

YEAR 9 Hub

At The Hinckley School

2026 / 27

YOUR GUIDE TO KS4 OPTIONS

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



The Hinckley
SCHOOL



The
Futures
Trust

BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES



The Hinckley
SIXTH FORM

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HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME

Year after year we enjoy celebrating GCSE success with our students as they secure the grades to move onto the destinations of their choice at the end of Year 11. This milestone always fills me with great pride, as we see the young people we have watched grow and learn over the last five years follow their dreams.

I know how far away this milestone may seem to students reading this guide today, however, in reality, the next two years will go incredibly fast and it is important that you spend this time studying courses that are right for you and your future aspirations.

Year 10 and 11 are an important and demanding stage in a student's education, with GCSEs playing a vital role in achieving entry to the Sixth Form, college or apprenticeships, securing future industry roles and entering Higher Education.

At The Hinckley School we put students first and are committed to providing an expertly crafted GCSE curriculum which, alongside tailored careers guidance and expansive exam preparation, surrounds our students with support and removes barriers, enabling our students to reach their full potential.

We have worked hard to ensure that our GCSE curriculum for 2026 offers a broad range of opportunities and delivers high quality teaching and learning, with additional investment in staff development and facilities to allow us to confidently set our students up for success. This guide is designed to empower you in the decision making process and, alongside our Options Evening, give you all the information you need to make the best decision for you. Our specialist team are here to support you every step of the way and we look forward to celebrating your GCSE success at the end of Year 11.

Wishing you all the best with your decision,

Mrs Grocock, Head of School



AN EXPERTLY CRAFTED CURRICULUM DESIGNED TO CHALLENGE, INSPIRE AND CAPTIVATE THE MINDS OF OUR FUTURE LEADERS





CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum contains both core subjects, which are compulsory for all students, and optional subjects. All core subjects and three optional subjects are combined to form a students' individual programme of study.

Core Subjects - The high quality of teaching delivered in our core subjects creates a strong foundation of knowledge, ensuring students acquire essential skills in English, Mathematics and Science. Physical Education and Personal Development (both non-assessed) ensure that students develop character, relationships, teamwork, and essential life skills.

Optional Subjects - Alongside core subjects, and either History or Geography, optional subjects allow an avenue for students to study courses which reflect their individual abilities, interests and future aspirations. Students study two option subjects. Our optional course offer is reviewed annually as part of our ongoing commitment to providing outstanding opportunities for all and we have used our extensive expertise to craft a GCSE provision which offers broad range, outstanding opportunities and inspiring content.

Further Maths - Students will have the option to apply to study Further Maths as an additional afterschool option. This allows students who are both confident and highly able in maths to achieve an extra GCSE. This is in addition to their option courses.

<p>Core:</p> <p>English Language English Literature Mathematics Science Physical Education Personal Development & Careers (PDC)</p>
<p>Humanities Block:</p> <p>Geography History</p>
<p>Option Courses:</p> <p>Art, Craft & Design Computer Science Creative Imedia Dance Drama French Health & Social Care Hospitality & Catering Media Studies Music Physical Education Religious Studies Sociology Spanish Sports Studies Triple Science</p>

COURSE TYPES

Some subjects contain an element of Non Examined Assessment (previously known as coursework) which enables students to produce work of high quality without examination time pressures, as well as the freedom to conduct in depth exploratory research. All courses contain an element of examination, ensuring students develop the ability to focus under pressure, develop revision practices and promote knowledge retrieval. All students have different approaches to learning, so understanding the assessment breakdown of a course is important when it comes to decision making.

BTEC/TECHNICAL AWARD/OCR NATIONALS

These are vocational qualifications in which students can gain either a Level 1 or Level 2 qualification. These course types are assessed via coursework (maximum of 80%) and external assessment (minimum of 20%) set by the exam boards. They will be graded as follows:

Level 1 = Pass

Level 2 = Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction Star

Students can only submit each piece of work once, and every deadline must be met to pass the course. The BTEC qualifications we offer are at Level 2.

GCSE

Assessed by examinations and, in some subjects, an element of coursework. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course. Students are awarded grades 9-1.

NON-EXAMINED ASSESSMENT (NEA)

These are 'tasks' set by the exam board, marked by teachers and then moderated by the exam board. They assess skills such as research, processing, analysing and evaluating information and report writing.

WHICH COURSE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

STEM

STEM subjects are subjects within the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics. Careers within STEM are wide ranging and ever evolving and there is a national drive to promote STEM subjects as there is a great demand for employment in these sectors. Plans for our new STEM building underline our commitment to this sector, and we regularly host STEM enrichment and career events to develop students' understanding of the opportunities available.

STEM subjects are all clearly marked within this booklet.

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSESSMENT BREAKDOWN IS IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO DECISION MAKING.



HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO CHASE YOUR OWN DREAM

Building life long friendships is an important part of school life. However, when it comes to selecting GCSE options we recommend that you make your choices based on your own Interests and future goals.

Choosing a course based on your own passions shows confidence, maturity, independence and direction, qualities we strive to develop in all our students and attributes which will be highly prized by future employers and higher education providers.

Your choices shape your future, so make sure that they are right for you. Be confident in your own path; don't chase anyone else's dream.

Equally, it is important to not choose courses based on teacher preferences. The teachers teaching you next year may not be those you currently have.



CAREERS

At The Hinckley School, careers guidance is woven through our seven year journey to help students raise their aspirations and explore a wide range of future opportunities. Our aim is for students to become confident, independent decision makers who can plan realistic and ambitious pathways.

Through our Personal Development curriculum, students in Key Stage 3 have already begun thinking about their interests, strengths and future goals. Those with a clear career in mind can choose subjects that support that ambition, while those still exploring should select options that keep possibilities open.

As students move into Key Stage 4, careers education remains central. Our programme provides impartial, personalised guidance to help every learner achieve their potential. Students will experience an Options Evening, student led 'Options Mini Market' and assemblies, all designed to explain the courses available and the links to future careers.

Tutors, Subject Leaders and our experienced, in house Careers Advisor are available to support students one to one or in small groups as they make these important choices. We are committed to providing a fair, inclusive, and supportive environment where every student has access to high quality careers information and the opportunity to succeed.



The Hinckley SIXTH FORM

It may feel early to be thinking about post-16 pathways while you are still considering your KS4 Options. However, this is the ideal moment to reflect on how the subjects you choose now can shape your sixth form experience and future career direction.

Our Sixth Form offers a wide range of A Level and alternative qualifications with many of our KS4 students choosing to stay with us because of the strong relationships they develop with our KS5 specialists during their GCSE studies.

A VIBRANT STUDENT COMMUNITY

The Hinckley Sixth Form offers more than just a fresh start - it's a place where students come together to form a vibrant, inclusive and ambitious community. In 2025, our new Year 12 cohort brought together young people from over 10 different secondary schools from across Leicestershire.

Students choose us because of our outstanding support, academic excellence and university-style environment - but they stay because of the friendships, freedom and sense of belonging they find here.

UNIVERSITY STYLE FACILITIES

Our self-contained Sixth Form Centre will provide you with the mature, inspiring setting you need to thrive. With a dedicated study centre, laptop hubs, wi-fi, seminar rooms, balcony zone, computer suites, student kitchen, and café - with coffee shop style spaces, it will feel more like a campus than just classrooms.

With flexible study time, a bespoke access card to leave site after or between lessons, and access to top-class facilities, you will be empowered to work in the way that best suits you - learning essential life skills along the way.



Our Class of 2025 destinations included:

- University of Cambridge - Natural Science
- University of Newcastle - Sports and Exercise Science
- University of Manchester - Modern History and Politics
- Apprenticeship - Arrow Precision Engineering
- Manchester Metropolitan University - Fashion Design
- University of Cardiff - Biochemistry
- University of Newcastle - Economics
- Loughborough University - Graphic Design
- University of Leeds - International History and Politics
- Arizona State University - Business Analytics
- University of York - Physics with Astrophysics
- University of York - Electronic Engineering
- Apprenticeship - Finance
- Loughborough University - Mathematics
- The University of Warwick - Law
- Sheffield Hallam University - Psychology
- University of York - Cyber Security

ELITE-LEVEL PROVISION

The Hinckley Sixth Form is pleased to announce a new partnership with Coventry Rugby, providing students with the opportunity to combine high-quality post-16 study with an elite rugby programme delivered by Coventry Rugby Academy.



This partnership strengthens our commitment to supporting students across North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire to access both a strong academic environment and high-quality rugby development. This new pathway will offer students exceptional opportunities both on and off the pitch.

