

WADEBRIDGE SCHOOL

Every day we aim to learn, improve and help others



Key Stage 4 Prospectus 2026

**A guide for Year 8 pupils choosing
subjects to study in Key Stage 4**



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Key Stage 4

Choosing your preferred option subjects

January 2026

Dear Student

Until now you have not been able to choose the subjects you study in school. That will change as you move into Year 9 and Key Stage 4. Although you have to continue with a core curriculum, you can also **express a preference** for up to three optional subjects. Expressing a preference for an option does **not guarantee** that you will be able to study it. What you take will also be influenced by your parents' preferences, the school's knowledge of you as a student and practical resource limitations.

It is important that you think carefully about your preferred options, as they can influence your choices when you finish school. For example, you may already intend to continue your education in a local college studying A levels, T Levels or other qualifications and the subjects you choose now could affect what courses you can undertake in 2029. Alternatively, you may want to begin training for a specific career, for example through an Apprenticeship, in which case you might benefit from choosing a vocational subject that can lead to further training in this area.

Government policy means almost all students will have to use one of their options to choose between History, Geography, French, Spanish, Separate Science or Computer Science. (see page 3). You can opt to study more than one of these subjects, if you wish. All our courses and qualifications are of relevance to future education, training and employment.

When thinking about which options you prefer, you need to think about a number of things:

- **What are your strengths and weaknesses and how do they match with the demands of the courses on offer?** For example, if you are very practical you might wish to take a subject where you get to use these skills more often, like DT; or if you feel you are stronger at coursework than exams, then you might be advised to take some Technical Award qualifications, which include more of this type of assessment.
- **What subjects have you enjoyed at Key Stage 3?** If you enjoy a subject, then you are likely to find it more motivating, which can improve your progress, as well as making your learning more enjoyable.
- **Is there a particular post 16 course, apprenticeship, or career you are interested in?** If so, you should check on any qualification requirements. Don't worry if you have no specific career ideas at this time. This is quite normal. In this situation you should aim for a breadth of qualifications that will keep your future options open.
- There is one thing that you must **NOT** think about and that is **what your friends are doing!** You are approaching an important stage of your life and you must think about what is best for you.

There is important information in this booklet to help you decide on your option preferences. Please discuss this with your parents and seek their advice. Additional guidance will be made available on our website, online via Curriculum Resources and through your tutors. You can also contact relevant subject leaders via email, or attend the **Options Evening on Wednesday 4th March 2026**. If you need it we can also arrange an appointment with our independent careers adviser, Ms Sue Willmott.

Your online option forms will need to be submitted by **Monday 30th March 2026** in order that we can start to build the timetable.

Yours sincerely

K Goodwin

Deputy Headteacher



Key Stage 4 Qualifications

The Government has certain qualification requirements at Key Stage 4. These are set out below.

Qualification Types

1. GCSE: General Certificate of Education.

- Graded 1 to 9, with 9 being the top grade.
- 100% written examination, apart from in practical subjects, like Art and Drama, where there is an element of controlled assessment (tasks completed under the supervision of the teacher).
- Exams take place at the end of the course (no modules).
- No exam tiers e.g. Higher/Foundation, except in Maths, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

2. Vocational Qualifications:

Vocational qualifications and Technical awards are alternatives national qualifications to GCSEs. They are:

- Equivalent in standard to one GCSE.
- Graded from Level 1 pass to Level 2 Distinction *
- Offer a more applied, skills-based learning route, with a greater emphasis on assessment through controlled assessment (up to 70%), although there will still be some external assessments, for example online tests.
- In most cases there are two opportunities to sit the external assessments (exams) with the best result counting in the final grade.
- Offered by established accreditation boards, such as BTEC, OCR, AQA and NCFE.

<i>GCSE</i>	<i>Vocational Qualification</i>
9	L2 Distinction*
8	(8.5)
7	L2 Distinction
6	L2 Merit (5.5)
5	
4	L2 Pass
3	L1 Distinction
2	L1 Merit
1	L1 Pass (1.25)
0	U

Qualification Grades

Department for Education Grade Classification

→ **GOOD PASS:** Grade 5 / Level 2 Merit and above

→ **AWARDING PASS:** Grade 4 / Level 2 Pass

Qualification Range

Core Subjects

The **Core** is made up of those subjects that all students must undertake:

English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Ethics Philosophy and Religion (E.P.R.), Physical Education (P.E.), Relationship, Sex & Health Education (R.S.H.E) & Careers Education.

English Baccalaureate (EBACC) Subjects

The **EBACC** is a group of academic subjects identified by the Government. Students **must take at least one** EBACC subject in their options choices:

Separate Science (additional to Core Science), Computer Science, Geography, History, French, Spanish

Open Choice Subjects

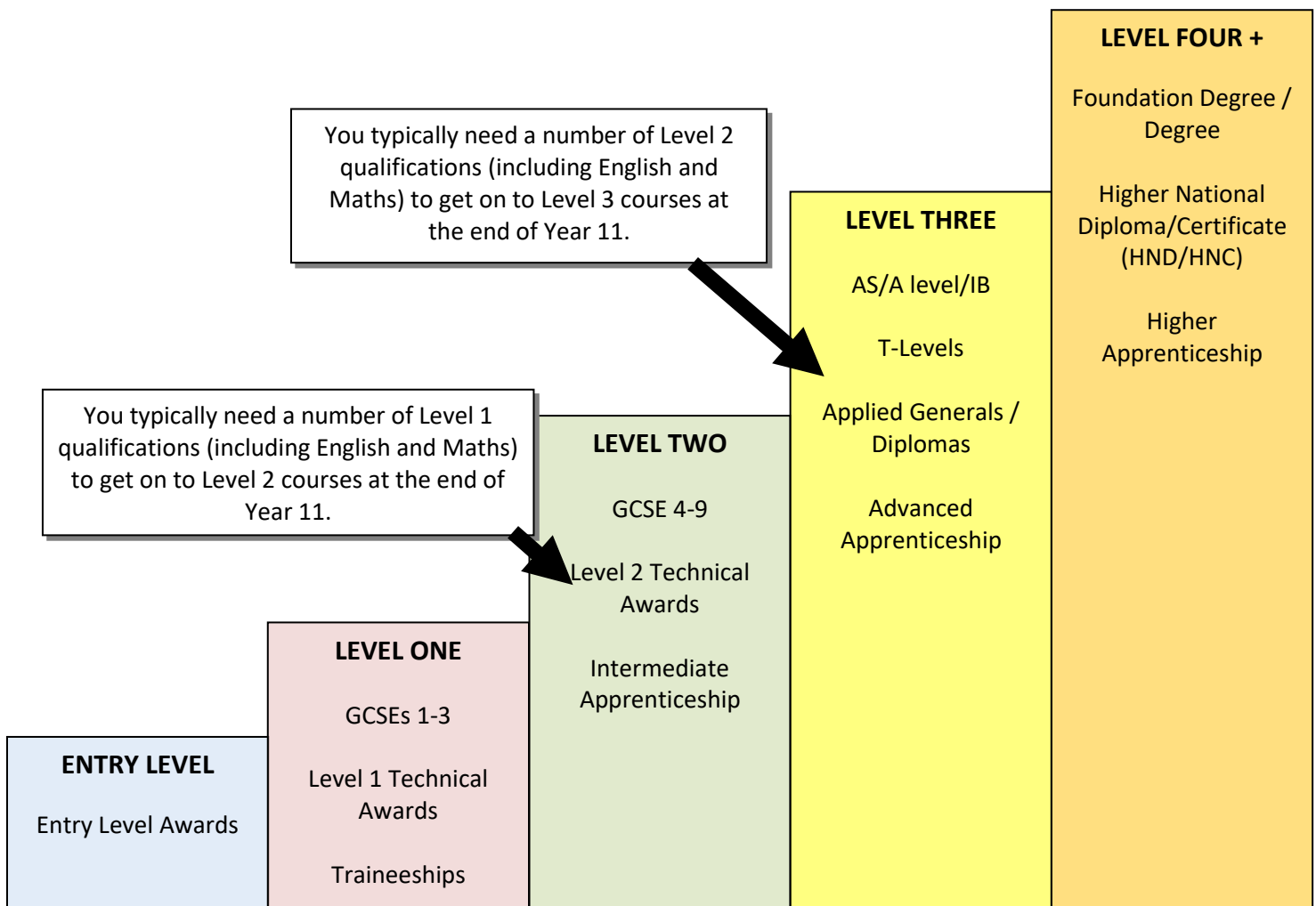
Open Choice subjects are a broad group of both academic and more applied curriculum areas. Students select **two open choice** subjects:

