:** The GCSE specification in English Literature requires students to study across four assessment objectives (AOs):

<b>AO1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read, understand, and respond to texts.</li><li>• You need to be able to maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response</li><li>• You also need to be able to use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.</li></ul>
<b>AO2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.</li></ul>
<b>AO3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.</li></ul>
<b>AO4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.</li></ul>

**You will study:**

- Several works of literature, considering how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture readers' interests. These include Macbeth (Shakespeare), An Inspector Calls (J.B. Priestley) and A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens).
- In addition to this, you will compare linked sources from different time periods, considering perspectives or views over time and how authors influence the reader.
- You will also learn how to respond to unseen literature extracts and develop your presentation and discussion skills in front of an audience.

**How you will be assessed:**

You will have 2 exams at the end of Year 11

<b>Paper 1: Shakespeare &amp; 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel</b> <b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 45 minutes, 40% of GCSE	<b>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry</b> <b>Exam:</b> 2 hours 15 minutes, 60% of GCSE
<b>Section A: Shakespeare</b>  Answer one question on Macbeth, writing in detail about an extract and then the play as a whole.  <b>Section B: 19th-century novel</b>  Answer one question on 'A Christmas Carol', writing in detail about an extract and then the play as a whole	<b>Section A: Modern texts</b>  Answer one essay question on 'An Inspector Calls'  <b>Section B: Poetry</b>  Answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the exam paper and one other poem from the 'Power and Conflict Cluster'  <b>Section C: Unseen poetry</b>  Answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

As well as developing reading, writing, speaking and listening you will learn the art of effective communication, developing analytical and creative skills and the ability to argue a point of view convincingly. Such skills are useful in careers such as journalism; advertising; marketing; management; education and training; publishing; law; television; film; radio; arts; administration and the civil service. At Parkside 6th Form you can go on to study English Language & Literature at A Level.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Ms Napier, Head of Faculty (English, Drama & Law)



**Exam Board/Specification:** Edexcel GCSE Mathematics

**Course Overview:** The course content includes the following topics for learners to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts:

Topic	Foundation Tier (%)	Higher Tier (%)
Number	25	15
Algebra	20	30
Ratio	25	20
Geometry	15	20
Probability & Statistics	15	15

**You will study:**

- The number system and how to effectively work with numbers including percentages, fractions, decimals and ratios.
- The use of algebra to solve problems involving unknowns. Properties of shapes and space and how to effectively use measures.
- The use of statistics and data handling to collect, present and analyse data.
- How to apply a broad range of mathematical concepts to solve problems, both abstract and in context.

**How you will be assessed:**

You will sit three exams at the end of Year 11, each paper is worth a third of your overall GCSE grade.

Paper 1: Non-calculator	Paper 2: Calculator	Paper 3: Calculator
Exam: 1hr 30 mins	Exam: 1hr 30 mins	Exam: 1hr 30 mins
A variety of question styles, ranging from short single mark questions to multiple step problem solving questions that require working out to be demonstrated in the answers.		
The level of difficulty and mathematical demand increases throughout each paper.		

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

- A good understanding of maths will help with many everyday life activities from managing personal finances to following a recipe.
- Many other subjects have mathematical elements so GCSE maths will help to support current and further studies in science, geography, psychology, business, economics and many more.
- Careers which require a good mathematical foundation include accountancy and finance, science and medicine, engineering and social sciences; there are endless opportunities.
- Parkside 6th Form offers the opportunity to study A Level maths with mathematical enrichment opportunities such as A Level Further Maths.

**Additional information:**

- Maths is a tiered subject. This means you will either sit Foundation tier (where you can achieve GCSE Grades 1 to 5) or Higher tier (where you can achieve GCSE Grades 4 to 9).
- All three papers will be the same tier.
- Your Maths teachers will decide, based upon your academic progress, which tier you have the best chance of being successful on.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mr Shepherd, Head of Faculty (Maths)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

**Course Overview:** The Combined Science GCSE Course is equivalent to two GCSEs. The course includes a wide range of science topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Combined Science course assesses you over three assessment objectives (AOs):

<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas; scientific techniques and procedures.
<b>AO2</b>	Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas; scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures.
<b>AO3</b>	Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate; make judgments and draw conclusions; develop and improve experimental procedures.

### You will study:

In science you will develop your scientific skills and knowledge and learn about the importance of science in society. In the Combined Science Trilogy GCSE you will study the following topic areas:

<b>Biology</b>	<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>Physics</b>
Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection & Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Inheritance & Ecology	Atomic Structure, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical & Energy Changes, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere	Energy, Electricity, Radiation, Waves, Forces, Magnetism and Particle Model

The course will be taught by performing experiments, analysis of experimental data, applying your knowledge to unknown situations, evaluating information and giving your opinion on scientific areas.

