



YOUR CHOICES 2022 – 2024
KEY STAGE FOUR

YOUR CHOICES



WELCOME TO YOUR CHOICES AT CALDER HIGH

As Headteacher I am immensely proud leading a school with such a successful and vibrant Key Stage Four. Key to my role is to provide a nurturing, supportive and challenging environment where all students can reach their full potential. As you will see from this booklet, we aim to offer all students a broad and balanced curriculum in order to prepare and equip them for life after GCSEs.

The range of courses on offer and opportunities presented can sometimes be daunting for students. To assist in this process, there is a comprehensive support programme in place to ensure students are fully informed and comfortable with their choices. Our Year 9 team work tirelessly to provide learning, careers and personal support; if you have any questions about options pathways, future destinations or just need clarification on minor details, then please do not hesitate to ask.

At Calder High School our students are undoubtedly our greatest asset. The school's efforts are focused on providing the very best opportunities for their all-round development. I look forward to working with all students and parents to ensure even greater successes in Key Stage Four.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Guise', written on a white rectangular background.

Anthony Guise
Headteacher

YOUR CHOICES

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

This option booklet will, with the support of parents* and teachers, help students to decide the structure of their next two years. It is tremendously helpful if students have a goal to aim for, a possible career, university, apprenticeship course, A Levels - a reason for choosing particular courses and a focus for Key Stage Four. Career paths and Post-16 opportunities may help students to make the right choices now. However, we do realise that some students may not have a career path planned out and may well need that extra bit of support when making important decisions.

Our Key Stage Four curriculum has the flexibility for students to study a broad range of courses to maximise opportunities for the future and these are outlined in the following pages.



HELPING YOU ALONG THE WAY

Making the right choice is crucial and we have put in place a series of information and guidance sessions to help make the process as smooth as possible:

- Options information presentations for students
- Parents' Evening and Options Information Evening
- Independent advice and guidance from CK Careers Service
- Support from tutors, teachers, subject leaders, Senior Leaders and Head of Year
- Individual interviews for students where necessary

*The term 'parent' is inclusive of parents, carers, family members and others who are important to the learning experiences and well-being of our students.

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WHICH SUBJECTS?

The subjects that students study in Years 10 and 11 will be a mixture of core subjects (that everyone follows), one core plus subject and three further optional courses, chosen to reflect each individual's strengths and interests.

The **Core** consists of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and Core PE. **Core +** is either a Humanity (Geography or History) or a Language (French or Spanish). Students can select the option courses that they will study over the next two years from the list on the next page.

Students and parents should consider curriculum choices with reference to the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) which encourages students to study **both** a Humanity and a Language. Whilst these are not compulsory subjects, the government describes the Ebacc as '*a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers*'.

Core +

Although it is a requirement to select a Humanity subject or a Language, you may select more than one through your option 1, 2 or 3.



BTECs

BTECs are popular qualifications with clear progression routes into a wide variety of careers. They are the equivalent of other Level 2 qualifications and involve internal assessment which means a significant amount of coursework which is completed in class as you go along. You need to be aware of this, but it does then mean fewer exams.

Core					Core +	Options		
English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Science	Core PE	Humanity or Language	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3

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In this booklet you will find information on each of the 'Core' courses and each one of the 'Options'. You will find information on each of the following:

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- BTEC Engineering
- BTEC Enterprise
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Graphics
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- History
- BTEC Hospitality and Catering
- BTEC ICT
- Mathematics
- Media
- Music Performance
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science—Combined
- Science—Separate
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles



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GCSE ART & DESIGN

Course overview: The course consists of a practical coursework portfolio component, (worth 60%) containing two projects covering different themes and skills.

Students will develop skills in a variety of media, building their confidence, reflecting their interests and developing independence as the course progresses. Students may work in any medium or combination of media. They can work entirely in digital media (photography and Photoshop) or entirely non-digital media, or in a mixture of both, provided the aims and assessment objectives are met.