Art, Design Technology, Drama, Enterprise & Marketing, Health & Fitness, Hospitality & Catering, I-Media (I.T.), Music.

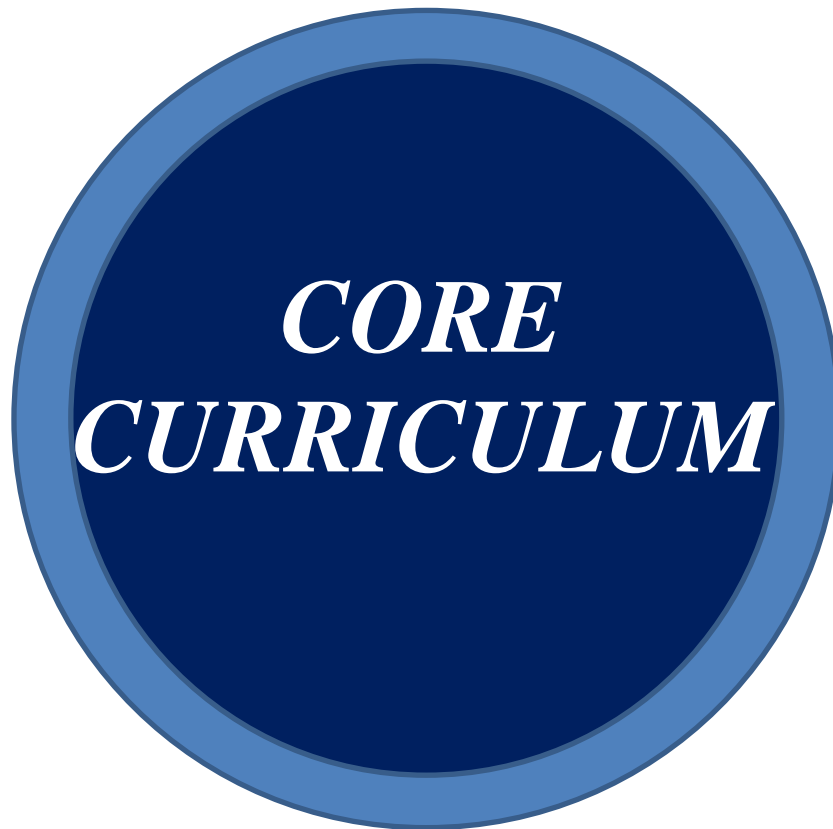
Students may include additional EBACC subjects within their three open choices

Qualification Levels

All qualifications in England, are given a level. These levels group together qualifications of similar challenge. Within any one level, there are a range of subjects and learning styles. All of our qualifications on offer at Key Stage Four offer the opportunity to achieve at Level One & Two. The levels, shown below, can help you see how one type of qualification can lead on to other, higher levels of qualifications.



Please note: The Government require students who does not achieve an “Awarding Pass” (Grade 4) in English or Maths at the end of Year 11 to retake these qualifications after 16.



The 'Core Curriculum' is made up of subjects and activities that everybody must study

English

Mathematics

Science

Ethics, Philosophy & Religion

Physical Education

Relationship, Sex and Health Education

Careers Education & Work Experience

The next few pages provide details of these subjects



GCSE English Language



Introduction

All pupils study GCSE English Language. It is a vital qualification allowing you to demonstrate your use of English in real-life situations. English is invaluable for your future, no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day – and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, **English is a ‘must have’ subject** for apprenticeships, college, university, work and life!

Exam Board

The examination board is EDUQAS. More details are available at: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-language-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

You will:

- Learn how to write for different audiences and purposes, for example to persuade, entertain or review.
- Read a range of non-fiction texts, such as newspaper articles, and recognise how writers ‘craft’ their ideas.
- Take part in a range of Speaking and Listening activities, culminating in an individual presentation.

How Will I Be Assessed?

- 100% examination at the **end of Year 11**.
- Paper 1 (40% of your final mark) has 2 sections: Reading (novel extract) and Writing (creative).
- Paper 2 (60% of your final mark) has 2 sections: Reading (non-fiction extracts) and Writing (2 tasks of a transactional nature i.e. persuasive /advice writing).

What Might GCSE English Language Lead To?

Success in this subject is vital for most career choices, not only will it provide you with crucial workplace skills, but it is also essential for the majority of post -16 courses. The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening underpin successful study at all levels, and a proficiency in them can also add immeasurably to an individual’s quality of life.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Mrs C Scott (cscott@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE English Literature



Introduction

English Literature, is taken by all pupils and is an exciting qualification. As well as equipping you with analytical and literacy skills required for employment and future study, it will help you to explore and gain an insight into a selection of the many fantastic works of written English. You will experience different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations and develop an understanding of the importance of English Literature to our culture and heritage.

Exam Board

The examination board is AQA. More details are available at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

You will:

- Learn how to read, study and appreciate novels, plays and poetry.
- Read novels, poetry and drama, including a text by Shakespeare, a modern play such as 'An Inspector Calls' and a novel from another era, usually 'A Christmas Carol'.
- Learn how to analyse texts and the ways in which writers get their messages across to their audience.
- Discover ways of evaluating and comparing texts.
- Look at the contexts in which literary works are written and see the effect that this has on the finished piece.

How Will I Be Assessed?

- 100% examination.
- Paper 1 (40%) focuses on Shakespeare 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'A Christmas Carol'
- Paper 2 (60%) is based on your reading of a **modern** play, the study of a poetry anthology and a question on a poem you haven't read before.

What Might GCSE English Literature Lead To?

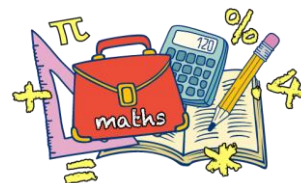
As well as leading to both English Literature and English Literature & Language A Levels, GCSE English Literature covers a wide range of skills required for other courses such as History, Philosophy and Law. It also gives skills required in everyday life such as the ability to read and understand complex texts, to write formally and to examine writers' viewpoints and biases.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Mrs C. Scott (cscott@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE Mathematics



Introduction

GCSE Mathematics is a crucial qualification for progression to college, apprenticeships and employment. Along with English, it is the most commonly required GCSE qualification on job adverts. Just as importantly however, the ability to use and manipulate numbers is a vital life skill. The importance of Mathematics is highlighted by the fact that the Government requires any student achieving below a Grade 4 at the end of Year 11 to continue studying this GCSE.