The 'Vicky Macqueen Rugby Academy for Girls' also cements our partnership with Hinckley Rugby Football Club, and strengthening our commitment to supporting the growth of girls' rugby in our community.



THE FUTURE STARTS WITH US

WWW.THEHINCKLEYSIXTHFORM.CO.UK

ADVICE & SUPPORT

We encourage students to read the information provided for all courses - even if they haven't previously considered studying the subject - as the progression routes and course content may open up a new avenue of opportunity that they had not previously considered.

While considering their option choices we also encourage students to capitalise on the support available to them inside and outside of school, by speaking to their Pastoral Leader, Subject Teachers, Subject Leaders, Careers Team and Parents/Carers.

The 'Have you Considered?' page in this guide is also a good place to start, it helps you to write down your current favourite subjects, interests outside of the classroom and future career ideas to help you make the best choices for you.

TIME-LINE OF EVENTS

Options Mini Market - Monday 23rd March 2026

During the morning of Monday 23rd March, students will have the opportunity to speak to Year 10 student ambassadors from each Option subject. Following preparation work with their Tutors, students will speak to their peers who are currently living the experience of studying the course. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, and should help them to further refine the subjects they want to speak to during Options Evening the following day.

Key Stage 4 Options Evening - Tuesday 24th March 2026, 5pm-6:30pm

The Options Evening will take place at The Hinckley School and will allow you to explore each option by talking to subject representatives. During the evening, a series of talks will share additional important information about the options process. The talk will be repeated at: 5:15pm, 5:45pm and 6:15pm.

Options Deadline - Monday 20th April 2026

This is the deadline for your final options choices to be submitted. This allows conversations to happen at home over Easter and allows students and parents/carers further opportunities to ask questions when we return after the break. Please note that we encourage option choices to be submitted prior to this date where possible, but options are not allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any enquiries please contact:
Year9Hub@thehinckleyschool.co.uk



IMPORTANT GUIDANCE

The deadline to complete and submit your options is: **Monday 20th April 2026**

HOW DO I SUBMIT MY OPTIONS?

- On the evening of Tuesday 24th March 2026, parents and carers of all Year 9 students will receive an email containing a link to the electronic options form and instructions on how to complete the options process.
- The online form should be submitted only once and should be completed by a parent or carer.
- The deadline for submitting options is Monday 20th April. If you make a mistake when submitting your form, please contact the Year 9 Hub Team.
- If you would prefer a paper copy, students can collect a paper form from the Year 9 office. Paper option forms should be returned to the Year 9 office before the deadline.

WHAT DO I NEED TO PUT ON THE FORM?

- Students must choose History or Geography from the Humanities Option Block.
- Students will be asked to rank their remaining top six option subject preferences. At the top should be their most preferred option subject.
- Once all options forms have been submitted, we will place the remaining subjects into option blocks. This helps us organise the blocks in a way that best matches students' preferences.

WHO CAN I TALK TO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

- If you have any questions, please access the support offered by your child's Tutor, Year Leader and Careers Advisor, as we endeavour to help all our students to make the right choices for their brighter future.

ARE THERE ANY COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

- Students wishing to take GCSE Computer Science should be confident in Mathematics.
- Students must have studied French/Spanish at KS3 to select this as an option in KS4.
- Students wishing to take GCSE PE, Music, Dance, or Art should carefully check the practical requirements of the course before choosing these subjects. It is advisable to also contact the relevant Head of Department.

CAN ANY COURSES NOT BE STUDIED TOGETHER?

- Please note that Vocational Sports Studies and GCSE Physical Education cannot be studied together. If students are interested in either of these options then they should discuss with the PE department which course is most suitable for them.

The subject specifications in this guide were correct at the time of printing. Please note that subject specifications can change at the discretion of the school. Every effort was made to ensure that the information contained in the Curriculum Guide was accurate at the time of publication. We will aim to run all courses described, but final decisions will be based on the number of students opting for each course.



HAVE YOU CONSIDERED?

Deciding on your KS4 Options may seem overwhelming, therefore we have put together a list of helpful starter questions to consider and discuss with your family. The answers to these questions will help you get an understanding of what you enjoy, how you learn and will help you to explore suitable courses for KS4 success.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE THREE SUBJECTS?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Are there KS4 courses which build and expand on similar topics?

Can you study these subjects at KS4?

What is it in particular about these course you enjoy? Are there any other KS4 courses which also feature these elements?

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL AND WHAT ENRICHMENT DO YOU LOVE?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

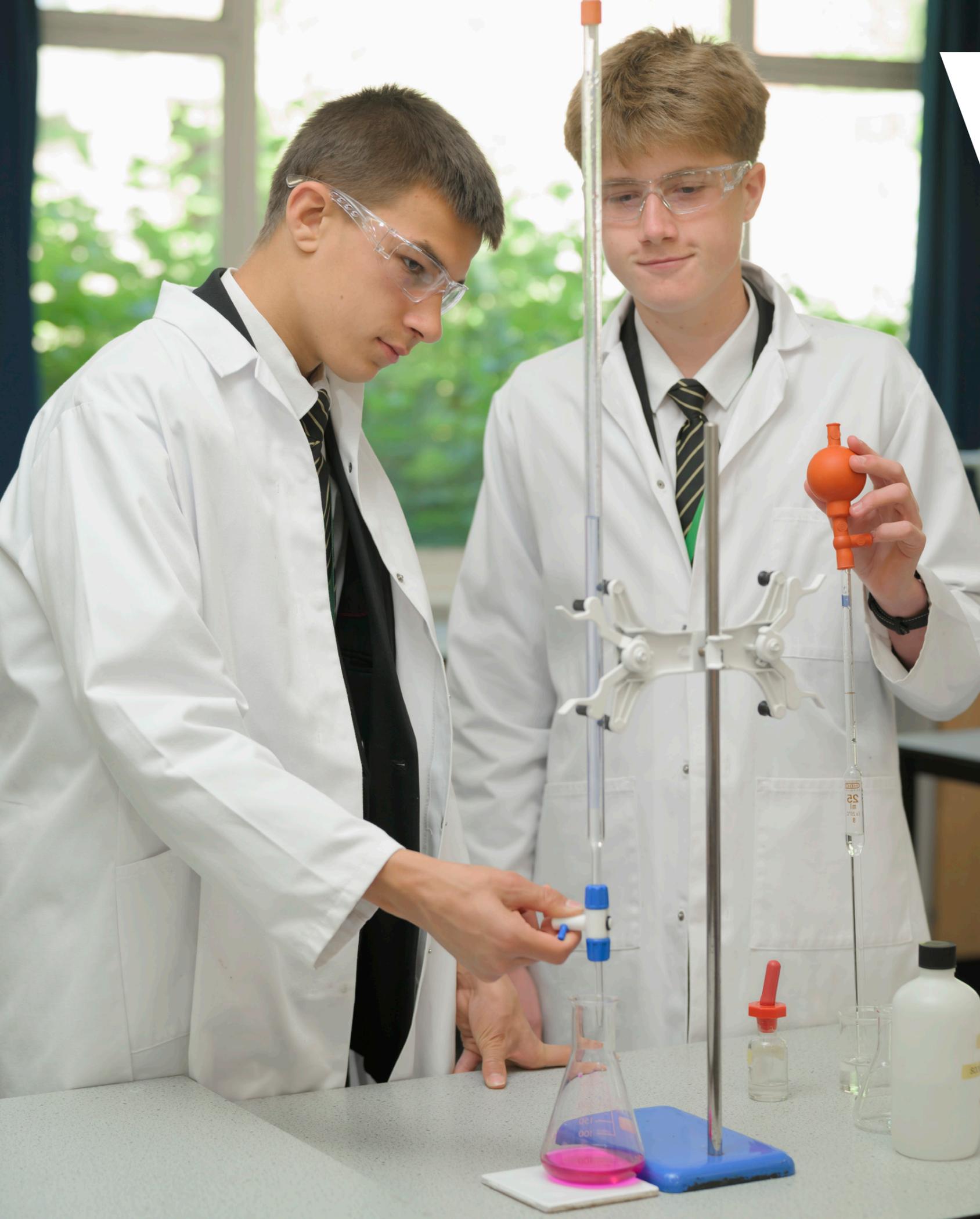
Is there a KS4 course which links to your interests outside of lessons?

For example, could your love of cinema lead to an interest in media, or the passion you have for baking at home mean Hospitality and Catering is an option?