### How you will be assessed:

- You will have 6 exams at the end of Year 11, 2 exams in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Throughout Years 10 and 11 you will also complete a number of practical activities which will be assessed through questions in the exams.

### What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?

- A good understanding of science will help with many everyday life activities from understanding your health and wellbeing, including how medicines and vaccines work to understanding changes to utility bills, sources of electricity and environmental impact of new technologies.
- Careers which require a good science foundation include nursing and medicine, engineering, agriculture, food science and social sciences; there are endless opportunities.
- A good understanding of science is seen favourably by all employers and Higher Education providers.
  - 2 high Combined Science GCSE grades (6-6 or better) will provide access to Biology, Chemistry and Physics A Levels.
  - 2 Combined Science GCSE grades (5-4 or better) will provide access to the Level 3 BTEC course in Applied Science.

### Who you can speak to find out more about the course:

Dr Heaton, Head of Faculty (Science)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Art and Design

## **Course Overview:**

- Component 1 is worth 60% of your final grade and is completed in Years 10 & 11 through a series of projects and workshops.
- Component 2 is worth 40% of your final grade and is a unit of work produced in response to one of the start points on the exam paper set by the AQA.
- Exam papers are released to students in the January of Year 11. Preparatory work takes place in lessons and for homework in the run up to the 10 hour exam. The exam is split over several days and during this time students must work independently in silence without teacher or peer guidance.

## **You will study:**

- How to record your ideas, observations and insights.
- How to develop your ideas.
- How to analyse the work of other artists.
- How to experiment in different media such as pencil, paint, pastel, clay.
- How to present a visual personal response.

## **How you will be assessed:**

Your component 1 & 2 will be marked according to how well you have shown evidence of:

- Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions as work progresses.
- Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

## **Additional information:**

- You can not take both GCSE Art & Design and GCSE Textiles

## **What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

- You will improve your technical skills in a wide range of media including 3D, print making, painting and drawing.
- You will develop confidence and skills in experimenting with materials and ideas, refining and evaluating work as it progresses.
- You will get the opportunity to develop your own style and produce personal work.
- You will learn how to set your own learning objectives and plan towards success. You will be equipped with life skills in problem solving and lateral thinking.
- Studying Art & Design prepares you for onward study either at A Level at Parkside 6th Form or BTEC Level 3 and can lead to a huge range of careers and university courses.
- Past students have successfully gone into Graphic Design, Teaching, Architecture and Postgraduate studies in Fine Art, as well as Contour Fashion Design, Fashion marketing, Interior Design and careers involved in Surface Pattern.

## **Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs Stone, Head of Faculty (Art, Design & Technology)



**Exam Board/Specification:** OCR GCSE Business

**Course Overview:** GCSE Business provides you with an excellent overview of the main aspects of the business world. This traditional classroom-based course provides you with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect decision-making. You'll develop their understanding of concepts, objectives and terminology, and the impact of contemporary issues on business operations alongside developing your analytical skills.

**You will study:**

<b>Paper 1:</b> Business activity, marketing and people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business activity including business planning, business ownership and business growth</li><li>• Marketing including market research and the marketing mix</li><li>• People including the role of human resources, organisational structures, how to recruit and retain employees</li></ul>
<b>Paper 2:</b> Operations, finance and influences on business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operations including production processes, consumer law and working with suppliers</li><li>• Finance including sources of finance, revenue, costs, profit &amp; loss and cash flow</li><li>• Influences on business including ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate and globalisation</li><li>• The interdependent nature of business</li></ul>

**How you will be assessed:**

You will have two exams at the end of Year 11, both worth 50% of your final grade and lasting 1 hour 30 minutes each. These papers are a mixture of multiple choice and case study questions.

**Additional information:**

Business involves you being able to use a range of quantitative skills and mathematical techniques and apply them to business contexts. They include being able to perform certain calculations including percentages and averages alongside specific finance related operations such as revenue, costs, profit, cash flow and break even.

You will also be required to interpret quantitative data to support, inform and justify business decisions including:

- Graphs and charts
- Financial data
- Marketing data
- Market data

Approx. 10% of the total GCSE marks will be for using quantitative skills.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

The skills you will learn can be applied on any scale, from leading a small team to running a company. There are many careers that you could pursue with business including market research, management, public relations, banking, law, accountancy or advertising.

This subject supports a pathway to Business and Economics courses at Key Stage 5, including Cambridge Technical Business at Parkside 6<sup>th</sup> Form, or a range of apprenticeships.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mrs Atkinson, Assistant Principal (Key Cohorts)



**Exam Board/Specification:** OCR GCSE Computer Science

**Course Overview:** The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The content has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding of how computers work and the basics of real-world programming but also to engage you and get you thinking about future careers in computing.