Exam Board

All pupils currently follow the AQA examination board specification. The final grade is awarded according to their overall success in three written examinations (there is no controlled assessment element to this course).

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300/specification>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

The course aims to develop positive attitudes towards mathematics by including a variety of learning activities, approaches and resources. Emphasis is placed upon improving and developing the pupils' individual skills of mathematical communication, problem solving and application.

Contents include: -

Number Work, Proportional Reasoning, Algebra, Measures, Shape and Space (Geometry and Trigonometry) and Handling Data (Probability and Statistics). Students follow courses suited to their mathematical potential by being grouped in ability sets – a natural continuation of the system used in Key Stage 3.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The written examinations consist of three papers. Each paper comprises one third of the final mark and will last 1 ½ hours. The first paper is designed to test the students' ability to apply their mathematical knowledge without the use of a calculator, whilst the second and third papers allow the use of a calculator to assist students.

For the written examinations at the end of the course an individual pupil is entered for one of the following two "tiers" to suit their ability level: (likely grades underlined).

Higher Tier GCSE: 9,8,7,6,5,4

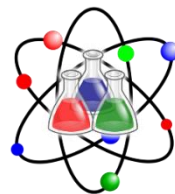
Foundation Tier GCSE: 5,4,3,2,1

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Ms S. Ladner (sladner@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE Combined Science



Introduction

GCSE Combined Science is a double GCSE taken by all students. It builds on the Key Stage 3 curriculum and covers the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Science at Key Stage 4. It encourages students to explore, explain, theorise and model in science and develops a critical approach to scientific evidence.

Exam Board

The exam board is AQA. More details including the full specification for GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) is available at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) is taught as 3 subjects:

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">• Energy• Electricity• Particle model of matter• Atomic structure• Forces• Waves• Magnetism & electromagnetism

- The Combined Science GCSE is examined by six 1 hour 15 min written exams, each of which is worth 16.7%. There are two exams on each subject Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- There are 21 required practicals delivered throughout the course. There will be questions relating to these practicals on the written exam papers.

What Might Combined Science GCSE Lead To?

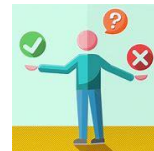
- GCSE Combined Science gives you a good grounding in Science. Success in GCSE Combined Science can provide access to AS/A2 Science courses, including Applied Science and Psychology. In the long term, if you decide to pursue your scientific studies, it can lead to an almost limitless number of job opportunities. Highly qualified scientists are very much in demand and their skills are required in many jobs.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Mrs J. Williams (jwilliams@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Ethics, Philosophy & Religion (GCSE R.S.)



Introduction / Why Study EPR?

“Employers like to know that applicants have thought a bit about themselves and their place in the world. They expect them to be able to work with a wide range of people– from all sorts of cultures – and to treat them all with courtesy and respect. They are looking for people who understand about beliefs and values, and have thought out their own attitudes with some care.” (Careers Information–Leaflet FAM2)

Exam Board

The examination board is AQA (Religious Studies A- GCSE code 8062). More details available at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

What Will I Study? / What Skills Will I Develop?

In Paper 1 students will explore the Christian and Buddhist religions in depth, looking at the key beliefs, teachings and practices in each faith. In Paper 2, students will study a range of contemporary social, moral and ethical issues. They will examine the teachings of different religions and worldviews, but will also be encouraged to express their own ideas and opinions. Issues discussed are very much up-to-date and in the news. For example, euthanasia - should we be allowed to die with dignity and respect? We discuss the right to die as well as the right to life.

- In **Year 9** students will look at the key beliefs, teachings and practices from Christianity and Buddhism.
- In **Years 10 and 11** students will study 4 ethical themes. These are Religion, Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Religion, Peace and Conflict and Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

The course will give students relevant skills for life and their future by equipping them with the ability to make moral and ethical decisions. It will help them to understand and appreciate different views and lifestyles to their own. Students also develop their critical thinking skills and their ability to structure and develop arguments with clear reasoning and supportive evidence.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is 100% written examination. Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 are assessed at the end of Year 11, with a 1 hour 45-minute exam paper for each. Each paper accounts for 50% of the full course marks.

What Might GCSE EPR Lead To?

EPR has never been more relevant, engaging and challenging. The subject will equip students with useful skills for the workplace, for example, an awareness of human rights and issues of discrimination. It links strongly into many areas of study – music, art, history, politics, social and cultural issues and global economics. The skills it develops make this a subject of academic standing and it is accepted by universities and colleges in its own right.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Miss H Johns. (hjohns@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Introduction

Physical Education - Core



Key Stage 4 students have a core PE programme of four hours a fortnight. Core PE helps pupils acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to participate successfully in, and enjoy, physical activities both now and in the future. We introduce a strand-based structure that allows pupils to choose the activities they want to develop. Throughout key stage 4 pupils fully engage in a framework underpinned by the National Curriculum which allows them to tackle increasingly complex and demanding activities, to development aspects personal fitness , all while promoting a healthy active lifestyle.

What Will I Study?

In Year 9 pupils continue to follow a compulsory PE programme in line with the National Curriculum Framework. In Years 10 & 11 students get to choose a preferred activity strand and within the programme there is an opportunity for pupils to complete the Sport Leaders UK qualification.

KS4 Curriculum Strands (from Year 10)

PERFORMANCE

This is a sport-based strand which offers the group the ability to continue to build their skill level within a more competitive environment. Lessons will be game focussed and aim to develop both skills and understanding of key tactics and strategies for improving performance.

LEADERSHIP and PERFORMANCE

The leadership strand allows pupils to achieve the Sports Leaders Level 2 award and engage with primary school activities to build communication and other employability skills. It also has a performance sport focus which allows pupils to develop skills and understanding of tactics and strategies to improve performance.

CREATIVE

The creative strand allows pupils to participate in activities that are more aesthetic and well-being focussed. Lessons will allow skill development in activities chosen as well as guiding learners to develop specific elements of fitness to improve aesthetic performance.

DEVELOPMENT

This strand looks at development of basic skills and elements of fitness without the focus on competition and sport. Lessons will centre around engagement and participation and build confidence to allow pursuit of a healthy active lifestyle.

What Skills Will I Develop?

Core PE programme will enable you to:

- Use increasingly advanced strategies and tactics of competitive play focussing on outwitting opponents;
- Improve your own performance by learning to recognise strengths and weaknesses in other players;
- Learn the rules of activities and understand how to apply them;
- Undertake a variety of roles: player, performer, coach and official;
- Plan and carry out a safe and effective health promoting programme of exercise;
- Co-operate with others in regular practice;
- Develop leadership skills;

Students also start to engage in more structured development of personal leadership and enterprise skills, with the emphasis on the role of coaches and officials. This can lead on to the Sports Leaders Level 1 qualification in Year 10.

What Qualifications Might I Gain?

There is no GCSE qualification attached to the core PE programme.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Mr Abbiss (Dabbiss@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Relationship, Sex and Health Education



Introduction

Relationship Sex and Health Education (RSHE) supports all aspects of life at Wadebridge School.

The Key Stage 4 programme aims to provide pupils with an abundance of opportunities to discuss and consider pertinent and relevant topics, important to their development into young adults. RSHE education is covered through timetabled lessons once a week for Year 10. During these lessons external agencies make an effective contribution bringing a wider range of expertise. Year 11 students receive one lesson a fortnight, focussed on preparing them for greater independence in a life beyond school. Topics such as conflict resolution, personal values and responsible choices aim to develop young adults with self-efficacy and the ability to make informed choices.

