



Year 9

Options Booklet

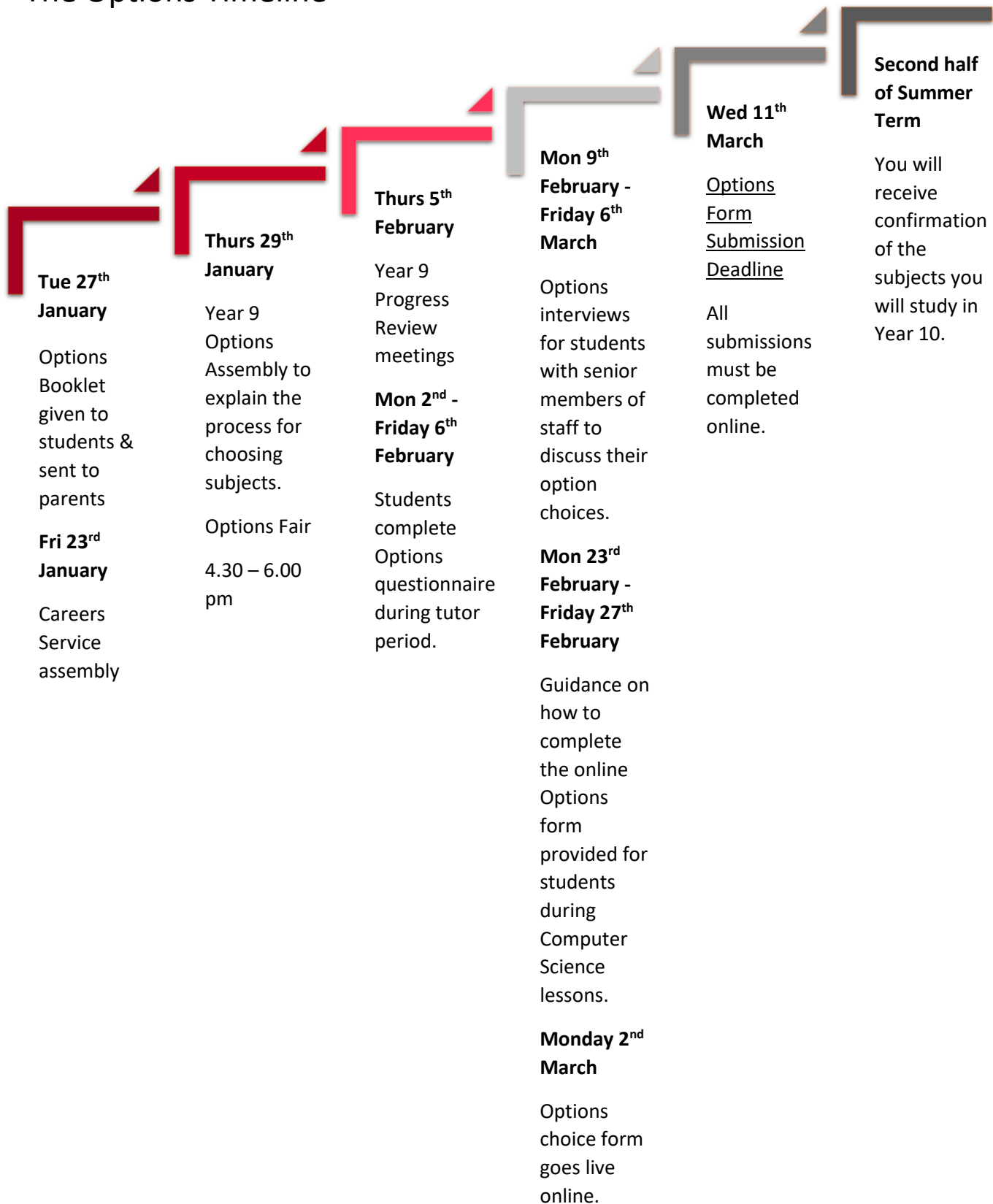
2026 - 2028



Information to
help guide you
in choosing the
courses you will
study in Years
10 and 11

What happens and when?

The Options Timeline



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1 Why do I need this booklet?

You are about to make some very important decisions, and these will have an effect on your future.

This booklet is designed to support and guide you through the process of choosing some of the subjects you will take for the next two years.

Some subjects are compulsory which means everyone has to do them. However, some subjects are optional and you can choose which ones you want to take.

If you were given a place at Thamesmead School based on your Performing Arts ability (Drama or Music), then that subject must be one of your choices.

We give students lots of advice and guidance about which subjects they might choose. This booklet is just one of the things to help you with the decisions you will make. The timeline at the front of this booklet shows you what has happened so far and what will happen next.

Please read this booklet carefully. It contains a lot of useful information about: courses, the process of choosing your optional subjects and careers guidance.

2 What are the different types of qualification?

GCSE

GCSE stands for 'General Certificate of Secondary Education'. These are academic qualifications that are recognised and valued by schools, colleges and employers so they will be useful whatever you are planning to do in the future. GCSEs involve studying the theory of a subject and usually include some investigation work. Some may also involve practical work. All GCSEs have examinations although some might have controlled assessments too; controlled assessments must be completed in class under the supervision of teaching staff.