Students develop knowledge of different artists, cultures, crafts people and designers to inspire techniques and ideas for their personal development. In Year 11 they will have the opportunity to work alongside a visiting artist in a one day practical workshop, an experience that all students enjoy.

In addition there is an externally set assignment (worth 40%) which gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their independence when responding to a starting point. This project culminates with a ten hour practical examination where students make the final piece that they have planned and developed over the research period.

Students say: "GCSE Art is really fun and creative. Since I started doing it, I have had more confidence to show my family my work and be proud of it".

Progression routes: Students have the opportunity to study A level subjects in Art & Design, Photography and Art Textiles. Further education opportunities include Foundation Art courses and specialist degree courses in Graphic Design, New Media, Advertising, Textiles, Fine Art.

Examination board: AQA

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course Overview:

This is a course covering a wide range of programming skills and software development. Students will problem solve and analyse computer systems and how they are used. They will also understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science whilst also applying the necessary mathematical skills. The content has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding, but to engage learners and get them thinking about real world application.

(Predicted GCSE grade of at least a 5 in Mathematics is required for this course)

Module titles:

- Computer Systems External examination (50%)
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming External examination (50%)
- Programming project (required not marked) Controlled assessment

Progression routes: Students have the opportunity to study A Level Computer Science, BTEC Level 3 Computing, BTEC Level 3 ICT, Business or other computer based qualifications such as Photography. Higher Education courses include specialist ICT and computer degree courses.

Examination board: OCR

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GCSE Design & Technology

Course overview:

GCSE Design and Technology is an exciting and challenging new qualification that enables students to understand and apply the design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. Students learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising young adults. They should develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.

Modules titles:

Unit 1: External Examination – Covering the range of materials and manufacturing processes with a main focus on Timbers.

Unit 2: Non-Examined assessment – Design and manufacture project that will be undertaken in year 11. The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.

Examination Board: Edexcel

GCSE DRAMA

Course overview:

This is a creative subject, allowing students to explore Drama through both practical and written work.

All students will learn about drama practitioners including Strauslavski, Brecht, Artaud, and Frantic Assembly as well as a range of styles such as Naturalism, Epic Theatre, and Physical Theatre. The majority of lessons are practical with the written coursework and exam interwoven throughout the two year course.

Module titles:

- Component 1: Understanding Drama (written exam) 40%
- Component 2: Devising Drama (practical & written coursework) 40%
- Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical) 20%

Progression routes: Students have gone on to study A level Drama and Theatre Studies and BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts. Further education opportunities include degrees in Acting and Performing Arts and BTEC Higher in Performing Arts.

Examination board: AQA

YOUR CHOICES

Engineering BTEC Level 1 and 2 Award

Course Overview: This is a vocational course that focuses upon the engineered world by investigating different engineering sectors and design application via learning about different products, applications, materials and computer aided design and manufacture process.

The course combines practical and theoretical applications, experiments, tests and investigations to allow individual investigation into a wide range of engineering disciplines.

This BTEC is an equivalent to a GCSE and is accepted on school league tables and is recognised by further education.

Module titles:

All three components have equal weighting. Component 1 is externally assessed. Components 2 and 3 are internally assessed and moderated.

Component 1: Exploring Engineering sectors and Design Applications.

Component 2: Investigating an Engineering project.

Component 3: Responding to an Engineering brief.

Students say: "The BTEC in Engineering helped me gain access to an apprenticeship with a local company and allowed me to go college whilst working".

Progression Routes: Students have the opportunity to study A level Product Design. Further education opportunities include access to many vocational apprenticeship level courses covering a wide range of different engineering and trades based disciplines.

Examination board: Edexcel

BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

Course Overview: BTEC Enterprise comprises a mix of practical and examination based work. It introduces students to the world of business and will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for working in a wide range of business enterprises. For example students are able to decide on a micro business to set-up and follow the steps through to see what is involved. The course is carefully planned and managed to relieve pressure on students towards the end of year 11. The one externally sat exam, which is worth 40% of the final grade, will be sat in the summer year 11 but 60% of the course will have been assessed prior to this.