WHAT CAREERS AND INDUSTRIES EXCITE YOU?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

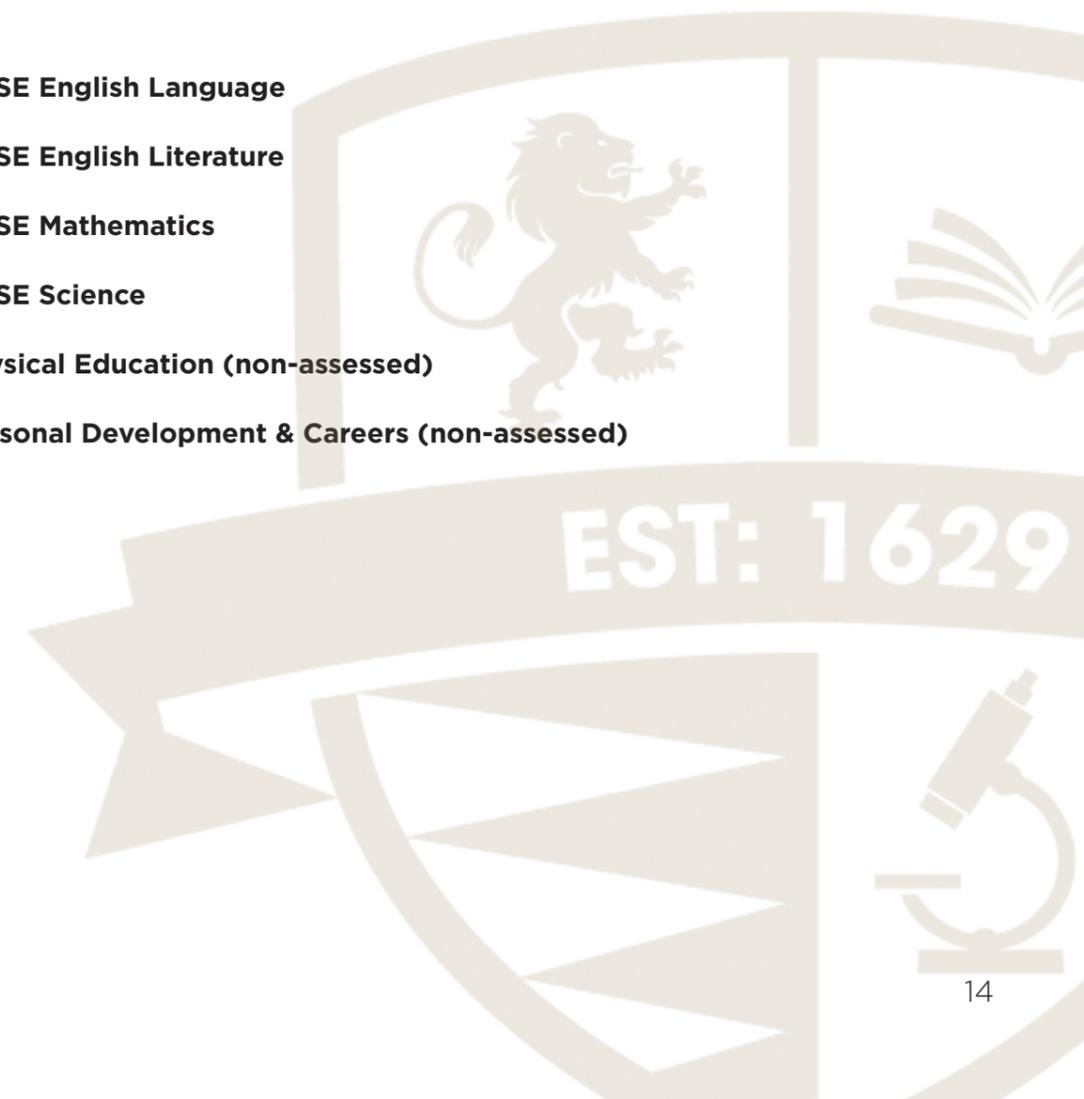
You don't need to know what career you dream of right away, but studying subjects which link to areas and industries of interest are always great starting points.



CORE SUBJECTS

Core subjects are the cornerstones of a student's education and courses that all learners must study at Key Stage 4.

- **GCSE English Language**
- **GCSE English Literature**
- **GCSE Mathematics**
- **GCSE Science**
- **Physical Education (non-assessed)**
- **Personal Development & Careers (non-assessed)**



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

There are two GCSE qualifications in English: English Language and English Literature. All students will study both GCSEs as most employers and colleges look for good grades in English and Maths.

Students will read a wide range of literature, across many time periods and from a diverse selection of writers. They will explore both fiction and non-fiction, developing their analysis skills in order to consider a writer's use of particular devices, to identify bias, and to place a text in its context. Students will become confident with identifying and using various literary devices, and consider the effects of the writers' choices carefully. They will be taught how to write for a range of audiences, both formal and informal, including newspaper reports, analytical essays, speeches and short stories.

What does the English Language course involve?

Students will complete two examinations at the end of Year 11 that will test their reading and writing skills equally. They will be taught to confidently summarise, analyse, evaluate and compare both fiction and non-fiction texts, ranging from the 19th to the 21st century. Students will also be asked to demonstrate their skills in writing, in both creative and transactional pieces.

What about assessments and exams?

The course is 100% examination.

Exam 1: Written paper: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, 1 hour 45 minutes, Year 11, 50% of assessment.

Exam 2: Written paper: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives, 1 hour 45 minutes, Year 11, 50% of assessment.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Mastery of English Language is an essential and useful skill for all careers, as it helps you to develop important analysis and written communication skills. Most employers will say they want people with good English skills. If you are creative and analytical there is a huge range of different careers open to you.

You can study A Level courses at The Hinckley Sixth Form or other providers following your GCSE studies. Many students decide to continue their studies into Year 12 through our Linguistics course, allowing them to explore the use of English Language in more depth. Studying Linguistics and English Language provides access to all pathways in Further and Higher education.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

There are two GCSE qualifications in English: English Language and English Literature. All students will study both. Most employers and colleges look for good grades in English and Maths. Courses based on this specification encourage students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

What does the course involve?

You will complete two examinations that focus on a wide variety of literature – a modern drama or prose, a 19th-century novel, a cluster of poetry and a Shakespeare play. You will also be asked to engage and respond to unseen poetry and drama in the exam.

What about assessments and exams?

100% examination.

Exam 1: Written paper (1 hour, 45 minutes): Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel, to be taken at the end of Year 11 – 50% of assessment.

Exam 2: Written paper (2 hours, 15 minutes): Modern texts and poetry, to be taken at the end of Year 11 – 50% of assessment.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Mastery of English Language is an essential and useful skill for all careers, as it helps you to develop important analysis and written communication skills. Most employers will say they want people with good English skills. If you are creative and analytical there is a huge range of different careers open to you.

You can study A Level courses at The Hinckley Sixth Form or other providers following your GCSE studies. Many students decide to continue their studies into Year 12 through our Linguistics course, allowing them to explore the use of English Language in more depth. Studying Linguistics and English Language provides access to all pathways in Further and Higher education.



MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: Pearson

What does the course involve?

This linear course leads to a single GCSE qualification. In this course you will be taught knowledge, skills and understanding through mental and written calculations, discussion work, practical activities and solving problems.

DID YOU KNOW...

Students can also study **Further Mathematics** as an additional twilight course. Further Mathematics allows students to explore more advanced topics and **gain an additional GCSE.**

Number Working with numbers and the number system. Fractions, decimals and percentages. Measures and accuracy.	Algebra Expressions and equations. Sequences and linear functions. Graphical methods. Solving problems with algebra.	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change Use of scale factor. Divide or share in a specific ration. Compound measures (speed, density). Solve problems involving direct and inverse proportion.
Statistics and Probability The data handling cycle. Data collection. Data presentation and analysis. Data interpretation. Probability.	Geometry and Measures Properties of angles and shapes. Geometrical reasoning and calculation. Measures and construction. Mensuration and calculation.	

What about assessments and exams?

The course is 100% examination.

Three Externally Assessed Exams:

- All 3 exam papers are one hour and 30 minutes.
- All content is covered on each exam paper.
- Each exam paper will have a range of questions.
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator exam paper.
- Paper 2 and Paper 3 allow the use of calculators.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Students who are high achievers in Mathematics will have the opportunity to attend a twilight session (once a week) after school to gain an additional GCSE in the Level 2 Further Maths GCSE. This mathematics

qualification is taken alongside the standard GCSE Maths, and it covers more advanced topics like algebraic proof, matrices, trigonometric identities, and calculus to help prepare students for A Level Mathematics.