What Will I Study / How Will I Be Assessed?

There is no formal examination in RSHE. Students' understanding is assessed through in-class activities, peer and self-assessment. The subject covers the following topics:

Year 9

- Exploring Influence
- Drugs and Alcohol

Year 10

- Mental Health
- Healthy Relationships
- Exploring Influence
- Extremism and Radicalisation
- Career Choices

Year 11

- Building for the future
- Communication in relationships
- Independence
- Families
- Career Planning

The Key Stage 4 RSHE teaching team is made up of senior teachers and members of the senior leadership team. This supports the high status we place on RSHE education and its centrality to the vision and ethos of our school. Staff use a range of imaginative teaching strategies and the programme is constantly updated to respond to the issues that our students face.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Miss H. Pearson (Hpearson@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



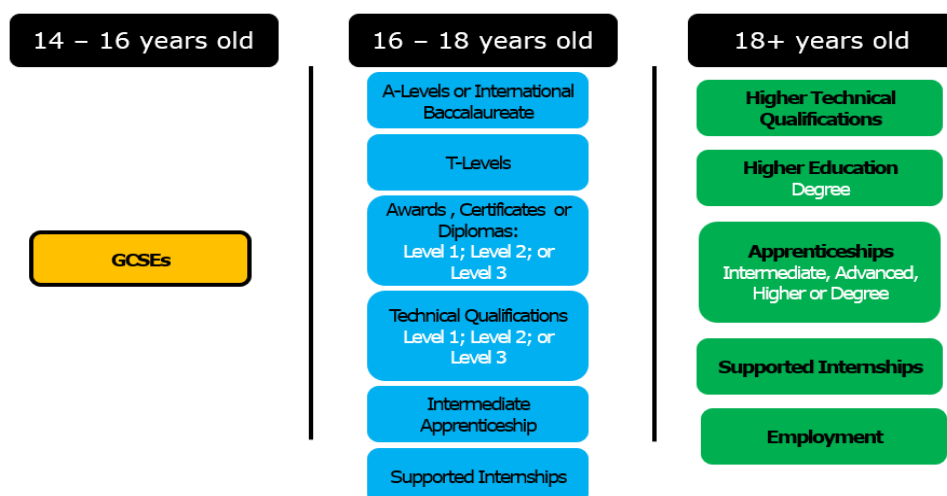
Careers Education



Introduction

From Year 7 you have been encouraged to think about the choices which are available to you after Year 11, from academic and applied qualifications such as A-levels and Diplomas to job related study such as T-Levels and Apprenticeships. You will continue to receive careers education, information, advice and guidance through your RSHE and tutor time programmes in Key Stage 4. There will also be visits to local colleges and visits from training providers to discuss different types of qualifications and training available at 16 years. Opportunities for work place experiences and activities with the local business community. Additional support and guidance are provided by our Careers Advisor, who is in school on a regular basis. The Careers Advisor can provide one-to-one advice where necessary.

Summary of post 16 options.



Careers Resources

College prospectuses can be found in tutor rooms and the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and you will be able to use this whenever it is open. There are lots of leaflets, magazines and books in the Careers office for you to research different careers and occupations. Additionally, on the school website there are links to relevant websites that can help you make decisions about the right courses for you:

<https://www.wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk/curriculum/careers>

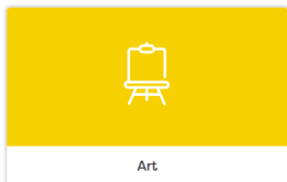
You can also ask see our independent Careers Advisor, Sue Willmott, from CrossRoads Careers:

[CrossRoadsCareersServices.](#)

Careers & Subject Choices

is an online resource with careers information and tools for students and parents. It is very informative, and we encourage you to use this to research the different options available at Key Stage 4. This link is great as a starting point: <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone>

The website also has information highlighting the opportunities each subject can lead to in the future, which you can access through this link: <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects> An example of the information available for individual subjects are shown below:



Or these you could try these



Art

 Add this to My Subjects

What you will learn on this page:

[Selection of jobs using the subject Art](#)



[Explore more jobs related to art](#)



[Examples of apprenticeships which relate to art:](#)



[Examples of vocational college courses that relate to art](#)



[Examples of degree courses that relate to art:](#)



[If you love this subject and want to take it forward what else can you do right now?](#)



All links are available from the school website. <https://www.wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk/curriculum/options>

Further Information

Subject area	Useful careers links
Cornwall Opportunities – Bespoke Careers Website for Cornwall and Plymouth.	https://www.cornwall-opportunities.co.uk/youth-hub/ https://www.cornwall-opportunities.co.uk/parent-hub/
i-Media (ICT), Computer Science.	https://techcornwall.co.uk/
Enterprise and Marketing	https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/business-and-administration
Hospitality and Catering	https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/catering-and-hospitality
French & Spanish	https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subject/languages
Geography	www.rgs.org/geography/choose-geography/
History	https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subject/history
Health & Fitness (PE)	https://careers-in-sport.co.uk/career_advice/
Health and Social Care	https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/ getintohealthandcare.co.uk/careers/nhs-staff/ Work experience Opportunities from year 10 onwards.
Separate Science: - Physics, Chemistry & Biology	www.stem.org.uk/secondary/careers/resources/science degreesandcareers.info/resources/stem-in-the-uk/ www.tomorrowseengineers.org.uk/careers-inspiration spacecareers.uk/home

Please contact Deputy Headteacher: Mr S. Simmonds (ssimmonds@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk) or Independent Careers Adviser: Ms S. Willmott (swillmott@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Work Experience



For many years, students in Year 10 have been involved in a work experience placement scheme which has established, and maintained, excellent links with very many of our local businesses and employers. This takes place for one week in July in Year 10.

Students are expected to find their own placement in Year 10. A database of employers who have been used previously is available as hard copy and, on the network, to help students with their choices.

Students are strongly discouraged from working with parents or in existing part-time/weekend jobs.

Further Information

Please contact Deputy Headteacher: Mr S. Simmonds (ssimmonds@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk), or
Work Experience Administrator: Mrs P. Stewart (pstewart@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



The English Baccalaureate options are made up of the optional Science, Language and Humanities subjects available in Key Stage Four at Wadebridge School

You need to select at least one Humanity AND one Language option to be able to achieve the English Baccalaureate

Science Options

- ***Computer Science***
- ***Separate Sciences***

Language Options

- ***French***
- ***Spanish***

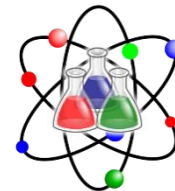
Humanities Options

- ***Geography***
- ***History***

The next few pages provide details of these subjects



GCSE Separate Sciences



Introduction / Why Study Separate Sciences?

This course is offered for students who wish to study for three GCSEs in Science. It is well suited to students who have demonstrated a keen interest and an aptitude for the subject in KS3. It should be noted that you do **NOT** have to take GCSE Separate Science in order to access A level Sciences.