**You will study:**

<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Computer Systems.</b> The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systems architecture</li><li>• Memory &amp; storage</li><li>• Computer networks</li><li>• Connections &amp; protocols</li><li>• Network security</li><li>• Systems software</li><li>• Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology</li></ul>
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming.</b> This component is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Algorithms</li><li>• Programming fundamentals</li><li>• Producing robust programs</li><li>• Boolean logic</li><li>• Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments</li></ul>
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Programming Project.</b> In this component you will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills you have learned in Python programming.

**How you will be assessed:**

There are two exams in Year 11, both worth 50% of your final grade and lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes each.

Additional information: Computer Science includes both practical and theoretical contexts and the use of computing-related mathematics within those contexts. It is strongly recommended that before selecting Computer Science as a subject preference, you discuss the mathematics component within the course with Mr Towler.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Success in this qualification can give you the opportunity to study Level 3 courses in the 6th Form such as the Cambridge Technical course or a Computing Course. This course naturally leads into any career path which involves computing, including work in cyber security and network management.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mr Towler, Assistant Head of Faculty (Applied), Mrs McQuaid, Head of Faculty (Applied).



**Exam Board/Specification:** OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

**Course Overview:** Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia are media sector-focused; including film, animation and graphics and have IT at their heart.

**You will study:**

- The media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. Topics include: The media industry, factors influencing product design, pre-production planning and distribution considerations.
- How to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include: Developing a visual identity, how to plan digital graphics for products, how to create a visual identity and digital graphics.
- How to plan, create and review comics which contain original characters. Topics include: Planning characters and comics, creating characters and comics, how to review characters and comics

**How you will be assessed:**

This course is vocational which means there are two pieces of controlled assessment. This means that the work you start in Year 10 counts towards your final grade. In addition to the controlled assignments, there is also one exam that you will sit in Year 11.

- Creative iMedia in the media industry – exam – 40% of final grade
- Visual identity and digital graphics – controlled assessment – 25% of final grade
- Characters and comics – controlled assessment – 35% of final grade

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

For learners who want to progress to Level 3 qualifications at Parkside, they have the choice of qualifications which will further develop areas of their learning including IT. This qualification leads naturally into apprenticeships and employment in design, IT, computing and media.

This qualification will assess the application of creative media skills through their practical use. They will provide learners with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to enhance their employability.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs McQuaid, Head of Faculty (Applied)





**Exam Board/Specification:** BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance Approach)

**Course Overview:** BTEC Dance gives you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. BTEC Dance will help the development of key skills that prove our aptitude in performing arts, such as:

- reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli
- development of ideas, rehearsal and performance including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles.

<b>Component 1</b>	<b>‘Exploring the Performing Arts’</b> You will examine live and recorded dance performances in order to develop your understanding of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance.
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>‘Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts’</b> You will develop your dance skill and techniques through the reproduction of existing dance choreography.
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>‘Performing to a Brief’</b> You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus. This external component builds on knowledge, understanding and skills developed in component 1 and 2.

## How you will be assessed:

The three components of study are assessed through a combination of practical and theoretical elements.

## Additional information:

There is an opportunity to pick this qualification as an alternative to Core PE.

## What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?

Dance can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in the performing arts industry. There is also a clear progression onto Level 3 study for students wanting to explore performing arts further.

## Who you can speak to find out more about the course:

Miss Thackray (PE)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Design and Technology

**Course Overview:** This is an exciting time for the subject and studying this course will better prepare you for the increasingly technological world. Throughout the course, you will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and applying technical and practical expertise. The Design and Technology GCSE allows you to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

**You will:**

- Build up your problem solving, planning, and evaluation skills. You will also gain communication and teamwork skills.
- Work with a wide range of materials to communicate, create and inform your designs and develop both their practical skills and design capability.
- Spend Year 10 developing your core knowledge and practical skills before demonstrating these in Year 11 as you tackle your assignment brief.

**Additional information:**

- Due to the nature of the course, you must be confident with your maths and the scientific principles in design. Speak to Mrs Dunn to find out more about this key element of the course.
- Organisation, time management, a positive mental attitude and the ability to be a risk taker are also key!