After completing your GCSE you will be able to move on to Level 3 to study A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics at The Hinckley Sixth Form or other providers. GCSE Mathematics also provides access to all pathways in Further and Higher education.

Having a good foundation in Maths can develop a wide range of different skills, including problems solving, data analysis, attention to detail and communication. These skills can help towards careers in Accountancy, Engineering, Cyber Intelligence, Data Science and Software Developing, as well as a wealth of opportunities in Finance including careers as a Financial Adviser, Investment Analyst, Economist or Stockbroker.

SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE Combined Science
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

The course is taught within the core curriculum and leads to two GCSE grades. It provides a balanced study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics without the additional content required for Triple Science. Students who take Combined Science can still progress to A Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics in the Sixth Form.

Is this course right for you?

Combined Science is ideal for students who prefer to study a broad range of subjects in Years 10 and 11, or who feel that Science is not their strongest or favourite subject. It offers a solid foundation in all three sciences while keeping the overall content manageable. Combined Science counts towards the EBacc and supports progression to Sixth Form Science courses and Science related careers.

What does the course involve?

Students study an equal mix of Biology, Chemistry and Physics across the two GCSE years. Lessons include:

- Developing core scientific knowledge and learning how to apply it in different contexts.
- Carrying out practical work accurately and learning how to record and report findings using correct scientific methods.
- Exploring current scientific and technological developments and evaluating their benefits and limitations.
- Learning how to select, organise and present information clearly using appropriate scientific terminology.

What about assessments and exams?

Assessment is 100% examination. Students sit:

- Six exam papers in total: two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- 21 Required Practical Activities (7 Biology, 6 Chemistry, 8 Physics).

Understanding of these Required Practicals is assessed through written questions in the final examinations

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Students who succeed in Combined Science are well prepared to study A Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics at The Hinckley Sixth Form. The qualification also supports progression to a wide range of Science courses in further education and to Science based careers.

Studying Combined Science provides a broad grounding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, opening pathways into fields such as research, medicine, engineering, education, technology and the business sector. As scientific and technological innovation continues to grow, there is a consistently high demand for skilled scientists.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why is PE so important?

Physical Education not only helps to improve fitness levels, it also teaches students about healthy lifestyles. Lessons ensure students develop confidence and improve social skills such as communication and team work through fun interactive activities, many of which students go on to explore through extra curricular sessions and enjoy as life long hobbies. This pathway is not assessed, it is purely for health benefits and enjoyment.

What does the course involve?

Students will get to enjoy participating in a wide variety of activities including:

- Football
- Badminton
- Circuits
- Basketball
- American Football
- Trampolining
- Athletics
- Yoga
- Netball
- Fitness
- Boxercise
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Cornhole

Do I have to do PE if I don't like sport?

Yes. There are many different activities for you to try between multiple disciplines, but all aimed at creating a breadth in which you will hopefully find an activity to carry on with in the future and help promote and/or maintain a healthy lifestyle. Participation in sporting activities promotes mental as well as physical health.

What will we do?

A wide variety of activities, some competitive, some recreational, indoor and outdoor, class and fitness based sessions. There is something for everyone.

Can I come to extra-curricular clubs?

Everyone is welcome to attend the many extra-curricular clubs and teams that are run at The Hinckley School, both at lunch time and after school. Displays on the PE noticeboards and our regular enrichment flyers give details of all activities, clubs and teams on offer.

What happens if I am injured?

If you are unable to take part in a normal lesson you will be asked to take an active role in coaching or officiating within the lesson. A note from parents or carers is needed to validate injury or illness.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & CAREERS

This non-assessed course is for everyone and is part of the Personal Development and Careers curriculum. It is largely delivered by tutors, and other expert staff and guests, through daily lessons and assemblies. It is an opportunity to focus on personal development and to prepare for your future.

All students take part in PDC lessons. It is a time to focus on you, your well-being, your future goals and how to deal with the many challenges that life throws at us. You will develop your interpersonal skills and understanding of matters that affect your life within school and beyond. You will be given the knowledge, skills and support to help you to achieve academically and to make informed choices in your personal life.

Developing communication skills is vital in all aspects of your present and future life. Personal

Development sessions will be underpinned by the development of formal communication, which will have a positive impact on the rest of the curriculum and life beyond school.

What does the course involve?

The Personal Development programme is delivered through the three strands of:

- Living in and contributing to the wider world
- Being a productive citizen
- Living a safe and healthy life

In Years 10 and 11 there is a clear focus on study skills, managing pressure and next steps and careers to help you get through your time as successfully as possible and leave KS4 on track for your future.

Personal Development also incorporates the compulsory requirements of Relationship, Sex and Health (RSHE) Education.

What about assessments and exams?

There are no exams. You will get to participate in a range of activities and opportunities throughout the year and get constant feedback and support to enable you to develop and succeed.

Progression opportunities

PDC includes exploring real world issues and therefore links to many other subject areas, including Science, Law, Politics, Geography, History, Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, Economics and Business Studies. It also encourages you to become an inspirational role model to our younger pupils.

HUMANITIES OPTION BLOCK

Students must choose to study one of the Humanities courses listed below.

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

GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

The GCSE Course will provide you with a clear overall view of the world in the first part of the twenty first century. You will study a wide range of physical and human geography topics which will allow you to develop an understanding of global citizenship and a sense of place and appreciation of the environment.

This course is for you if:

- You enjoy participating in discussions and debates.
- You would like to acquire skills and techniques to conduct a Geographical enquiry.
- You would like to acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places from local to global.
- You would like to learn how to communicate your ideas and opinions.
- You would like to undertake fieldwork and have opportunities to visit places around the world.

What does the course involve?

Living with the Physical Environment

Section A: Challenge of Natural Hazards (tectonic, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK, climate change).

Section B: The Living World

(ecosystems, tropical rainforests, one from: hot deserts and cold environments).

Section C: Physical Landscapes in the UK

Challenge in the Human Environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenge
Section B: The changing economic world
Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical Applications

Section A: Issues evaluation – using pre-release material.
Section B: Fieldwork

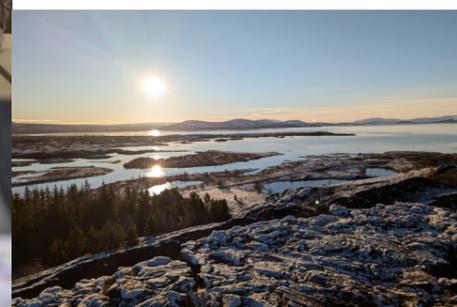
What about assessments and exams?

100% examination. All three examinations (physical geography, human geography and geographical applications involving questions related to local fieldwork and pre-release) are at the end of Year 11, all one hour and 30 minutes long and each is worth 1/3 of the GCSE.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

The GCSE enables you to gain a better understanding of the world and the major issues affecting it today. It lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Geography or related subjects at The Hinckley Sixth Form and other providers including apprenticeships, college courses and places of work. In addition, it provides you with a diverse background in terms of general education and lifelong learning.

Geography is highly regarded by employers as it shows that you have developed a good knowledge base and are proficient at learning skills. Universities are prepared to count Geography as a Science or as a Humanities subject, making it flexible and a very useful qualification.



HISTORY

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: Pearson Edexcel

“ Those who learn nothing about history are forever doomed to repeat it. ”

- George Santayana

If you constantly ask ‘Why?’ this is the course for you. History is key to understanding why we live like we do, why our country is run like it is, why we have the laws and freedoms we do and why people and countries across the world are so different. It teaches us to look for evidence to support what we say and challenges us to look beyond our communities into the wider world. We will see similarities and differences and be able to make links and track changes. It will show us the creation of the 21st Century world we live in.

Is the course right for you?

GCSE History encourages you to explore modern and early modern History, with a focus on breadth and depth studies. History requires you to think critically about the period you are studying and to make inferences into the variety of different sources that will be made available to you. GCSE History will require you to use a variety of skills, such as evaluation and judgment to engage with written work and exam answers.

What does the course cover?

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991
- Medicine in Britain, c.1250—present, including the Historic Environment: The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: Injuries, treatment and trenches.
- Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509-40

What about assessments and exams?

100% examination – three examination papers are taken at the end of Year 11. All content will be taught during lessons and there will be a variety of opportunities to engage in Masterclasses, Intervention and Homework to explore a wider depth of knowledge.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Employers value potential employees with GCSE History because of the wide range of skills they learn and develop, such as their ability to work both individually and as part of a team, problem solve and make judgements over challenging situations, ability to reason and commitment to research.