Module titles:

- Component 1 - Exploring enterprises (internally assessed)
- Component 2 - Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity (internally assessed)
- Component 3 - Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (external exam)

Students say: "Planning the setting up of a realistic business in lesson of my own choice is much better way to learn about business"

"I have learnt how to create a working business plan for a business I am interested in and could actually do in the future!"

"You get to know the workings of small businesses then plan to set one up yourself"

Progression routes: Students have the opportunity to study any Level 3 Business qualification. Level 3 qualifications will give students the opportunity to complete business related degree.

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

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GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Core)

Course Overview:

Assessment of English Language will be linear and wholly by examination at the end of the course. Examinations will not be tiered. Fifty per cent of the examination will assess reading skills and fifty per cent will be awarded for writing skills. Twenty per cent of examination marks will be awarded for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. Speaking and listening will be taught and awarded as a separate qualification and not part of a student's English Language GCSE grade.

Module titles:

Unit 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)

Unit 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

Unit 3: Spoken Language (assessed separately and not part of the final GCSE grade)

Students say: "English is amazing! I really enjoyed studying creative writing as I could bring my own ideas into my work and use my imagination."

Progression routes: A qualification in GCSE English Language is essential for all students, whether for employment or further academic study. Students have the opportunity to study A-Level English Language and/ or English Literature. English related careers are Journalism, Law, Business, Teaching and Publishing.

Examination board: AQA

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE (Core)

Course overview:

Assessment of English Literature will be linear and wholly by examination at the end of the course. Examinations will not be tiered. Five per cent of the examination marks will be awarded for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. Students will study at least one play by Shakespeare, at least one 19th century novel, a selection of poetry since 1789 (including representative Romantic poetry) and fiction or drama from the British Isles from 1914 onwards.

Module/ Units:

Unit 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40%)

Unit 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)

Students say: "English Literature is about important and fascinating topics. For example, studying war poetry really opened up my eyes to the world."

Progression routes: Students study GCSE English Literature alongside GCSE English Language. Both English Language and English Literature are popular courses at A Level. English Literature related careers are Professional Writing, Journalism, Teaching, Publishing, as well as producing and performing theatre.

Examination board: AQA

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GCSE FRENCH (Core +)

Course Overview:

A course which will enable you to develop language skills in a variety of contexts and realise your full linguistic potential. The course develops our skill areas: listening; speaking; reading and writing and is equally weighted at 25% per skill. All four skills are assessed in exams at the end of Year 11.

Module titles:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national and international, and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Students say: 'J'aime étudier le français parce que c'est intéressant et enrichissant. Je voudrais travailler en France à l'avenir.'

Progression routes: A GCSE in French can open many doors for you; it is a very well respected GCSE which universities are keen to see on your CV. It contributes to the EBACC qualification for which many universities and employers are now looking.

Examination board: AQA

GCSE GEOGRAPHY (Core +)

Course overview:

An issues based GCSE course that investigates and examines aspects of human and physical geography.

Module titles:

- Unit 1. Living with the physical environment. To include – Natural hazards, the living world and physical landscapes in the UK.
- Unit 2. Challenges in the human environment. To include – Urban issues and challenges and the changing economic world.
- Unit 3. The challenge of resource management and geographical skills. To include – resource management and the application of fieldwork skills. You will carry out two investigations, which will form the basis of 2 days compulsory fieldwork within the UK. You will possibly have the opportunity to take part in an optional excursion to a location such as Iceland or The Azores.

Assessment is through examination only.

Students say: "Geography is exciting and worth taking because learning about our world and world issues is important."

Progression routes: Students choosing Geography not only have the opportunity to study it at A level but it also complements many other subjects at GCSE and is highly valued by Universities and most modern employers. GCSE Geography can lead to further education in Geography, Geology, Travel and Tourism and Environmental Science.

Examination board: AQA

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GRAPHICS (Level 2 Technical Award in Graphic Design)

Course overview:

Graphic Design is an exciting new course that will be of interest to students who have an interest in illustration, advertising, branding, typography, digital design (e.g. web animation) or image manipulation.