**How you will be assessed:**

<b>Exam:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50% of final grade</li><li>• 2 hours</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core technical principles</li><li>• Specialist technical principles</li><li>• Designing and making principles</li></ul> <p>The exam is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.</p>
<b>Non-exam assessment:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 50% of final grade</li></ul>	<p>Practical application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Core technical principles</li><li>• Specialist technical principles</li><li>• Designing and making principles</li></ul> <p>This is a substantial design and make task where you will experience the whole process of bringing an idea to life including identifying and investigating design possibilities, producing a design brief &amp; specification, generating, developing &amp; realising ideas and analysing &amp; evaluating.</p>

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

GCSE Design and Technology is excellent preparation for a career in design, manufacture, scientific, technical or engineering industries. A good GCSE grade could lead to studying an A Level in Product Design or design based college courses.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs Dunn (Technology)



**Exam Board/Specification:** BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (Drama Approach)

**Course Overview:** You will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

- Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance
- Attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles

**You will study:**

<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Exploring the Performing Arts</b> You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining the work of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts</b> Working as a performer or designer requires the application of skills, techniques and practices that enable you to produce and interpret performance work.  You will communicate intentions to an audience through a chosen discipline, such as performing or designing in any performance style from acting, dance or musical theatre
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Responding to a Brief</b> You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as either a performer or a designer in response to a brief and stimulus.

**How you will be assessed:**

- **Component 1:** Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the school and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set assignment will be completed in approximately 12 hours of supervised conditions. 60 marks.
- **Component 2:** Non-exam internal practical assessment set by Pearson, marked by the school and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set assignment will be completed in approximately 15 hours of supervised conditions. 60 marks.
- **Component 3:** Task set and marked by Pearson completed under supervised conditions. Learners will be given the set task in January, 12 weeks before the supervised assessment period, in order to carry out the development of creative ideas and rehearsal for the practical performance. 60 marks.

**Additional information:**

Due to the nature of a practical performance qualification, those wanting to take the course would need to commit to after school rehearsals at certain points during the year.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

BTEC Drama leads into a variety of courses including BTEC Level 3 extended certificate in Drama at Parkside School. Students may wish to go on to studying Performing Arts at university and try their hand at acting or look at a career in teaching. Having a qualification in Drama is a desirable quality looked for in the legal industry, marketing and media.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs Hunter, Head of Year (9), Mrs Round, Head of Year (8)

**Exam Board/Specification:** WJEC Level 1-2 Vocational Award in Engineering

**Course Overview:** This course offers you the opportunity to learn through vocational experience about the manufacturing sector termed engineering. The course focuses on the electronic, mechanical, material and structural sectors and aims to teach you about what impact these sectors have upon society, individuals, employers and the environment. As well as preparing you for the world of work, the course aims to give you skills that are directly relevant to possible future careers such as problem solving, being independent learners, work as part of a team and the ability to apply knowledge in a vocational context.

**You will study:**

- What form engineering design and manufacture can take in some of the more common sectors of engineering.
- The design process engineers follow in order to produce a solution and also come to understand how engineers interpret information provided by others in order to manufacture a range of products.
- The impact of engineering upon society, materials, and the importance of safety and a range of manufacturing techniques applicable to the processes in question.

**How you will be assessed:**

<b>Controlled Assessment</b> Worth 60% of your final grade	<b>Unit 1</b> The purpose of this unit is for you to use skills developed to produce an engineered product.  <b>Unit 2</b> The purpose of this unit is for you to analyse engineered products in order to propose design solutions to meet requirements.
<b>Written exam</b> Worth 40% of your final grade	<b>Unit 3</b> The purpose of this unit is for you to use your knowledge and understanding of engineering processes and material properties to solve problems.  You will take the exam in Y11. This tests the theory content of the course – it includes a range of short and long answer questions.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

A qualification in engineering can help you gain practical experience and insight into the engineering world. It can also provide a foundation for further study in engineering or a related subject at post-16 providers as well as universities. It is also a good starting point for apprenticeships at all levels.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs Nichols (Technology) & Mrs Stone, Head of Faculty (Art, Design & Technology)<sup>18</sup>



**Exam Board/Specification:** Edexcel GCSE French

**Course Overview:** French gives you the opportunity to develop your ability to communicate in French in both speech and writing. You will study language within a variety of thematic contexts relevant to your interests and will develop a greater awareness of the culture of French-speaking communities and countries. The qualification promotes culture, communication and connection with vocabulary and content that reflects and represents diverse student experiences.

The thematic contexts are:

- My personal world • Lifestyle and wellbeing • My neighbourhood • Media and technology • Studying and my future • Travel and tourism

**You will:**

- Develop your ability to use French for the purpose of spoken and written practical communication.
- Use French in authentic situations and to understand both spoken and written sources (for example: radio announcements, signs, notices, newspaper articles, and letters from pen friends).
- Develop your skills across four language areas, speaking, listening, reading and writing are will be assessed at regular intervals at Foundation and Higher levels.