This course encourages students to explore, explain, theorise and model in Science, developing a critical approach to scientific evidence. The course includes all the Combined Science content, as well as extra units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, leading to separate GCSEs in these subjects. Students **must take all three GCSEs if they take this option.**

Exam Board

The exam board is AQA. More details including the full specifications for GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics are available at:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461/specification>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463/specification>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

GCSE Biology:

- 4.1 Cell biology
- 4.2 Organisation
- 4.3 Infection and response
- 4.4 Bioenergetics

GCSE Chemistry

- 4.1 Atomic structure and the periodic table
- 4.2 Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- 4.3 Quantitative chemistry
- 4.4 Chemical changes

GCSE Physics

- 4.1 Forces
- 4.2 Energy
- 4.3 Waves
- 4.4 Electricity

GCSE Biology:

- 4.5 Homeostasis and response
- 4.6 Inheritance, variation and evolution
- 4.7 Ecology

GCSE Chemistry

- 4.6 The rate and extent of chemical change
- 4.7 Organic chemistry
- 4.8 Chemical analysis
- 4.9 Chemistry of the atmosphere
- 4.10 Using resources

GCSE Physics

- 4.5 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 4.6 Particle model of matter
- 4.7 Atomic structure
- 4.8 Space physics

How Will I Be Assessed?

- Biology, Chemistry & Physics GCSEs are each assessed by two 1hour 45 min written exams. Each exam is worth 50%
- Each GCSE has 8 required practicals that are delivered throughout the course. There will be questions relating to these practicals on the written exam papers.

What Might GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics Lead To?

Separate Sciences is an academic course. It provides an excellent choice if you are intending to study Science at Advance level and beyond. It also provides a good basis for future employment opportunities.

Further Information

- You should discuss the Separate Sciences pathway with your Science teacher, before requesting it as an option.
- You can also contact the Science Curriculum Area Leader: Mrs J. Williams (jwilliams@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE Computer Science



Introduction / Why Study GCSE Computer Science?

Computer Science is a modern and fascinating subject. The world depends on computers and in this GCSE, you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenge. When combined with other subjects it can open up a whole world of opportunities to future career paths in any industry.

Exam Board

The OCR exam board specification is available at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

Unit 1: Computers Systems

1. Systems architecture
2. Memory and storage
3. Computer Networks, connections and protocols
4. Network security
5. Systems Software
6. Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Unit 2: Computational Thinking

1. Algorithms
2. Programming fundamentals
3. Producing robust programs
4. Boolean logic
5. Programming language and Integrated Development Environments.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is assessed in 2 exams:

- **Unit 1 Exam (50%)** – A written exam at the end of Year 11, testing Computer systems knowledge.
- **Unit 2 Exam (50%)** – A Written exam at the end of year 11, testing Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

GCSE Computer Science focuses on one of the three strands of computing studied during Key Stage 3 computing. Pupils should be aware that while learning to use a programming language forms part of the course, it is their understanding of programming concepts and the topics listed above that they will be examined through written assessment

Given the wide range of study required, pupils will be expected to complete regular weekly homework to support their understanding.

What Might GCSE Computer Science Lead To?

The course will provide excellent progression to 'A' level Computer Science, vocational courses and degree level courses in the areas of Computing, Engineering and Science. The course provides the knowledge, skills and understanding that a growing number of employers are demanding.

Further Information

Please contact Subject lead teacher: Mrs D Robertson (drobertson@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE Geography



Introduction / Why Study Geography?

If you study Geography you will gain an understanding of how places and landscapes are formed, and how people and their environments interact. You will also consider the future and sustainability of our earth, which is becoming ever more important in a changing world where more and more pressure is being put on our resources.

Exam Board

The examination board is OCR Geography B (Geography for Enquiring Minds)

First Teach from September 2025 available at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/administration/support-and-tools/subject-updates/gcse-geography-b-update-736850/>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

You will follow a course which has a balance of both Physical and Human Geography and builds on the knowledge and skills you obtained at KS3.

- **There are three Topics linked to Physical Geography:** Weather Hazards and Changing Climate, Dynamic Landscapes (Rivers/Coasts/Tectonic Hazards) and Sustaining Ecosystems.
- **There are three Topics linked to Human Geography:** Urban Futures, Dynamic Development and Resource Reliance.
- **You will develop and learn specific Geographical Skills:** Geographical research and fieldwork, sustainable decision making & interpreting maps, data & photographs.

How Will I Be Assessed?

1. **Our Natural World (35%) – 1½ hour written paper.** The question paper has two sections on Physical Geography. Section A will have questions on the individual topic areas (above) and Section B will have questions on fieldwork and other geographical skills.
2. **People and Society (35%) – 1½ hour written paper.** The question paper has two sections on Human Geography. Section A will have questions on the individual topic areas (above) and Section B will have questions on fieldwork and other geographical skills.
3. **Geographical Exploration (30%) – 1½ hour written paper.** This question paper draws on the geographical knowledge, understanding and skills developed for Paper 1 and 2. It is synoptic meaning that students can show their understanding of connections between different elements of geography. It will also involve a decision-making exercise.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

You will need to show commitment and attend regularly. You should participate fully in all activities, including fieldwork, and aim to work to the best of your ability. You must be able to regularly meet deadlines and be determined to develop independence in the way you work. It is also important that you are willing to actively engage in independent homework beyond the lesson from the start of the course to help you prepare for assessments/trial exams and the final exams in Year 11.

What Might GCSE Geography Lead To?

GCSE Geography could lead you on to A Level Geography, which can be combined with a wide variety of subjects both in the 'sciences' and 'arts'. You may prefer vocational or diploma courses, where there is a natural link to Travel and Tourism. If you go into an apprenticeship, employers will recognise that Geography students have a range of useful skills and relevant knowledge. Geography involves a wide variety of skills helping to make you employable in the future.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Mr J. German (JGerman@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE History



Introduction / Why Study History?

If you study History, you will gain a wider understanding of the complex world in which we live through an awareness of how the world has changed. History has many links with the issues that affect us today.

Exam Board

The examination board is Eduqas. More details, including the specification, available at:
https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/history-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

You will follow a course that builds on some topics from KS3, whilst also adding new ones you have not studied before. Many of the skills developed in Key Stage 3 can be applied to your studies at GCSE. You will cover:

Component One

- **USA – a Nation of Contrasts 1910 – 1929** (including immigrant experience, US economic boom, organized crime, the Golden Age of Hollywood, changes in the status of women, the race issue in 1920s America).
- **The Elizabethan Age 1558-1603** (including Elizabeth I, Religious change, popular entertainment, the lives of the rich and poor and rebellions against Elizabeth).

Component Two

- **Germany 1919-1991** (including Germany in the 1920s, The rise of Hitler, impact of Nazism, impact of defeat in WW2, creation of East / West Germany, The Berlin Wall, life in East / West Germany, Re-unification of Germany).
- **Changes in Health and Medicine in Britain c500 – present day** (includes study of a nominated historic site).

How Will I Be Assessed?

- Component One (50%). Two, one hour written exams at the end of Year 11. Both the USA and Elizabethan elements will be assessed through compulsory questions focusing on the analysis and evaluation of sources.
- Component Two (50%). One written exam of 45 minutes on Germany 1919-1991 and one written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes on Changes to Health and Medicine in Britain. Both exams take place at the end of Year 11.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

You will need to show commitment. You should participate fully in all activities and be able to meet regular deadlines. GCSE History aims to develop communication, decision-making, analysis and individual research skills. These are important in the world of work and will be invaluable assets in any future career or area of study.

What Might GCSE History Lead To?

GCSE History provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of post-16 courses, including English, Business, Law, Politics, Sociology and Economics. History is very highly rated by employers because of the skills it encourages.

Further Information

Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Mrs L. Hill (LHill@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE Languages: French & Spanish



Introduction / Why Study a Modern Foreign Language?