Graphic design is a form of visual communication. Being a graphic designer is the profession of visual communication that combines images, words and ideas to convey information to an audience. It involves designing print or electronic forms of visual information for advertisement, publication or a website. This qualification focuses on the graphic design sector and learners will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the sector.

Students will create a visual portfolio through which they will have the opportunity to experiment with their design decisions and develop an understanding of typography, image choice, composition and use of colour as well as being able to explore the work of recognised designers.

Module units:

50% Graphic Design Portfolio (internally assessed)

50% External Assessment (Task based exam – responding to a design brief)

Progression routes:

Students would have the opportunity to progress to Level 3 Art and Design courses where they would have the opportunity to focus on Graphic Design, A Level Design & Technology or Creative Media courses.

Examination board: NCFE

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TECHNICAL AWARD

Course Overview: Students will develop an understanding of health and social care settings. They will learn about the roles, responsibilities and skills of people who work in health and social care and will explore the needs of service users.

BTEC Health and Social Care provides students with an opportunity to learn about different health and social care settings and the people who work within them. They will consider the skills and qualities needed to be a successful carer and look at how carers can help people to gain independence. Students will develop knowledge about the needs of a diverse population and explore how the needs of people can change over their life time; investigating human growth and development across the life stages. They will look at how major life events can affect people and consider the impact of nature verses nurture.

Module titles:

- Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (Internally assessed coursework worth 30%)
- Unit 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values (Internally assessed coursework worth 30%)
- Unit 3: Health and Well Being (Externally assessed 2 hour exam worth 40%)

Specific Course Requirements: Students must be committed to attend all of the lessons and complete all tasks to deadlines.

They should also be prepared to develop their extended writing.

Students will need to be confident speaking to people about their life experiences.

Progression routes: Students have the opportunity to progress to Level 3 Health and Social care courses.

Examination board: Pearson

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GCSE HISTORY (Core +)

Course overview:

An exciting GCSE History course which has a mix of topics across time periods.

Module titles:

Crime and Punishment, c.1250 to present

The Elizabethans, 1580–1603

Viking Expansion, 750-1050

Living under Nazi Rule, 1933–1945

History Around Us

Assessment:

- 100% exam
- 3 exams—2 exams are 1 hour and 45 minutes and the 'History Around Us' exam is 1 hour in duration.

Students say: "History GCSE is really interesting. I like the mix of units covering medieval, early modern and modern history."

Progression routes: Students can continue with History at A level and many History students go on to have careers in law, the media, marketing, public relations and heritage management.

Examination board: OCR

BTEC HOSPITALITY AND CATERING (Level 1/2)

Course overview: This new and exciting qualification enables learners to gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to a specific vocational sector. In addition to development sector specific knowledge and understanding, these qualifications also support learners to develop the essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education

The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

Module/units:

- Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry
- Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action
- 60% Course work 40% Written exam

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BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology (ICT)

Course Overview:

A course that is designed to develop your knowledge, understanding and practical skills. You will demonstrate your ability to create user Interfaces for different applications, understand technical language and present work using interactive software packages/reports. 40% examination based and 60% coursework based. The one externally sat exam, which is worth 40% of the final grade, will be sat in the summer of year 11 but 60% of the course will have been assessed prior to this.

Module titles:

- Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques looks at computer interface design and how it has changed and the new technologies that are involved in interface design
- Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data looks at how digital information affects organisations)
- Component 3 Effective Digital Working Practices - explores how organisations use digital systems and the wider issues associated with using computer systems

Students say: "A course that lets you put your practical skills to use, not just learning about things but creating and using the skills that we have learnt", "Exam that lets you put your skills to the test!", "Great to find out why interfaces are designed the way they are" and "Able to use understand the reasons why mobile phone interfaces are designed the way they are"

Progression routes: Other Level 2 vocational qualifications, Level 3 qualifications, such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in IT or an IT/Creative Media apprenticeship. Academic qualifications, such as GCSE or GCE A Level in ICT or Computing. Employment within the information technology and/or areas within the creative industries, such as electronic publishing or multimedia production.