**How you will be assessed:**

You are assessed at the end of Year 11 across the four key language skills

<b>Paper 1: Speaking in French</b> 25% of the total qualification	<b>Paper 2: Listening</b> 25% of the total qualification	<b>Paper 3: Reading</b> 25% of the total qualification	<b>Paper 4: Writing in French</b> 25% of the total qualification
Internally conducted and externally assessed  • Foundation tier: 7–9 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks  • Higher tier: 10–12 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation tier: 45 minutes including 5 minutes' reading time; 50 marks</li> <li>• Higher tier: 60 minutes including 5 minutes' reading time; 50 marks</li> </ul>	<p>You are assessed on your understanding of written French across a range of different types of texts.</p> <p>You are required to respond to multiple-response and short-answer questions based on these texts as well as a translation into English.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation tier: 45 minutes; 50 marks.</li> <li>• Higher tier: 1 hour; 50 marks</li> </ul>	<p>You are assessed on your ability to communicate effectively through writing in French for different purposes and audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes; 50 marks.</li> <li>• Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes; 50 marks</li> </ul>

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

GCSE French provides access to advanced courses such as A Level French at Parkside School. This can lead to a career in sport management, business and finance, marketing, law, travel and tourism, journalism, teaching and international business management.

**Additional information:**

- Languages is a tiered subject. This means you will either sit Foundation tier (where you can achieve GCSE Grades 1 to 5) or Higher tier (where you can achieve GCSE Grades 3 to 9).
- All four papers will be the same tier.
- Your Languages teachers will decide, based upon your academic progress, which tier you have the best chance of being successful on.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs Naylor, Head of Faculty (Languages)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Geography

**Course Overview:** Travel the world from your classroom, exploring case studies in the UK, higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). This course covers four assessment objectives (AOs):

<b>AO1</b>	Knowledge of locations, places, processes, environments.
<b>AO2</b>	Geographical understanding of concepts and the interrelationships between places, environments and processes.
<b>AO3</b>	Application of knowledge and understanding to interpret, analyse and evaluate geographical information and issues to make judgements.
<b>AO4</b>	Select, adapt and use a variety of skills and techniques to investigate questions and issues and communicate findings.

**You will study:**

- **Living with the Physical Environment:** volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms; climate change; tropical rainforests; cold environments; coasts; rivers.
- **Challenges in the Human Environment:** population; urban growth and change; economic development; water; energy; food security and supply.
- **Geographical Applications:** map skills, graphical skills and statistical skills. You will evaluate a contemporary geographical issue and undertake 2 pieces of fieldwork.

<b>Paper 1:</b> Living with the Physical Environment	<b>Paper 2:</b> Challenges in the Human Environment	<b>Paper 3:</b> Geographical Applications
<b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 30 mins <b>Worth:</b> 35% of final grade	<b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 30 mins <b>Worth:</b> 35% of final grade	<b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 15 mins <b>Worth:</b> 30% of final grade
<b>Section A:</b> The challenge of natural hazards. <b>Section B:</b> The living world. <b>Section C:</b> Physical landscapes in the UK.	<b>Section A:</b> Urban issues and challenges. <b>Section B:</b> The changing economic world.	Issue evaluation based on a pre-release booklet. Geographical skills. Fieldwork.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Geography provides strong research, communication and analytical skills useful in a range of careers. At Parkside 6th Form you can study Geography A Level. It can lead to careers in cartography, recycling, surveying, environmental consulting, town planning, geographical information systems (GIS) and data analytics, conservation, international aid and development.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mr Nock, Assistant Head of Faculty (Humanities) & Mrs Rushworth, Head of Faculty (Humanities)





**Exam Board/Specification:** OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

**Course Overview:** This is a single option vocational course equivalent to 1 GCSE that provides valuable opportunities for students to develop skills and knowledge in the health, early years or social care fields of employment. The course supports entry into either work or progression to further or higher education and training in health, early years or social care or related areas.

**You will study:**

- The fundamental principles and concepts of the rights of individuals, person centred values, effective communication and how to protect individuals in health and social care settings
- Life stages and the impacts of life events alongside sources of support
- Current public health issues and the impact on society
- Factors influencing health

**How you will be assessed:**

This course is vocational which means there are two pieces of controlled assessment. This means that the work you start in Year 10 counts towards your final grade. In addition to the controlled assignments, there is also one exam that you will sit in Year 11.

- Principles of care in health and social care settings – exam – 40% of final grade
- Supporting individuals through life events – controlled assignment – 30% of final grade
- Health promotion campaigns – controlled assignment – 30% of final grade

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Securing a Merit 2 (M2) or better in Health and Social Care is a good stepping stone for the very successful Health & Social Care Cambridge Technical and BTEC Applied Science courses at Parkside.

The skills and knowledge gained are valuable for careers that involve working with and caring for people of all ages for example nursing, midwifery, radiography, physiotherapy, dietetics, speech therapy, early years teaching, nursery management, youth work and social work to name but a few.