GCSE History can be used as a solid pathway to A-level courses and apprenticeships such as History, Law, Economics, Politics, Accounting, Business, English Literature, Marketing, Philosophy, Education, Sociology, Nursing, Journalism, Music, Creative writing, Anthropology, Classics, Psychology and Architecture.

In a career, GCSE History is good preparation for work in Law, Journalism, Politics, Teaching, Police, Media, Social Work, Engineering and Nursing.



OPTION COURSES

Students should rank order their top six course choices from the list below (most preferred at the top) from which they will be allocated two subjects to study. Information on how courses are allocated is available during the talks at Options Evening.

- **Art, Craft & Design**
- **Computer Science**
- **Creative Media**
- **Dance**
- **Drama**
- **French**
- **Health & Social Care**
- **Hospitality & Catering**
- **Media Studies**
- **Music**
- **Physical Education**
- **Religious Studies**
- **Sociology**
- **Spanish**
- **Sports Studies**
- **Triple Science**

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Is this course right for you?

You must enter the course with a strong and confident ability to record and observe a variety of subjects with technical accuracy. This will allow you to record your initial ideas and intentions before spending time investigating a range of contextual sources to inform the creative exploration and application of a broad range of materials, techniques and processes that include; drawing and painting, photography and printmaking. As such you must be inquisitive and innovative in your sampling, demonstrating resilience and an ability to refine your work when obstacles are encountered. As well as producing visually and aesthetically pleasing results, challenge is demonstrated in your ability to convey narrative through the selection of visual elements within each outcome and therefore you should strive to be a story teller through your art work.

Students can create their coursework through two or more of the following areas, with more confident students fusing together elements from each of these specialist areas:

Fine Art (Drawing, Painting & Printmaking, Photography (Traditional, Digital, Editing & Digital Drawing), Graphic Design and Illustration (Advertising and Branding, Typography & Package Design), 3D Design (Ceramics, Architecture, & Jewellery Design), Textiles (Surface Pattern, Printing and Dyeing, Fashion Design & Illustration)

What does the course involve?

You will work towards achieving this GCSE qualification by completing two extended units of coursework and one unit which is externally set and assessed by the exam board. Project themes include:

- Utopia & Dystopia (Landscapes and/ or Architecture)
- Literature (Portraiture and Figurative)

What about assessments and exams?

All portfolio and externally set work is evaluated against four Assessment Objectives:

- AO1—Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- AO2—Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3—Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to your intentions.
- AO4—Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

What about assessments and exams?

Unit 1 Coursework 60% - You will be taught how to use the assessment objectives to apply a methodical approach to the construction of a project, identifying suitable evidence and how it should be presented. You will also complete a range of practical workshops to introduce you to a diverse range of materials and techniques that can be utilised in up-coming projects and your externally set assignment.

Unit 2 Externally-set Assignment 40% - You will be provided with a number of Starting Points (themes) by AQA to independently choose from. A preparatory period will enable you to investigate, generate and refine your ideas before producing a concluding final piece in a 10 hour controlled period.

Progression opportunities

You will be able to progress to study A Level Art/ Photography at The Hinckley Sixth Form. Many of our students then embark on degree level courses in a broad range of areas including; media and journalism, communication and new technologies alongside other art and design courses. Employers and university admission tutors seek students who demonstrate transferable skills including research, investigation, analysis, idea generation and reflection which are directly linked to the objectives and requirements of students who study our Art and Design course.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: OCR

Is this course right for you?

GCSE Computer Science is a highly recognised qualification that teaches logical and computational thinking through an introduction to computer programming. It is a highly transferable skill and is sought after by employers due to the problem solving and thinking skills it teaches. You are most likely to enjoy the subject if you have an interest in problem solving, science and maths and if you are a critical, analytical and logical thinker and enjoy a challenge.

What does the course involve?

The OCR GCSE in Computer Science in Year 10 and Year 11 is designed to encourage students to:

- Inspire and enthuse you to become more technologically savvy – a future producer of digital products rather than just a consumer.
- Give you the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of computer science, with an emphasis on programming and problem-solving skills.
- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What about assessments and exams?

GCSE Computer Science has two written exams of 1 hour 30 minutes each. Each paper carries 80 marks and each exam is worth 50% towards the final grade. Both are a mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions.

Component 01: Computer systems:

Component 01 is an assessment on computer systems: Systems architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, connections and protocols, network security, systems software and the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: Component 02 is an assessment on computational thinking: Algorithms, programming fundamentals, producing robust programs, Boolean logical and programming languages and integrated development environments.

Practical programming: Students are also given the opportunity to undertake programming tasks, either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during the course of study. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Computer Science is becoming more and more central to every type of business. A good foundation in Computer Science will enable you to follow one of a wide variety of career paths. The course is excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you will develop, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include design, engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

A computing qualification is a good basis for work as an IT technician, IT consultant, computer engineer, cyber security professional, software engineer, analyst, data modeller, systems administrator, network administrator, software applications developer and programmer.

CREATIVE IMEDIA

Qualification: Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia (J834)
Exam Board/Specification: OCR

Is this course right for you?

From personal computers to smartphones, from websites to apps, all of our lives are enhanced through the use of Information Technology (IT) and media. The OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia in Year 10 and Year 11 is designed to:

- Equip you with the wide range of knowledge and skills needed to work in the creative digital media sector.
- Introduce you to the concept of pre-production processes.
- Allow you to develop your skills through practical assignments as you create final multimedia products.

You will develop a range of skills to help you succeed not only in the workplace, but in other subjects too. These skills include:

- Analytical skills
- Digital presentation skills
- Creative thinking
- Problem solving
- Research and planning

What does the course involve?

The course is broken down into three units:

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry

In this unit you will learn about 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 consideration.

R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

In this unit you will learn to 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: Develop visual identity, plan digital graphics for products, create visual identity and digital graphics.

R099: Digital games

In this unit you will learn how to plan, create and review digital games. Topics include: Plan digital games, create digital games and review digital games.

What about assessments and exams?

- R093: Written exam
- R094: Centre assessed coursework
- R099: Centre assessed coursework

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Students will develop skills, knowledge and understanding through this qualification which are relevant to both work and further study. It will support students in a range of subject areas such as A Level Media Studies, Cambridge Technical in IT or Digital Media, T Levels in Digital Production Design and Development or Media, Broadcast and Production or an apprenticeship pathway in Media and Broadcast Assistant.

This qualification will also support progression into employment through Apprenticeships and other routes in areas such as Digital Marketer, Creative/Design or IT. This course could be the first step to a career as a Games Developer, Comic Book Writer, Graphic Designer, and more.

DANCE

Qualification: BTEC
Exam Board/Specification: Pearson BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)

Dance is a creative and physical subject which allows you to develop your performance skills, confidence and teamwork. The course encourages you to explore different dance styles while improving your technical, expressive and choreographic ability, whatever your previous experience in dance.

Is this course right for you?

This course will be right for you if you enjoy performing, creating dances and working as part of a group. You should be willing to take part in practical lessons, rehearsals and performances. The course is for students who would like to develop their skills in different dance styles, learn how to choreograph routines and understand how professional dancers work. You will also watch dance performances and evaluate your own work and the work of others.

What does the course involve?

Performance – You will learn and perform dance pieces in different styles. You will develop your technique, timing, expression and confidence when performing in front of an audience.

Choreography – You will create your own dance routines based on different themes or stimuli. You will learn how to structure movement and work creatively both individually and in groups.

Appreciation – You will develop your ability to talk and write about dance using the correct terminology. You will watch professional dance performances and evaluate how dancers use movement, space, dynamics and expression.

What about assessments and exams?

The BTEC Dance course is mainly coursework based.

Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts

Students explore different styles of dance and study professional works. Assessment includes practical work and written coursework.

Component 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques

Students develop their dance technique and performance skills. Assessment is based on practical performance and coursework.

Component 3 – Responding to a Brief

Students work in groups to create and perform a dance piece based on a set brief. This includes planning, rehearsing, performing and evaluating the work.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Dance helps to build confidence, teamwork, discipline and creativity. These are important life skills that are useful in many careers.

Taking Dance at BTEC can lead to A Level or BTEC Performing Arts courses, college dance or performing arts courses, and careers in dance, theatre, teaching, choreography, fitness or the performing arts industry.

DRAMA

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: OCR

Drama is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages you to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever your previous experience in the subject.

Is this course right for you?