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

GCSE MATHEMATICS (Core)

Course overview:

Students cover a wide range of topics from the areas of: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change, Geometry & Measures, Probability and Statistics. Functional Skills are also assessed within the examinations. There are two tiers of entry: Higher (target 9 to 4) and Foundation (target 5 to 1). Final decisions regarding the tier of entry are not made until Year 11.

Assessment: GCSE Mathematics is assessed terminally with exams in the summer of Year 11. All students will sit three papers, where paper 1 is non-calculator and the other two are with a calculator allowed. All papers are 1 hour and 30 minutes long, with equal weighting to each papers. Your final grade is a calculated from the total of the 3 papers.

Students say: "My teacher encouraged me to ask loads of questions and put on extra revision sessions that helped me make good progress."

Progression routes: All students post 16 are required to hold a grade 4+ or be studying towards it. GCSE Mathematics at 4 (pass) is required for Level 3 courses and 5+ (strong pass) for university courses. A level mathematics is a popular subject at A Level / Level 3, where Further Mathematics is also offered. Possible careers include: Actuary, Engineer, Operations Research Analyst, Research Scientist, Computer Scientist, Attorney/Law, Financial Services/Investment Banking.

Examination board: Edexcel

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GCSE MEDIA

Course Overview: The course consists of 70% written/theoretical element and 30% practical/production.

Media One : This exam will focus on Media Language, Representations, Industries & Audiences. We will study film, music videos, advertising & marketing, newspapers, online, social & participatory media and video games. (Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of GCSE)

Media Two: Section A of this exam will be based on a screening from an extract of a television programme that we will have analysed and can test any area of the theoretical framework studied (Media Language, Representations, Industries & Audiences).

Section B will be based on either newspapers or online, social and participatory media and video games and can also test any area of the framework. (Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of GCSE)

Non-Exam assessment: Creating a Media Product

For the practical element of the course, the students will be using their knowledge and understanding of the Media Industry to create either a music video, short film or extract from a TV programme. They will be taught film production techniques, as well as post-production skills, using professional equipment and editing software. All camera equipment will be provided by the school.

Students say: "There is a good balance between analysis and practical work."

Progression routes: The analytical and production skills which are developed in the GCSE course, act as an excellent springboard for the A Level or Level 3 courses in Media Studies/Production or for those who are interested in a career in the Media industry. Many of our students go on to study the subject at degree level.

Examination board: AQA

RSL Certificate in Performance for Music Practitioners

Course overview: A course for instrumentalists and vocalists who want the opportunity to study their instruments on a regular basis and rehearse as a soloist or in a group and prepare for live performances.

Students must demonstrate both good independent study skills and team (ensemble skills) and will be expected to perform at school events regularly. 40% externally assessed, 60% internally assessed.

Module titles:

- Musical Knowledge (Year 10)
- Composing Music (Year 10)
- Live Music Performance (Year 11 externally assessed module)

The 'exam' is the externally assessed live performance module. The board will set a brief in Year 11 where there is 10 hours' preparation time given, followed by 20 hours' assessment time. The live performance is filmed for submission to the exam board.

Where this is a predominantly practical qualification, students will be required to keep logbooks for their planning and progress and produce an essay or vlog style piece of coursework for the Musical Knowledge unit.

A course for musicians/performers who want to further their skills in composing, performing, appraising and general musicianship. Students do not need to be receiving instrumental tuition however, a desire to practise and improve their skills at home is essential. Lesson activities include: listening and appraising, performing, writing songs and music theory.

Progression routes: Independent study skills developed in this course allow students go on to study music and music technology at Level 3/BTEC/A Level, then can progress onto specialised degree programmes: performance routes, composition/song writing, studio engineering or creative music technology.

Examination board: RSL

YOUR CHOICES

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Course Overview:

Students study two units over 2 years

Unit 1: Coursework (60% of overall GCSE) – A portfolio of practical work that leads to a final response and takes students through different aspects of photography.