French and Spanish give you the opportunity to expand your horizons and communicate with people in what is an increasingly globalised world. You will cover a range of practical, everyday topics which will allow you to make the most of holiday, employment and business opportunities in Cornwall, the UK or abroad. A useful skill for life, a language is relevant to any job and links well with business and tourism. A little language goes a long way and is easiest to learn when you are still young and many adults regret not being able to speak another language.

Exam Board

The exam board we are using is Edexcel and the new full specification, along with past papers can be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

The GCSE will build upon the topics and grammar covered in Years 7 and 8, but in greater depth and reflecting your maturity and individual interests. Topics include my personal world, lifestyle and well-being, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future and travel and tourism. Spoken work plays an important part in most lessons and you will have plenty of opportunity to talk with the Foreign Language Assistant and learn through games and activities. You will become skilled in problem solving and resilience.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be assessed at the end of Year 11 and each one is worth 25% of the final grade.

Paper 1 Speaking 25% 10 mins Read a text aloud, take part in a role play and describe a photo to your teacher followed by a conversation. Before the speaking assessment there is a 14 min preparation time.

Paper 2 Listening 25% 45-60 mins Multiple-choice, multiple-response and short answers with questions in English plus a dictation.

Paper 3 Reading 25% 45-60 mins has a variety of texts for reading comprehension and translation into English

Paper 4 Writing 25% 1hr 20 describe a photo, 2 writing tasks and translation into the foreign language.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

You will need to show commitment, perseverance and work to the best of your ability. You must be able to work independently and revise regularly. You will be expected to participate in all class activities and complete all homework and assessment preparation tasks thoroughly.

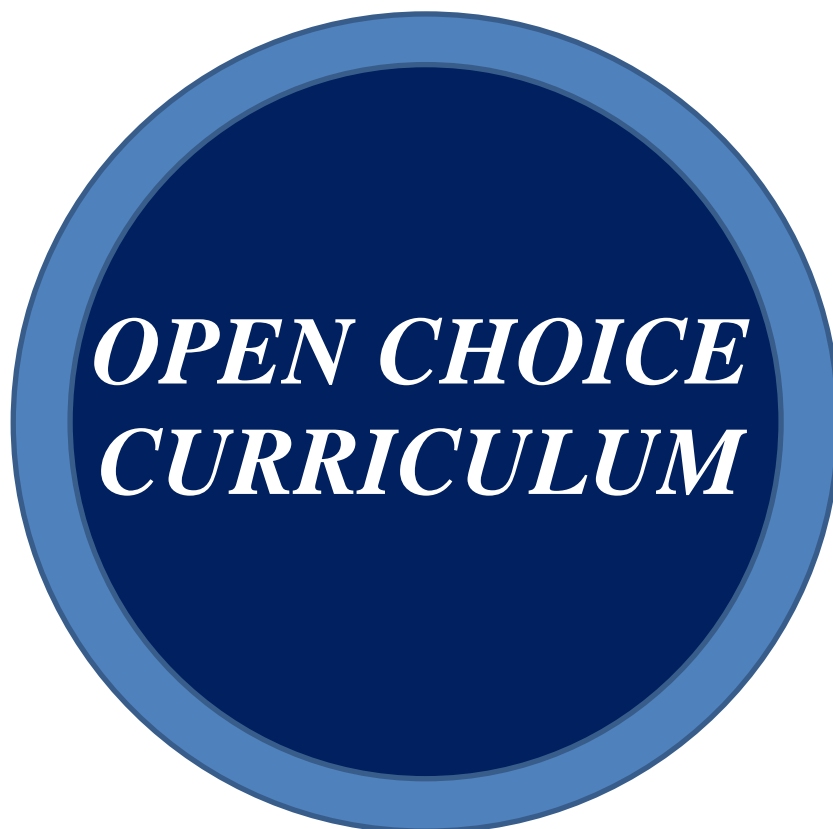
Trips abroad: recent GCSE trips have been to Seville, Paris and Morlaix.

What Might a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language Lead To?

As a highly useful subject, it can lead to increased chances of getting into university, a higher salary and wider employment opportunities later on as well as easier holidays abroad. A person with a language degree is the second most employable after medicine.

Further Information

- Please contact Curriculum Area Leader: Ms A Madec: Amadec@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk



Wadebridge School offers a wide range of subjects at Key Stage Four, in addition to those in the Core and the English Baccalaureate.

These are:

- ***GCSE Art & Design***
- ***Vocational Award Enterprise & Marketing***
- ***GCSE Design Technology***
- ***GCSE Drama***
- ***Vocational award Hospitality & Catering***
- ***Vocational Award i-Media (ICT)***
- ***GCSE Music***
- ***Technical Award Sport & Active Leisure***

The next few pages provide details of these subjects



GCSE Art & Design



Introduction / Why Study Art and Design?

GCSE Art and Design gives students the opportunity to actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design to develop self-confidence and become an effective and independent learner. This course provides a chance for students to explore their own artistic ideas in a supportive environment, having the freedom to many art, craft and design skills, materials and processes. Students will develop their creative thinking to understand how visual language is used to communicate personal ideas, meanings and responses.

Exam Board

We offer the OCR GCSE Art and Design (9-1) - J170-J176. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/art-and-design-j170-j176-from-2016/>

What Will I Study / How Will I Be Assessed?

The structure of the course will centre on building confidence and skills. Throughout the course there is a required focus on drawing as it is fundamental to the creative process in all art, craft and design disciplines. Students will work within the parameters of a set brief exploring a range of projects, learning how to explore, plan and prepare ideas which respond to a set theme. The overall GCSE consists of two components; Component 01: Portfolio (60% coursework task) and Component 02: Externally set task (40 % preparatory sketchbook and 10 hour scheduled exam). Students are expected to build a body of work and a final piece which responds to the set theme for each project. These projects will increase students' proficiency in handling a range of materials and to develop a range of contextual skills including how to analyse and evaluate their own and artists' work.

Assessment

AO1 – Develop is about developing ideas from a starting point to a final piece. This is done through mind-mapping, sketches and studies related to the work of other artists, designers and craftspeople.

AO2 – Refine is about refining your ideas through selecting and experimenting with appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 – Record is about recording your ideas, observations and insights. These can be visual, written and in other forms.

AO4 – Present is about presenting a personal, informed and meaningful response, from your initial research through to the final piece.

What Might GCSE Art and Design Lead To?

The fast-growing creative industries provide an exciting landscape for students of Art and Design. The valuable transferable skills which they will gain from GCSE Art and Design are sought after by many colleges, universities and creative industry leaders. The practical skills and the ability to solve problems and think creatively will be used throughout their life. At post-16, candidates could progress to a Level 3 Diploma, A level qualification in Art and Design or other related courses such as Media Studies & Photography. Career opportunities such as a practising artist, graphics or product designer, theatre, therapist or architect.

Further Information

Entry requirements: To be successful in this course it helps to have an excitement for art, an active imagination, a willingness to experiment and lots of enthusiasm. The Art and Design course provides students with opportunities to develop a wide range of transferable skills such as independent learning, time management and organisation.

- Further enquiries please contact Curriculum Area Leader
Ms E Bennett ebennett@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk



Vocational Award Business: Enterprise & Marketing



Introduction/ Why Study OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise & Marketing?

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to business that includes a vocational hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire learners about a career in enterprise and marketing. The qualification will appeal to learners who think they might want one day run their own business.