This course will be right for you if you enjoy devising, designing and performing and have an appreciation of all aspects of the drama process including watching and evaluating. The course is for students who would like to develop different styles of performance, through lessons and outside workshops. You will analyse plays and drama practitioners, applying your experiences as well as learning key drama techniques, writing about plays, seeing live theatre and writing a live theatre review for the written exam component of the course. There is also an opportunity to take a Designer pathway if you have an interest in technical aspects of Drama such as Lighting, Sound, Costume, Make-up and Set.

What does the course involve?

Performance/Design – You will develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform drama on your own and in a group.

Devising – You will develop your ability to create, design and structure drama material, based up on a stimulus.

Appreciation – You will develop your ability to use written communication, using appropriate terminology to critically appreciate your own work, study published plays and to experience live theatre and write about it.

What about assessments and exams?

Unit 1: Devising Theatre (30%) Students will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre or use the stimulus to create a design with a lighting, set, costume or sound focus.

Students must produce a realisation of their piece of devised theatre (performance or design) and a written portfolio to accompany and support the performance/design.

Unit 2: Performing from a Text – (30%)

Students will be assessed on either acting or design. Students study two extracts from the same performance text and perform two scenes to an external examiner or produce a design which is presented to the examiner as a viva. A written evaluation of the process.

Unit 3 – Interpreting Theatre (40%)

Written exam:

Section A - A series of short and longer questions on one set text 'Blood Brothers'.

Section B - Live theatre Review - requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Drama helps to build confidence, demonstrates the ability to work as a team and displays creativity which is essential for future working environments. This subject holds significant life skills as well as the academic investment.

Moreover, students with a variety of GCSEs are desirable to sixth forms and colleges as they demonstrate a well-rounded student. Drama at GCSE is an excellent transition into A Level Performing Arts courses and related Performing Arts College courses. Drama GCSE could also lead to a career in the Performing Arts industries.



FRENCH

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

French GCSE is a qualification in the French language for students who have prior knowledge of French and would like to get to GCSE standard in two years.

Is this course right for you?

This course enables you to develop your French language skills, equipping you with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. You will develop your literacy, ability to communicate and share information, logical thought patterns and understanding of how language works.

What does the course involve?

In this course you will learn how to:

- Understand general and specific information from different types of spoken language.
- Communicate and interact effectively through spoken language for a variety of purposes across a range of specified context.
- Understand and respond to different types of written language as well as developing cultural knowledge.

- Communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes, including translation.

What about assessments and exams?

The subject is examined in two tiers (Foundation or Higher) for all four skills. The final GCSE grade awarded is dependent upon your tier of entry. GCSE grades from 9-1 will be awarded.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

You can go on to study French A Level. Any language qualification you pass at Level 2 and above will support you in your future, whatever you decide to do. Languages show universities and employers that you can think logically and study hard, but also pay attention to detail, as well as your interest and competence in another language. It always looks good on your CV to have completed and gained a language qualification, as it complements any type of career but with an international edge.

Skill	Assessment	Weighting
Listening Listen for and note main points from a spoken text	Written examination in June of Year 11	25%
Speaking Communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes	Spoken examination in April/May of Year 11	25%
Reading Read, identify and note main points from a written text (e.g. adverts, newspaper and magazine articles, and literary texts)	Written examination in June of Year 11	25%
Writing Written tasks for a variety of purposes and in a range of contexts	Written examination in June of Year 11	25%

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Technical Award
Exam Board/Specification: Pearson

This is a BTEC Level 2 course that is equivalent to one GCSE but gets graded as Pass, Merit and Distinction. Students will study topics that are based on real life situations and where they will be able to draw upon their own experiences.

What does the course involve?

This two-year course to give a broad understanding of the knowledge and skills that are essential when working with people. You will develop and sustain an interest in health, early years and education, social care, youth and community and issues that affect the care sector.

During the course you will learn about:

- Understanding human growth and development
- Life stages from birth to end of life
- Investigating how individuals deal with life events
- Recognising the different types of health care services
- Health care job roles and responsibilities
- Barriers to users accessing care
- Factors that affect health and well being
- Interpreting health indicators
- Demonstrating care values
- How to create a personal centred health and well being improvement plan

Is the course right for me?

This course is right for you if:

- You are enthusiastic and interested in understanding how to professionally care for others
- You would like to develop your own knowledge and understanding of different life stages through growth and development
- You would like to learn how to communicate and demonstrate empathy
- You enjoy participating in discussions and debates
- You use written communication effectively
- You research tasks independently

What about assessments and exams?

There are two assignments worth 60% completed in Year 10 and Year 11 and one examination worth 40%, sat in the summer of Year 11.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

You could gain employment within the health sectors such as a Nurse, Nanny, Social and Health Care Worker, Care Assistant, Nursing Assistant, Paramedic and Child Care Worker, through an apprenticeship scheme after completing a Level 2 technical award. Alternatively, you could go onto further education with a Level 3 qualification which could take your journey via a university degree route to Medicine to become a Midwife, Occupation Therapist, Social worker, Radiologist or Radiographer.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Qualification: Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality & Catering (Technical Award)
Exam Board/Specification: WJEC/Eduqas

Is this course right for you?

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work front of house? If so, it's time to find out more about this exciting qualification. You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: communication; confidence; learning independently; organisation; problem solving; research; self-discipline; stamina; taking on responsibility; time management.

What does the course involve?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

You will:

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.
- Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

You will:

- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value.
- Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

What about assessments and exams?

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment. Unit 1 will be assessed through a written exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification. In Unit 2 you will complete a written portfolio and practical assignment where you will plan and prepare two complex dishes plus accompaniments, in response to an exam board set brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Following completion of this course, you will be qualified to go on to further study the Hospitality and Catering Industry in a vocational setting. Equally you will be able to embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

This course can give you a range of skills like planning and organising, working independently, understanding and applying science and creative skills. It can lead to a wide range of careers across the hospitality industry, working in retail or for a leading supermarket. Examples of careers in this field are, Chef, Farmer, Catering Manager, Food Scientist, Hotel or Restaurant Manager and Sports Nutritionist.



MEDIA STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: Eduqas

Is this course right for you?

What is Media? Media is about communication, particularly mass communication with lots of people. The media creates products that are designed to entertain and inform, created for lots of people to hear, watch or read, often simultaneously. Whenever you are watching television, streaming films, scrolling through social media or listening to a podcast, you are consuming media.

What does the course involve?

As a GCSE Media Studies student, you will analyse how media products like TV programmes and music videos use images, sounds, language, and representations to create meaning.

You will learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made. You will investigate media audiences, exploring the people who watch, read and consume the products, and considering how different people might be affected by media products differently, and why.

You will study lots of different media forms, such as: Television, Online Media, Advertising and Marketing, Film Marketing, Magazines, Newspapers, Social and Participatory Music Video, Radio, Video Games.

There is also a significant amount of practical work where you might create music videos, magazines, television programmes, advertisements and more.

What about assessments and exams?

Assessment will consist of a mixture of examinations and non-examined assessment.

Component 1: Written examination: 1 hour 30mins, 40% of qualification

Component 2: Written examination: 1 hour 30mins, 30% of qualification

Component 3: Non-exam assessment (Coursework): Media Production, 30% of qualification.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

During the GCSE Media Studies course you'll develop and practise a range of skills which will equip you for progression to A Level study. They will also help you hugely in other areas such as Film, English, Humanities and Social Sciences. Looking further ahead, over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies in the UK. An A Level qualification in Media Studies, informed by study at GCSE level, helps you to move towards these courses, as well as to those in a range of other areas.

If university isn't for you, there is a huge array of career opportunities in the media, and it's an industry that is growing very quickly. If you are interested in the idea of a career in TV and film production, advertising, journalism, interactive media, and digital marketing, technical production, special effects, web design and post-production, then studying Media Studies at GCSE level is a great place to start.

MUSIC

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: OCR

Is this course right for you?

The GCSE Music course is for a wider range of people than you might think.

If you have been playing an instrument for years, enjoy singing, or write and produce your own music then the course is obviously perfect for you. BUT...even if you do not play an instrument or read music, but are curious about different genres, how music is created, and enjoy having the freedom to create your own music, then this course is for you too.

You may also like to begin learning a musical instrument as you start the course.

In short, instrumental experience and reading music are an advantage but they are not essential. Success in GCSE Music is more about a love of music and curiosity about creating it and learning more about it.

The course is based on:

- Performance or Sequencing – 30% of your final grade comes from either performance on your instrument or voice (one on your own, one as part of a group), or, sequencing where you will recreate a song in Logic Pro, if you don't play an instrument. You will be shown how to do this and receive plenty of support.
- Composition – 30% of your final grade comes from two compositions. You can use instruments or Logic Pro to create music in any style that you like. For the second composition, you will choose a brief provided by the exam board that inspires you.
- Listening & Appraising – 40% of your final grade is achieved in a listening exam. During the course, you will study Film Music, Pop & Rock Music, Classical music,

and music from other cultures. The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes and comprises questions based on extracts from the above topics.