It is also useful for those wishing to go into level 2 or 3 apprenticeships in health, social care, or early year's sector.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Ms Edmondson, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form & Mrs McQuaid, Head of Faculty (Applied)

**Exam Board/Specification:** Edexcel GCSE History

**Course Overview:** History is continuously changing the world around us and historic events have helped to shape our society. Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

- You will study:**
- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000 to present *and* Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city
  - Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991
  - Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
  - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

**How you will be assessed:**  
You will have three exam papers at the end of Year 11.

<b>Paper 1:</b> Thematic study and Historic environment study  <b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 15 mins <b>Worth:</b> 30% of final grade	<b>Paper 2:</b> Period study and British depth study  <b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 45 mins <b>Worth:</b> 40% of final grade	<b>Paper 3:</b> Depth study  <b>Exam:</b> 1 hour 20 mins <b>Worth:</b> 30% of final grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000 to present</li><li>• Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91</li><li>• Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39</li></ul>

- What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**  
You will learn a valuable range of skills by studying History including:
- how to explain and argue effectively and how to support your thoughts with evidence
  - how and why events of the past have been interpreted in different ways and by different people
  - how to critique the sources and places where historians (like you!) get their information from.

GCSE History taught at Parkside prepares students well for future study of history, especially the required knowledge that is needed for A Level study at Parkside. There is overlap between the Weimar and Nazi Germany module taught at GCSE level to the Democracy to Nazism: Germany 1918-1945 unit that is taught at A Level, as well as overlap between the British Depth Study Elizabethan England unit at GCSE to The Tudors unit at A Level.

GCSE History can also lead to advanced courses such as Law, Sociology, and Psychology. It supports entry to a wide range of careers including law, journalism, teaching, local and National Government, the Civil Service, The Diplomatic Service, English Heritage, conservation, media, film and television, the police and the Armed Forces.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**  
Mrs Rushworth, Head of Faculty (Humanities), Mr Siggins & Miss Arnold (History)



**Exam Board/Specification:** WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering Award

**Course Overview:** This course is a mixture of practical and theory, you will learn a range of information about the hospitality and catering industry as well as how to plan and prepare menus for a range of people.

**You will:**

Focus on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food hygiene and safety and a knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry.

Food preparation skills are integrated into core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food hygiene & safety
- Menu planning

**How you will be assessed:**

<b>Controlled Assessment</b> <b>Worth:</b> 60% of final grade	<b>Written exam</b> <b>Worth:</b> 40% of final grade
This will be completed in Y11, you will be given a brief and complete a portfolio of evidence along with a practical exam.	This includes a range of short and long answer questions based on the Hospitality & Catering industry.

**Additional information:** Hospitality and Catering is a hugely popular and successful subject area. Due to the need to use equipment safely in our Food Technology rooms, there are a limited number of spaces on the course. If you have shown an interest in Food Technology and were organised enough to remember your ingredients week every week, you are more likely to be successful in securing a place on the course.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

The course is focused more on developing key skills in food preparation and the controlled assessment activities are more practical and investigative. You will work in the fully developed kitchen to explore ideas and dish creations.

Upon completion of this course, you will be qualified to go on to further study. You may embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries. There are many well paid and exciting employment opportunities within the food industry such as food product development, nutrition, marketing and food styling along with a range of opportunities in the hospitality and catering sector.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mrs Trowers, Lead Practitioner & Mrs Stone, Head of Faculty (Art, Design and Technology)



**Exam Board/Specification:** Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

**Course Overview:** Students will explore and develop a range of musical skills including performance, composition and production (through use of music technology software). They will also explore a variety of musical styles and the musical theory and techniques that underpin them and develop technical and practical skills through workshops and classes.

**You will study:**

<b>Component 1</b>	<b>Exploring Music Products and Styles.</b> You will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of five different musical styles.
<b>Component 2</b>	<b>Music Skills Development.</b> You will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines (performance, composition or production) through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
<b>Component 3</b>	<b>Responding to a Music Brief.</b> Students will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief. This external component builds on knowledge, understanding and skills developed in component 1 and 2.

**How you will be assessed:**

- **Component 1:** (30%) 12 Hours of supervised sessions.
- **Component 2:** (30%) 15 Hours of supervised sessions.
- **Component 3:** (40%) 23 Hours of supervised sessions. (Externally moderated).

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Music can lead to a wide range of career opportunities in the performing arts industry, including performance, composition and producing/recording music. There is also a clear progression onto Level 3 study for students wanting to explore Music further.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mrs Skipsey (Music) & Mrs Stone, Head of Faculty (Art, Design and Technology)



**Exam Board/Specification:** OCR GCSE Physical Education

**Course Overview:** Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, Sport and Sport Science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity.

**You will:**

- Participate in a range of physical activities and will be assessed on your practical ability in 3 sports (one team sport, one individual sport and one from either group).
- Study the theory of PE and Sport to prepare you for 2 exams at the end of the course. This will cover how your body systems work, fitness testing and training, anatomy and physiology, sports psychology, social and cultural issues, analysis of performance and the benefits of exercise on health.