Exam Board

The examination board is OCR. More details, including the full specification (syllabus) available at:
<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/enterprise-and-marketing-level-1-2-j837>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

OCR Enterprise & Marketing is a modular course, made up of 3 units:

- **Enterprise and marketing concepts.** Learners will develop essential knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts. This is an examined unit.
- **Design a business proposal.** Learners will identify a customer profile for a specific product and complete market research to generate product design ideas. They will then use financial calculations to propose a pricing strategy and determine the viability of their product.
- **Market and pitch a business proposal.** Learners will develop the skills to create a brand identity and a promotional plan for their product proposal from Unit 2. They will develop their presentation skills in order to pitch their business proposal to an audience (similar to “Dragon’s Den”).

How Will I Be Assessed?

Portfolio evidence accounts for 60% of the final marks. For this element, students work on assignments, primarily producing written reports to support their ideas. There is also an exam covering all aspects of the course, accounting for the remaining 40% of the final marks. You have to achieve a Level 2 pass in the examined unit to pass the course at Level 2.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

OCR Enterprise and Marketing is a ‘hands on’, activities-based course with an emphasis on assessment through controlled assessment which must be completed under teacher supervision, meeting regular deadlines. This course focuses on applying Enterprise and Marketing rather than reviewing all business concepts.

What Might OCR Enterprise & Marketing Lead To?

With further training or study, students may progress into business related careers such as accounting, customer service, finance etc. The course provides an appropriate platform for study at Level 3 and is particularly appropriate for progression on to applied learning courses. For progression to traditional A levels the Level 2 OCR Cambridge National is best combined with a range of standard GCSE options.

Other Information

- For further details please contact Curriculum Area Leader Ms D Robertson
drobotson@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk



GCSE Design Technology



Introduction / Why Study Design and Technology:

Manufactured products are a part of your daily life. The ability to design and manufacture goods that appeal to consumers is essential for our country's economy and this sector offers a wealth of challenging and well-paid employment opportunities. Many iconic products such as Jaguar cars and Dyson vacuums have been conceived by British designers. Design Technology provides choice and flexibility in how you're able to extend your passion for designing and making products, as well as providing you with an understanding of how the modern world is developing technologically. Students studying GCSE DT will specialise in resistant materials, working with timber, polymers and metals.

Exam Board:

The examination board is AQA. More details, including the full specification available at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/design-and-technology/specifications/AQA-8552-SP-2017.PDF>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

You'll develop research and problem-solving skills, as well as your ability to work on your own initiative. You'll be able to communicate and work in a team to design and manufacture quality products that are fit for sale. In Year 9 and 10 you will design and make a range of products, developing skills in portfolio presentation. The exact projects to be undertaken are under continuous review, but current projects include:

- Ergonomically designed, custom bottle opener – using anthropometrics' to make a useful every day product.
- Pewter cast pendants and metal stamped tags, exploring the categorization of metals and how they are manufactured and processed. Using CAD / CAM to develop unique designs.
- Desk tidy – understanding wood working processes, jointing methods and making a bespoke client product.
- Anglepoise light - engineered from a range of materials such as timber, manufactured boards, concrete and polymers – based on the work of famous designers.

In the summer term of Year 10, the focus moves to the final NEA (Non-Examined Assessment). Students create a portfolio of work based on one of 3 contexts issued by AQA. This is the start point for students to develop their own project, researching, designing and creating a prototype product that fits a project brief.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Design Technology is 50% coursework and 50% exam. During the final four terms you will undertake the NEA project that contributes 50% of the final marks. The remaining 50% is for a 2-hour examination comprising a mix of short and extended answer questions on the core technical principles of DT, as well as specialist knowledge in Timber, Metals and Polymers.

What might GCSE DT lead to?

The design and practical skills that you develop during this course will enable you to go onto a wide range of employment opportunities. As well as providing direct access apprenticeships, it will open up a wide range of design and making related 'A' level courses. Subsequently this will support students in accessing a very wide spectrum of degree courses in the engineering, design and industrial management areas.

Further Information

- Further enquiries please contact Curriculum Area Leader, Miss G. Burrell
gburrell@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk



GCSE Drama



Introduction / Why Study GCSE Drama?

GCSE Drama is an exciting and varied course that covers a range of Performing Arts aspects and develops confidence, creativity and group work. It gives you an avenue to express yourself in a safe environment. It complements many other subjects and career choices by building a range of transferable skills.

Exam Board

The Exam board is Eduqas. The specification is available at:

http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/WJEC-Eduqas-GCSE-Drama-specification.pdf?language_id=1&dotcache=no&dotcache=refresh

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

Students will explore a range of topics and issues using a variety of dramatic techniques. They will study scripts from a range of playwrights and acquire the skills to devise original work. They will be involved in group and independent study developing their confidence and performance skills, having many opportunities to perform. Students will be offered a range of extra-curricular activities to participate in.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Students need to complete 3 units of work during the course:

Component 1. Devising. Coursework (40%)

- Create and develop a devised piece of drama from stimulus material.
- Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.
- Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance in a portfolio and written evaluation.

Component 2. Performance from a text. Coursework (20%)

- Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a script.
- Assessed by visiting examiner.

Component 3. Written Exam 1 hour 30. (40%)

- Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.
- Live theatre evaluation – free choice of production.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

On the course you will develop your confidence, communication and presentation skills. You will learn how to evaluate, reflect and develop a tool kit for acting. From the outset, **you will have to perform in front of each other** and later as the course develops, **perform in front of other classes, parents and the public**. You will be expected to meet deadlines and work effectively as a member of a team. An ability to learn independently, carry out research and good attendance are all important in the performing process. You will be expected to focus and stay on task during rehearsal time. You will be expected to study theory and write alongside practical work. There is a **significant amount of written work** in this qualification. You will **have at least one written lesson** a fortnight.

What Might GCSE Drama Lead To?

This course will help you develop a wide range of transferable skills of use in later life. It also provides a solid foundation for progression to Level 3, A Levels and employment in the Performing Arts sector.

Other Information

- You will explore the Performing Arts world through visiting practitioners, theatre companies and Arts organisations.
- For further details please contact Mrs Scott (cscott@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Technical Award – Health & Fitness (PE)



Introduction / Why Study examination PE?

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is designed for students with an interest in leading or learning about the benefits of having a healthy and active lifestyle. It provides learners with experience of using different training techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It also provides students with the opportunity to develop and experience their own fitness programme.

Exam Board

The Level 2 Certificate in Health and fitness is run by NCFE is a Technical Award equivalent to one GCSE. Details can be found at:

<https://www.qualhub.co.uk/qualification-search/qualification-detail/ncfe-level-12-technical-award-in-health-and-fitness-5159>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

The objectives of this qualification are to:

- Develop a broad understanding of the structure and function of body systems
- Identify the effects of health and fitness activities on the body
- Understand health and fitness and the components of fitness
- Apply the principles of training
- Understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness
- Test and develop components of fitness
- Apply health and fitness analysis and set goals
- Plan, develop and take part in a health and fitness programme and understand how to prepare safely

How Will I Be Assessed?

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is assessed over 1 unit, outlined below:

Unit 1:

Introduction to body systems and principles of training in health and fitness. **Written Exam. 40%**

Preparing and planning for health and fitness. **Synoptic Project (60%)**

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

When selecting examination PE, you are opting for the NCFE course. It would be beneficial for you to be committed to extra-curricular training & physical activity.

What Might examination PE Lead To?