What does the course involve?

Lessons will involve a mixture of music theory, composition, practical activities, and research-like study of music from the topics in the exam.

You spend time working alone (for composing and performing/sequencing), in groups (for performing and research tasks), and as a whole class for quizzes, discussions, and listening activities.

What about assessments and exams?

Assessments will take place periodically to cover the topic work. These will always be structured to prepare you for the exam so that nothing is a surprise when you sit the exam.

- Exam - The final exam is 1 hour 30 minutes and features 8 in-depth questions about musical topics that you have learned about during the course.
- Coursework - You will participate in composition projects throughout the course, but you will submit two in year 11.

If you play an instrument or sing, you will record one performance of a solo piece, and one as a group. If you do not play an instrument, you can recreate a song in Logic through sequencing techniques.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Music is one of the biggest industries in the world, with thousands of possible pathways beyond just playing an instrument. This course can lead directly to further musical study: A level and BTEC, and university degree courses. However, GCSE Music is not just for people who want to work in musical environments. The skills that you develop on this course: creativity, problem-solving, self-expression, communication, to name just a few, can help to build your confidence and prepare you for any career that you choose.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: OCR

The GCSE Physical Education course will give you a good understanding of the principles behind sport and physical activity. You will cover a range of topics which will give you a greater understanding of how to lead a healthy, active lifestyle and maintain a healthy active body.

Is this course right for you?

In order to be successful on the course you will:

- Enjoy practical Physical Education.
- Have a desire to learn about the human body in sport and exercise.
- Be actively involved in sport in school and at other clubs/centres.
- Have a keen interest in Science and in particular Biology.
- Take part in extra-curricular clubs and activities at school and/or at other clubs/centres.

What does the course involve?

The course involves a combination of theory and practical lessons.

Theory -
Component 1
Physical factors affecting performance
1.1 Applied Anatomy and Physiology
1.2 Physical Training

Component 2
Socio-cultural Issues and Sport Psychology
2.1 Socio Cultural Influences
2.2 Sports Psychology
2.3 Health, Fitness and Well-being

What about assessments and exams?

Practical performance - You will be assessed on your practical ability in three different sports. This will include a range of skills and

participating in a full sided game or event. Your practical performance will make up 30% of your final GCSE grade. You will be assessed in both a team sport and an individual sport so you must be actively involved in both team and individual sports.

Final written exams - The work you study within the theory sessions will be examined through two final exams in Year 11 which will be worth 60% of your final grade (30% per paper on component one and then component two).

Analyse and evaluate performance - As part of your practical assessment you will also have to produce written work based around the improvement of performance both in terms of skills and through fitness. This will make up 10% of your final grade. You will devise an action plan of how a skill could be improved through training (15 hours to complete final write up).

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, GCSE PE allows for progression to related vocational qualifications at The Hinckley Sixth Form or other providers. The course will provide the relevant skills and subject content for students to choose a variety of careers or degree options ranging from sport science, sports coaching, sport management, sports theory, sports nutrition or sports psychology, to name a few.

PE is a great subject to study if you want a career in a sports related field, for example, anything from a sports coach, physiotherapist or personal trainer. Science subjects fit well with PE, especially if you are interested in a career in sports science or sports psychology. If you enjoy keeping fit, active and healthy, you may look to consider career opportunities based outdoors, rather than in an office. Examples of careers include, Sports Professional, Events Manager, Outdoor Activities Instructor, Performance Sports Scientist and Sports Development Officer.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

The Religious Studies GCSE provides opportunities for students to study diversity of religion and beliefs within the UK. You will study Christian and Islamic beliefs and practices, as well as a selection of four themes that address the moral, ethical, and social issues facing modern society. This includes developing an understanding of ethics and how it shapes decision-making in contemporary contexts.

Is this course right for you?

This course is for you if:

- You are enthusiastic and interested in understanding identity and belonging across different religious beliefs.
- You would like to develop your own knowledge and understanding of the values and traditions of both Christian and Muslim people.
- You would like to learn how to communicate your ideas and opinions on the issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- You would like to learn how to use written communication effectively.

What does the course involve?

You will study a range of topics including:

- Christian Beliefs and Practices
- Islamic Beliefs and Practices
- Relationships and Families
- Religion and Life
- Peace and Conflict
- Crime and Punishment

What about assessments and exams?

100% examination. Examinations are at the end of Year 11.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Religious Studies helps you to have an awareness of the world around you, including understanding ethical issues that encourage you to consider both your own and other developed points of view. During the GCSE course you will develop many skills which will allow you to go on to study A-Level subjects such as Psychology, Sociology, Law, and Politics. It is a subject that is also looked on favourably by places of higher education and employers. Religious Studies offers the opportunity for progression into many occupations including – Medicine, Teaching, Law, Social Work, Civil Service, Management, and the Police Force.

SOCIOLOGY

Qualification: TBC
Exam Board/Specification: TBC

Sociology is the study of society—how it works, how it changes, and how people’s lives are shaped by social forces. The subject encourages critical thinking and urges you to challenge ideas and views.

Is this course right for you?

If you’re curious about why people behave the way they do, why inequalities exist, or how institutions like school, family, and the media influence us, then Sociology is a subject that will challenge your thinking and broaden your understanding of the world.

What does the course involve?

In Sociology, you will explore big questions about everyday life and examine the structures that shape our world. Topics typically include:

- **The Family** - Different types of families, how they have changed over time, and the roles people play within them. Sociological theories of the family.
- **Education** - Why some students do better in school than others, and how the education system affects people differently. Sociological theories of the role of education.
- **Crime and Deviance** - What counts as crime, why people break the rules, and how society responds. Sociological theories of the role of crime.
- **Social Inequality** - How factors like class, gender, and ethnicity affect people’s opportunities and life chances.
- **Research Methods** - How sociologists investigate society, including surveys, interviews, and observations.

The course focuses on developing your ability to think critically, analyse evidence, and understand different viewpoints.

Studying Sociology helps you build skills that are useful in many subjects and careers, such as:

- Critical thinking
- Analysis and interpretation of information
- Understanding society and human behaviour
- Clear written communication
- Forming arguments based on evidence

What about assessments and exams?

A written paper, including extended writing.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Sociology opens the door to a wide range of career pathways, especially those involving people, communication, or understanding social issues. Future careers include those within Law and Legal Services, Policing and Criminology, Social Work and Youth Work, Teaching and Education, Journalism and Media, Public Services, Human Resources, Psychology and Counselling, Marketing and Advertising, and Healthcare and Nursing.

Sociology is highly valued for careers where understanding people and society is essential.

SPANISH

Qualification: GCSE
Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Spanish GCSE is suitable for students who have prior knowledge of Spanish and would like to get to GCSE standard by the end of Year 11.

Is this course right for you?

This course enables you to develop your Spanish language skills, equipping you with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. You will develop your literacy, ability to communicate and share information, logical thought patterns and your understanding of how the language works, as well as your own.

What does the course involve?

In the course you will learn how to:

- Understand general and specific information from different types of spoken language.
- Communicate and interact effectively through spoken language for a variety of purposes across a range of specified context.
- Understand and respond to different types of written language as well as developing cultural knowledge.
- Communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes, including translation.

What about assessments and exams?

The subject is examined in two tiers (Foundation or Higher) for all four skills. The final GCSE grade awarded is dependent upon your tier of entry. GCSE grades from 9-1 will be awarded.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Any language qualification you pass at Level 2 and above will support you in your future, whatever you decide to do. Languages show universities and employers that you can think logically and study hard, but also pay attention to detail, as well as competence in another language. It always looks good on your CV to have completed and gained a language qualification as it complements any type of career but with an international edge.



Skill	Assessment	Weighting
Listening Listen for and note main points from a spoken text	Written examination in June of Year 11	25%
Speaking Communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes	Spoken examination in April/ May of Year 11	25%
Reading Read, identify and note main points from a written text (e.g. adverts, newspaper and magazine articles, and literary texts)	Written examination in June of Year 11	25%
Writing Written tasks for a variety of purposes and in a range of contexts	Written examination in June of Year 11	25%

SPORTS STUDIES

Qualification: Cambridge National Level 2
Exam Board/Specification: OCR

An ideal course for students who want to have a more practically based learning experience to that of GCSE PE. Sports Studies incorporates practical skills in team and individual sports with the opportunity to develop sports leadership and officiating skills and to study contemporary sporting issues and the media.