Unit 2: External practical examination (40% of overall GCSE) - Students are given a choice of five themes set by the exam board and from January of Year 11 to the practical exam they produce a portfolio of work based on their chosen theme. Students then sit a 10 hour exam where they can develop photographic work using digital enhancement techniques.

All work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Progression routes:

The course is good preparation for progression to A Level in Art and Design: Photography – Lens and Light-based Media or a relevant college/vocational course. It could lead towards a career in Fine Art, new media, games development or games technologies, as well as digital photography and video, and more.

Exam board: AQA

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Course Overview:

The new GCSE PE specification is 60% exam and 40% non-examined assessment.

The non-examined assessment is 30% practical over 3 different sports and 10% Analysis of Performance coursework. The practical assessment is on one team, one individual and one free choice. These sports are very traditional, such as football, netball, rugby. Students who select this option should be representing a club, or team in at least 1 sport.

The examined assessment is over 2 exams. Component 1 assesses Anatomy and Physiology. Component 2 assesses Health and Performance.

As well as the extra curricular PE clubs offered throughout the year, the GCSE PE trip offers a further opportunity for students to gain assessment grades in both climbing and road cycling.

The trip is not a compulsory part of the course but an opportunity for students to gain marks in two sports activities. As a department we strive to provide as many sporting activities during curriculum time, to try and ensure students gain the highest possible grade. However, some activities do require specialist instruction and equipment that is unavailable at school. For some students this weekend will be essential in ensuring they attain 3 good practical grades.

The trip normally runs towards the end of November during Year 11 and costs approximately £220.

Students say: "PE teachers are excellent and the mixture of practical and theory makes lessons really interesting and enjoyable."

Progression routes: This course allows progression to A Level PE and BTEC sport at any level.

Exam board: Edexcel

YOUR CHOICES

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course overview:

A course that combines the study of religions with a range of engaging social and ethical issues. Topics listed below are studied from non-religious, Christian and Muslim perspectives. GCSE RS is assessed by two written examination at the end of Year 11.

Module titles:

The study of the religious beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam;

The study of four social and ethical themes:

- Relationships and families.
- Religion and life.
- Peace and conflict.
- Crime and punishment.

Students say: "GCSE RS is really enjoyable; it helps you think for yourself whilst teaching you about the beliefs which have shaped our world."

Progression routes:

Students have the opportunity to study A level Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. The course is useful for careers linked to law, medicine, teaching or any career working with people from different backgrounds and cultures.

Examination board: AQA

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

Course overview:

Science is a core subject and as such all students will study Science through to Year 11. As well as teaching students key scientific ideas about the world around them students will also develop investigative and practical skills which can be applied to all aspects of life. In the Dual Science course students will study modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be awarded 2 GCSE grades.

Module titles and assessment:

Students will study a wide range of topics in Dual Science:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes	1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure
5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology	6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources	5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

There will be two one hour and 15 minute exams for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (6 exams in total)

Progression routes:

Students who follow the Dual Science pathway will develop skills and knowledge which will be invaluable when studying any A-Level or vocational course.

Examination board: AQA (Trilogy)

YOUR CHOICES

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

Course overview:

The course will offer the chance to obtain three GCSEs rather than two in Dual Science. Students will receive an individual grade for Biology, one for Chemistry and one for Physics. The content is above and beyond the scope of the Combined Science course, requires good mathematical problem solving aptitude and the ability to think about problems in a number of different contexts. There is also a demand to understand the more conceptual areas of science. A good Triple Science student will not only be academically able, but have a keen interest in the world of science and scientific discoveries.

Module titles and assessment:

Students study the same modules as Combined Science students but go into much more detail in each unit. In Biology, we study and evaluate the effect humans are having on the living world and we look at modern medicines and technologies such as monoclonal antibodies

Triple award Chemistry is a good option for those who want to study more types of chemical reactions and learn more about the different materials that we use in everyday life and how they are made

The Triple Physics course builds on the offering at dual award and adds a significant volume of depth and challenge. Students are expected to make further links between fundamental aspects such as energy and forces.