**How you will be assessed:**

<b>Paper 1</b> <b>Exam:</b> 1 hour <b>Worth:</b> 30% of final grade	Physical factors affecting performance
<b>Paper 2</b> <b>Exam:</b> 1 hour <b>Worth:</b> 30% of final grade	Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology
<b>Practical assessment</b> <b>Worth:</b> 40% of final grade	Performance in physical education

**Additional information:**

If you are considering selecting GCSE PE as one of your preferences make sure you consider whether you:

- Have passion for PE/Sport. It is important to recognise you will be learning about how physical factors can affect performance, social & cultural issues and sports psychology.
- Participate in sport outside of school/extra-curricular clubs.
- Are willing to attend extra-curricular clubs to develop your knowledge & skills.

It is also important that you do not select GCSE PE as a preference without having spoken to Mr Miller or Miss Thackray about the 3 sports you wish to compete in as part of the practical component. Recent national changes in the GCSE course have narrowed the range of sports that are allowed so it is important that you know if your sport is on the accredited list from the exam board.

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

GCSE PE can lead to the BTEC Sport level 3 course at Parkside 6th Form. This can allow you to gain a place at university and lead you into employment in the sports industry through teaching, coaching and management.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mr Miller, Head of Faculty (PE & Dance), Miss Thackray, Assistant Head of Faculty (PE & Dance)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Art & Design - Photography

**Course Overview:** Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes. They will explore relevant images, and resources relating to lens-based and light-based media from the past and from recent times, researching photographers from all over the world, which will be integral to the investigating, experimenting and making process. Responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate the candidates' understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

**You will learn:**

- How to use a DSLR camera and Adobe Photoshop.
- How to use lighting and work in the studio.
- To develop how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed and interpreted in images, and products in their chosen area(s) of study in Photography: this can be lens-based and light-based media.
- How to create digital portfolios and use a range of digital and practical techniques to explore ideas and respond to the work of others.
- How to respond to a brief, title or subject in a personal and creative way, using the work of others as inspiration.

**How you will be assessed:**

<b>Component 1: Portfolio</b> <b>Worth:</b> 60% of final grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A digital portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives.</li><li>• Component 1 is completed in Years 10 &amp; 11 through a series of projects, workshops and homework based tasks and shoots.</li></ul>
<b>Component 2: Exam</b> <b>Worth:</b> 40% of final grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A digital portfolio produced in response to one of the start points on the exam paper set by the AQA.</li><li>• Exam papers are released to students in the January of Year 11. Preparatory work takes place in lessons and for homework in the run up to the 10 hour exam.</li><li>• The exam is split over several days and during this time students must work independently in silence under exam conditions without teacher or peer guidance.</li></ul>

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Careers this course supports include; advertising art director, film/video editor, wildlife photographer, photography editor, graphic designer, magazine features editor, medical illustrator, press photographer, television camera operator. This option will provide you with problem solving skills, communication skills and the ability to think creatively which are skills that can be applied to any career.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mrs Payne (Photography) & Mrs Stone, Head of Faculty (Art, Design and Technology)





**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Religious Studies (A)

**Course Overview:** The GCSE course in Religious Studies is designed to develop critical thinking and deeper understanding of different religious, philosophical and ethical issues that affect the world today. The course analyses different perspectives on a range of issues and evaluates the clarity of these arguments whilst understanding the impact these ideas and beliefs will have on the life of the individual.

**You will learn:**

<b>Paper 1:</b> The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christianity Beliefs and Teachings: beliefs about God, Jesus and life after death</li><li>• Christianity Practices: festivals, practices, food banks, worship</li><li>• Islam Beliefs and Teachings: beliefs about God, holy books and life after death</li><li>• Islam Practices: worship, festivals and pilgrimage</li></ul>
<b>Paper 2:</b> Thematic studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Religion and Life: abortion, euthanasia, animal rights, the environment</li><li>• The existence of God and revelation: different arguments for and against the existence of God.</li><li>• Religion, crime and punishment: how and why people are punished, the death penalty, use of prisons.</li><li>• Religion, human rights and social justice: prejudice and discrimination, wealth and poverty.</li></ul>

**How you will be assessed:**

The Religious Studies course assesses you over two assessment objectives (AOs):

<b>AO1</b>	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and beliefs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beliefs, practices and sources of authority</li><li>• Influence on individuals, communities and societies</li><li>• Similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.</li></ul>
<b>AO2</b>	Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

<b>Paper 1:</b> The study of religions <b>Worth:</b> 50% of final grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam</li><li>• 96 marks plus 6 for spelling, punctuation and grammar</li><li>• Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.</li></ul>
<b>Paper 2:</b> Thematic studies <b>Worth:</b> 50% of final grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam</li><li>• 96 marks plus 6 for spelling, punctuation and grammar</li><li>• Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.</li></ul>