Is this course right for you?

In order to be successful on the course you will:

- Want to improve your leadership skills.
- Be actively involved in sport at school and at other clubs/centres.
- Want to learn how to officiate effectively.
- Want to sit a formal GCSE exam in January of Year 11.

What does the course involve?

The course involves one exam in Year 11 with the option to retake and two centre assessed units with outcome moderation from the OCR.

What about assessments and exams?

R184: Contemporary issues in sport (x1 Exam) Students explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting values and ethical behaviour, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment.

R185: Developing sports skills and leadership (x2 Sports) Students try out a range of sports-related skills and techniques, including different practice methods for improving both their own performance and that of others. They develop their knowledge of the use of tactics and strategies in both individual and team sporting activities as well as their understanding of the rules, enabling them to carry out a number of officiating roles within the activities.

R186: Sport and the media (Coursework)

Students explore the relationship between sports and the media: how sport uses the media to promote itself and how the media uses sport to expand and maintain uptake of its products. They look at the differences in sports coverage across a range of media outlets and over time and the effect that media has had on public interest and involvement in sport.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Ideal preparation for the BTEC Level 3 Sport course or first steps into coaching, leadership and officiating awards. The course will provide the relevant skills and subject content for students to choose a variety of careers or degree options ranging from sport science, sports coaching, sport management, sports theory, sports nutrition or sports psychology, to name a few.

Sports Studies is a great subject to study if you want a career in a sports related field, for example, anything from a sports coach, physiotherapist or personal trainer. Science subjects fit well with PE, especially if you are interested in a career in sports science or sports psychology. If you enjoy keeping fit, active and healthy, you may look to consider career opportunities based outdoors, rather than in an office. Examples of careers include, Sports Professional, Events Manager, Outdoor Activities Instructor, Performance Sports Scientist and Sports Development Officer.

(Please note: You cannot choose this option and GCSE Physical Education)

TRIPLE SCIENCE

Qualifications: GCSE Biology
GCSE Chemistry
GCSE Physics

Exam Board/Specification: AQA

Triple Science is taught partly within the Combined Science core timetable, with additional teaching time provided through one option time. Students follow three separate GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, leading to three individual GCSE qualifications. There are two tiers of entry: Higher and Foundation.

Is this course right for you?

Triple Science is suited to students who are enthusiastic about Science, enjoy practical work, and want to explore scientific ideas in greater depth. It is particularly appropriate for students who may wish to study Science at A Level or pursue Science related pathways in the future.

What does the course involve?

Triple Science students study each of the three sciences in greater depth across the two GCSE years. Lessons include:

- Developing core scientific knowledge and learning how to apply it in different contexts.
- Carrying out experiments and learning how to perform practical work accurately, including how to record and report findings using correct scientific methods.
- Researching current scientific and technological developments and evaluating their benefits and limitations.
- Learning how to select, organise and present information clearly using appropriate scientific terminology.

What about assessments and exams?

Assessment is 100% examination. Students sit:

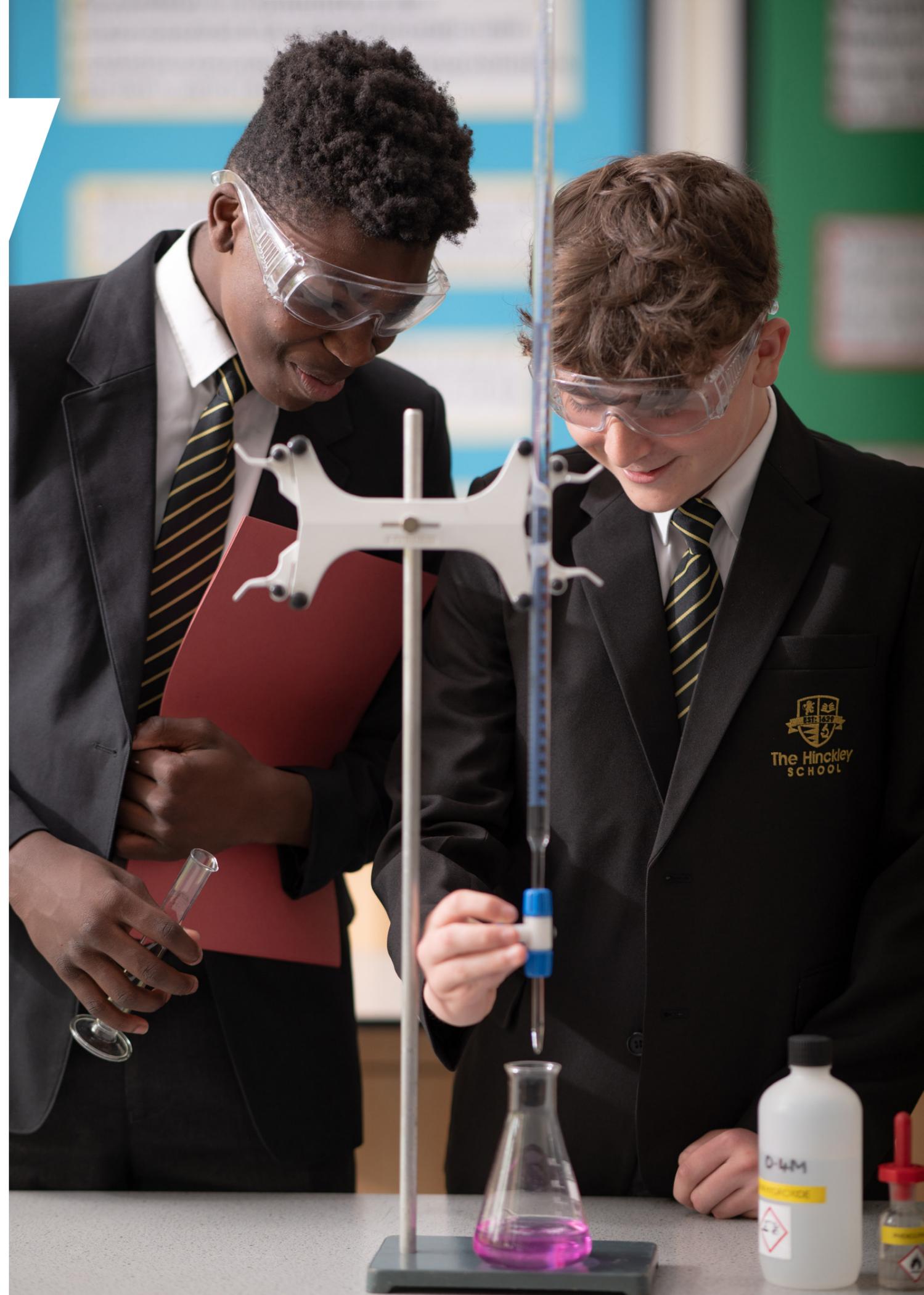
- Two exam papers for each GCSE (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) — six papers in total.
- 28 Required Practical Activities across the three sciences (typically 8-10 per subject).

Understanding of these Required Practical's is assessed through written questions in the final examinations.

Progression opportunities (Sixth Form and beyond)

Students who succeed in Triple Science are well prepared to study A Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics at The Hinckley Sixth Form. The qualification also supports progression to a wide range of Science courses in further education and to Science based careers.

Studying the three sciences in depth provides a strong foundation for careers in research, medicine, engineering, technology, education and many other fields. As scientific and technological innovation continues to grow, there is a consistently high demand for skilled scientists.





OUR SEVEN YEAR JOURNEY



The Hinckley
SIXTH FORM

YEAR 11 Hub At The Hinckley School

We are ready to meet the challenge of further study to build our future pathway and are advocates for our chosen specialisms.

We are reflective learners in pursuit of excellence.

We are agents of change primed to contribute positively to the global, national and local community. We lead with moral purpose, integrity and conviction.

We are aspirational and specialise in subjects that ignite our passions.

We are inspirational role models in school and our wider community.

We are proactive in taking responsibility for our learning community.

YEAR 10 Hub At The Hinckley School

We are ambitious and make aspirational choices for our future.

We are leaders in our learning and community.

YEAR 9 Hub At The Hinckley School

We are skilled communicators who welcome academic challenge.

We are proactive citizens in our communities, and show empathy to others.



We are curious about life and learning. We build new relationships with our peers, teachers and community.

We are philosophers, keen to learn and embrace new experiences.



PERSEVERANCE
RESPECT
INDPENDENCE
DISCIPLINE
ENGAGEMENT

Building Brighter Futures