The Level 2 Certificate in Health and Fitness gives a broad grounding in all areas of a healthy lifestyle and touches on the science behind movement, diet, motivation and influences on participation. It would aid anyone in any sporting field such as, performer, coach, official, physiotherapist, personal trainer or sport development officer

Further Information

- For further details please contact Curriculum Area Leader, Mr D.Abbiss (Dabbiss@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Vocational Award Hospitality & Catering



Introduction / Why Study Hospitality and Catering?

Hospitality and Catering is an exciting qualification. Through a mix of practical and investigative theory work you will develop the ability to plan and prepare balanced and innovative dishes for a range of target markets, as well as build an understanding of this rapidly expanding sector and the employment opportunities it offers. You will explore presentation and portioning skills to allow you to present dishes in a professional way and through research and independent planning tasks, gain an understanding of the key factors affecting a catering business. This is an invaluable qualification for those who may wish to progress into further education and a career within this expanding industry.

Exam Board

Details can be found at: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

The course provides opportunities to develop high level making skills alongside investigative theory work including the following:

• Nutrition and menu planning	• Types of service	• Packaging
• Customer acceptability	• Job roles	• Specialist equipment
• Portion control	• Culinary terms	• Safety and hygiene
• Presentation	• Costing and profit margins	• Legislation
• Cooking methods	• Environmental considerations	

How Will I Be Assessed?

Unit 1: 'The hospitality and Catering Industry' Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification worth 80 marks. Exam questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

Unit 2: 'Hospitality and catering in Action' Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification 120 marks. An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

In order to do well in this subject, you will need a genuine interest in the production of high quality, creative and beautifully presented food and a responsible as well as being prepared to learn about the industry and complete written tasks and investigations. You must be organised and ensure you are prepared to source your own ingredients when completing practical tasks.

What Might Hospitality and Catering Lead To?

There are many exciting avenues open to you if you enjoy working with food, from highly academic careers such as a food nutritionist to practical food preparation careers in the hospitality and catering industry. Cornwall is well known for both the quantity and quality of its catering businesses and the opportunities they offer.

Further Information

- For further details please contact Curriculum Area Leader, Miss G Burrell (gburrell@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Vocational Award Creative i-Media



Introduction / Why Study Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia provides candidates with a high quality, flexible, industry-relevant qualification. The hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use technology required in creative media. The qualification will encourage independence, creativity and an awareness of the digital media sector.

Exam Board

The current OCR specification is available at: [Cambridge Nationals - Creative iMedia Level 1/Level 2 - J834 - OCR](#)

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

The Creative iMedia course currently consists of 3 units and is equivalent to 1 GCSE. The units of study are:

- R093 – Creative iMedia in the media industry
- R094 – Visual identity and digital graphics
- R097 – Interactive digital media

Completing these units will enable students to:

Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations.

- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations. To think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely
- Develop skills used to design, plan and create digital media products that are appropriate for defined target audiences and meet client requirements.

How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is through a combination of coursework units and a written exam. The coursework units are internally assessed by the teaching staff, and then externally moderated by an OCR moderator.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

Creative iMedia is a more applied learning route, with assessment by coursework playing a large role in the final grade (60%), which must be completed under teacher supervision. This requires students be able to meet regular deadlines and have a willingness to work independently.

What Might GCSE Creative i-Media Lead To?

This specification has been designed so that students can progress onto Level 2 and Level 3 vocational qualifications including Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media and Information Technology, A Levels, T Levels or apprenticeships

Further Information

- For further details please contact the lead teacher, Mr J. Stoddard (jstoddard@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



GCSE Music



Introduction / Why Study Music?

By opting for GCSE Music you can learn to understand and appreciate a wide range of music, extend your own musical interests and increase your ability to make judgements about musical quality. You can develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to make music individually and with others; generate a life-long interest in music and develop life skills such as critical and creative thinking, artistic sensitivity and emotional and cultural awareness.

Exam Board

The exam board specification is available at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/music-j536-from-2016/>

What Will I Study / What Skills Will I Develop?

This is a modern and challenging course that will develop your skills in the key musical areas of performing, composing, listening and appraising.

How Will I Be Assessed?

The course is taught and assessed in 3 main sections:

- **Integrated Portfolio (30% of total GCSE)** – students must perform a solo piece of music on a chosen instrument/voice as well as write a composition to a brief chosen by the student.
- **Practical Component (30% of total GCSE)** – Students will perform a piece of music as part of an ensemble and compose a piece of music to a brief set by the exam board.
- **Listening and Appraising (40% of total GCSE)** – 1hr 30min written exam with CD. Listening questions based around the key concepts from the Areas of Study. These are: The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop.

Points to Consider When Selecting This Option

- For the **performance** element of the course you should be able to confidently do at least **one** of the following
 - **Perform an instrument or sing**
 - OR**
 - **Use software** such as Bandlab or Garageband to recreate well know pieces of music.
- For the composition element of the course you may choose to create music using notation, sequencing and audio software such as Bandlab, Sibelius, Noteflight or Garageband.
- Successful GCSE Music students need to be creative musicians. *You will have to **compose** music, **practise** and **perform** regularly in your class.*
- You will be expected to learn how to read music notation.

What Might GCSE Music Lead To?

This qualification will help prepare you for a wide range of post-16 study. If you are interested in a music career, this is a good starting point. Music is a major industry, offering many opportunities, with over 130,000 people employed full time in the UK. You may want to study Music for the love of it, or to pursue a musical career. There are jobs in teaching, music therapy, production, promotion, management, as well as composing and performance.

Further Information

- For further details please contact Curriculum Area Leader, Mr R.Williams (RWilliams@wadebridge.cornwall.sch.uk)



Example Options Form

The Year 8 Options will be collected using Microsoft Forms. We will send a link to the form you need to complete closer to the deadline in March, it will be sent to the students ws account not the parents or home email. There is an example of a form below for you see what you will have to do.

Year 8 Option Preferences 2025

- 1) You need to choose 3 preferred option subjects in Options A to C, plus 1 reserve subject.
- 2) You can only choose a subject once.
- 3) Please note that this is a preference form, we cannot guarantee to meet all of your first choices.

1. Please write your forename

Jenny

2. Please write your surname

Bloggs

3. Please select your tutor group

☐ 8 W

☐ 8 A

☐ 8 D

☐ 8 E

☐ 8 B

☐ 8 R

☒ 8 I

4. Option A: Please choose **one** from the following English baccalaureate subjects:

☐ Computer science

☐ French

☐ Geography

☒ History

☐ Separate Sciences

☐ Spanish

5. Option B: Please choose **one** from the following subjects:

- ☐ Art & Design
- ☐ Computer Science
- ☐ Design Technology
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Enterprise and Marketing
- ☒ French
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ Health and Fitness
- ☐ History
- ☐ Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ ICT i-media
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Separate Sciences
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Study Support (VS) Only tick if you have agreed this option with Mr Bateman

6. Option C: Please choose **one** from the following subjects:

- ☒ Art & Design
- ☐ Enterprise and Marketing
- ☐ Computer Science
- ☐ Design Technology
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ French
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ Health and Fitness
- ☐ History
- ☐ Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ ICT i-media
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Separate Sciences
- ☐ Spanish

7. Reserve choice: Please choose **one** from the following subjects:

- ☐ Art & Design
- ☐ Enterprise and Marketing
- ☐ Computer Science
- ☐ Design Technology
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ French
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ Health and Fitness
- ☐ History
- ☐ Hospitality and Catering
- ☐ ICT i-media
- ☒ Music
- ☐ Separate Sciences
- ☐ Spanish

8. Please put the name of the parent or guardian who is agreeing to these option choices

Sarah Bloggs