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Success in this qualification can give you the opportunity to study A Levels including RS as well as a range of different college courses. The skills gained through studying Religious Studies can be transferred to a vast range of different careers. In the past, this qualification has led on to careers in social work, law, education, medicine and journalism to name just a few. The skills and knowledge gained from this course are highly valued by both employers and higher education providers.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mrs Gibbs, Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning) & Mrs Rushworth, Head of Faculty (Humanities)

**Exam Board/Specification:** Edexcel GCSE Spanish

**Course Overview:** Taking this GCSE will give you the opportunity to develop your ability to communicate in Spanish in both speech and writing. You will study language within a variety of thematic contexts relevant to your interests and will develop a greater awareness of the culture of Spanish-speaking communities and countries. The qualification promotes culture, communication and connection with vocabulary and content that reflects and represents diverse student experiences.

The thematic contexts are:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

**You will:**

- Develop your ability to use Spanish for the purpose of spoken and written practical communication.
- Use Spanish in authentic situations and to understand both spoken and written sources (for example: radio announcements, signs, notices, newspaper articles, and letters from pen friends).
- Develop your skills across four language areas, speaking, listening, reading and writing are will be assessed at regular intervals at Foundation and Higher levels.

**How you will be assessed:**  
You are assessed at the end of Year 11 across the four key language skills

Paper 1: Speaking in Spanish	Paper 2: Listening	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing in Spanish
25% of the total qualification	25% of the total qualification	25% of the total qualification	25% of the total qualification
Internally conducted and externally assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundation tier: 7–9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time; 50 marks</li><li>• Higher tier: 10–12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time; 50 marks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundation tier: 45 minutes including 5 minutes reading time; 50 marks</li><li>• Higher tier: 60 minutes including 5 minutes reading time; 50 marks</li></ul>	<p>You are assessed on your understanding of written Spanish across a range of different types of texts.</p> <p>You are required to respond to multiple-response and short-answer questions based on these texts as well as a translation into English.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundation tier: 45 minutes; 50 marks.</li><li>• Higher tier: 1 hour; 50 marks</li></ul>	<p>You are assessed on your ability to communicate effectively through writing in Spanish for different purposes and audiences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes; 50 marks.</li><li>• Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes; 50 marks</li></ul>

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**  
GCSE Spanish provides access to advanced courses such as A Level Spanish. This can lead to a career in sport management, business and finance, marketing, law, travel and tourism, journalism, teaching and international business management.

**Additional information:**

- Languages is a tiered subject. This means you will either sit Foundation tier (where you can achieve GCSE Grades 1 to 5) or Higher tier (where you can achieve GCSE Grades 3 to 9).
- All four papers will be the same tier.
- Your Languages teachers will decide, based upon your academic progress, which tier you have the best chance of being successful on.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:** Mrs Naylor, Head of Faculty (Languages)



**Exam Board/Specification:** AQA GCSE Art & Design - Textile Design

**Course Overview:** Within component 1 (60% of the final grade) you will develop ideas through practical exploration of a wide variety of media and techniques. In component 2 (40% of the final grade) you will develop a unit of work produced in response to the your chosen start point from the AQA set assignment. These assignments are released to students in January of Year 11. Preparatory work takes place in lessons and at home in the run up to the silent and independent 10 hour exam.

**You will:**

- Be introduced to a wide range of media, processes and techniques from European and non-European countries, and from the past and present.
- Fully explore ideas and concepts through the media of textiles.
- Be given the option of working within the areas of art textiles, fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles, surface pattern, stitched or embellished textiles, soft furnishing and interiors, digital textiles and installed textiles.

**How you will be assessed:**

<b>Component 1:</b> Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 96 marks</li><li>• 60% of final grade</li></ul>
<b>Component 2:</b> Externally set assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 96 marks</li><li>• 40% of final grade</li></ul>

**Your component 1 & 2 will be marked according to how well you have shown evidence of:**

- Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions as work progresses
- Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

**What skills will you gain / How will it help you with your future choices?**

Studying Art & Design prepares you for onward study either at A Level at Parkside 6th Form or BTEC Level 3 and can lead to a huge range of careers and university courses. Past students have successfully gone into Graphic Design, Teaching, Architecture and Postgraduate studies in Fine Art, as well as Contour Fashion Design, Fashion marketing, Interior Design and careers involved in Surface Pattern.

**Additional information:** If you choose to study GCSE Textiles, you **can not** also choose to study GCSE Art.

**Who you can speak to find out more about the course:**

Mrs Stone, Head of Faculty (Art, Design and Technology) & Mrs Warnes (Textiles)