Progression routes:

Studying Triple Science will give students an ideal grounding to move on to A-Level Science subjects. Colleges usually ask for a grade 6 in the subject a student wishes to study.

Examination board: AQA (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

GCSE SOCIOLOGY

Aim: Students will have an understanding of how values, beliefs or your social background can influence behaviour in society. For some, the job of the sociologist is to discover behaviour patterns or social trends i.e. the relationship between poverty and not doing very well at school. Sociology GCSE is an exciting, stimulating course for students who are starting to develop an interest in what happens in wider society. Students will learn new concepts that help them make sense of the relationship between the individual and society.

Course Content: Sociology at GCSE provides students with the knowledge of societal norms and values that underpin various institutions in our society, for example the education system, family and the criminal justice system. Students will also consider the research methods used by Sociologists when collecting data and consider the advantages and disadvantages to a variety of methodologies. Students will have introductory lessons on the key terms and their own understanding of the Social System, before studying the topics mentioned.

Module titles:

Unit 1: Sociology of Families & Households & Education

Unit 2: Crime and Deviance & Social Stratification

Specific Course Requirements:

Students must be committed to attend all of the lessons and complete independent study outside of school to supplement their classwork. They should also be prepared to develop their extended writing for essays.

Assessment:

Unit 1 - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 Marks, 50% of a full GCSE

Unit 2 - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

100 Marks, 50% of a full GCSE

Exam board: AQA

YOUR CHOICES

GCSE SPANISH (Core +)

Course overview:

A course which will enable you to develop language skills in a variety of contexts and realise your full linguistic potential. The course develops our skill areas: listening; speaking; reading and writing and is equally weighted at 25% per skill. All four skills are assessed in exams at the end of Year 11.

Module titles:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national and international, and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Students say: "Me encanta estudiar el español! Es interesante y emocionante, los idiomas me chiflan!"

Progression routes: A GCSE in Spanish can open many doors for you; it is a very well respected GCSE which universities are keen to see on your CV. It contributes to the EBACC qualification for which many universities and employers are now looking.

Examination board: AQA

TEXTILES

Course Overview:

An exciting, creative course in which you will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes to develop an extensive portfolio. You will work in a variety of areas of textile design including fashion and costume, surface pattern design and embellished textiles.

You will complete two projects developing creativity, imagination and your own ideas. An important part of this exploration will include the study of artists, designers and craftspeople to help you develop your own ideas. You will create lively sketchbooks full of research, ideas and experimentation; It is through these sketchbooks and some larger scale work that you should show a clear development from a starting point (the theme of the project) to a conclusion (the final piece/s). If you have an interest in creative Art Textiles and Fashion then this course would be a great option for you.

Module titles:

- Unit 1 — Portfolio of Work worth 60% of qualification
- Unit 2 — Externally Assessed Task worth 40% of qualification

Progression routes: Students have the opportunity to study A level in Textiles or Art & Design. Further education courses also include Fashion Design, Surface Pattern or Fashion Management.

Examination board: AQA

YOUR CHOICES

What if you can't do your chosen course?

We hope that all the courses offered will be available at Key Stage Four to all students who wish to follow them. However an alternative will have to be considered if:

- Too many students opt for a particular course
- Too few students select a particular course
- We wish to advise a more appropriate range of courses to meet a student's needs
- There are combinations of courses which are impossible to timetable

What Next:

- Talk to your parents about your choices and hopes for the future.
- Talk to older brothers, sisters and friends about the courses they chose at Key Stage Four.
- Talk to your teachers about the courses at KS4
- Talk to your Form Tutor.

Dates to remember:

Year 9 Parents' Evening:

Thu 3rd Feb (Hardcastle and Wainhouse) & Tue 8th Feb (Shibden and Stoodley) (online)

Options Information Evening:

Wednesday 2nd March from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Deadline for the Options Form:

Mon 14th March