When you take your final exams in 2028 all GCSEs will be graded 9-1. Some qualifications have different examination papers for students working at different ability levels. These are called 'tiers': Higher and Foundation.

Vocational Courses

BTEC

BTEC (Business & Technology Education Council) qualifications are work-related or 'technical (vocational)' courses suitable for a wide range of learners. Like GCSEs these are nationally recognised and have been designed to meet the needs of employers and allow progression to further study. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning.

BTECs are assessed through coursework and examinations. These courses are suitable for students who might not show their full potential in courses assessed through only examinations.

Our BTECs are 'Level 1/2' qualifications and are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*

Level 2 Qualifications are assessed through coursework and examinations. These courses are suitable for students who might not show their full potential in courses assessed through lots of examinations.

The BTECs are engaging qualifications which can provide a supportive progression route into further learning or employment. These qualifications are designed for learners who wish to develop skills and knowledge and is ideal for learners who excel at coursework. Learners who successfully achieve at Level 2 will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction.

3 What is the English Baccalaureate ('EBacc')?

The EBacc is a set of subjects which was introduced by the DfE at GCSE level with the intention of providing a sound academic background for students wishing to continue their studies to degree level.

The EBacc subjects are:

- English
- Maths
- Either History or Geography
- French or Spanish
- Science – Computer Science is counted as a science for the EBacc

All schools are required to encourage their students to study a broad and balanced curriculum including the EBacc subjects. At Thamesmead we ask that our student study **at least one** of these subjects from the list below as one of their option choices.

- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Triple Science

The Department of Education (DfE) Curriculum Review has made a recommendation that the requirement for students to study EBacc subjects has been removed. However, as the recommendations are yet to be approved at the time of writing, Thamesmead is continuing to require Year 10 and Year 11 students to study at least one of these subjects.

4 Additional Maths Twilight & Additional Language Opportunities

Additional Maths Twilight course for students who wish to study a second mathematics course, in Year 11 we give students in our top sets the opportunity to do this. The teachers of these classes will talk to students about this towards the end of Year 10.

Additional Languages GCSE exam opportunity

Students who are skilled in other languages, preferably their home language, have the opportunity to gain an additional GCSE qualification in that language in the summer of Year 10.

The languages are:

- Arabic (Pearson Edexcel)
- Bengali (AQA)
- Chinese (spoken Cantonese / Mandarin) (Pearson Edexcel)
- German (Pearson Edexcel)
- Greek (Pearson Edexcel)
- Gujarati (Pearson Edexcel)
- Italian (Pearson Edexcel)
- Japanese (Pearson Edexcel)
- Modern Hebrew (AQA)
- Panjabi (AQA)
- Persian (Pearson Edexcel)
- Polish (AQA)
- Portuguese (Pearson Edexcel)
- Russian (Pearson Edexcel)
- Turkish (Pearson Edexcel)
- Urdu (Pearson Edexcel)

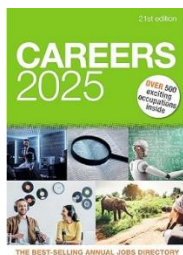
If this is something that you are interested in, please can you ask your parents to contact Ms Wu, teacher of EAL, by email c.wu@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Please note these option choices will not be part of the main options form.

5 Careers information, advice and guidance

Choosing your GCSE options is an important step in shaping your future. GCSEs help you develop key skills like problem-solving, teamwork, and communication, which are valued in all industries. Whether you're interested in becoming a doctor, engineer, artist, or entrepreneur, your options can keep doors open to a wide range of exciting opportunities. Remember, it's not just about what you enjoy but also about what might help you achieve your career goals.

You can find helpful information in the Careers library in the LCR and from the websites listed below:



Thamesmead Careers

The careers page is accessible from our home page.

<https://www.thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk/careers/>

xello

Powered by **CASCAID**

Careers education, information & guidance software

<https://login.xello.co.uk/account/UK:4263add6-4ca0-4c6d-a69a-2d7f59042b0f>



Careerpilot

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

All the information and tools you need to explore your future career

Amazing Apprenticeships

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

We are experts on apprenticeships and vocational education

National Careers Service

Explore careers Skills assessment

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

We provide careers information, advice and guidance. We can help you to make decisions on learning, training and work at all stages in your career.



<https://icould.com/explore>

Buzz quiz and careers information

PROSPECTS

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

UCAS

<https://wwwucas.com/further-education>

Course advice for post 16 and University and career options

innervate

INSPIRING CAREERS & PERSONAL GUIDANCE

<https://innervatecareers.co.uk/>

We are an independent career services company providing careers and personal guidance services that aims to inspire young people about careers, the world of work and education and training opportunities

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>
<https://apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>
<https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice>

6 What is the Core Curriculum?

Everyone will study the core National Curriculum subjects. These include some 'non-qualification subjects' that do not have any exams and do not lead to a certificate. However, it is important that you study these courses as they will help develop you as a person and prepare you for your future.

The core subjects are:

- English Language GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science GCSE
- Physical Education (Core PE is a non-qualification subject)
- Religious Studies GCSE (RPE)
- Personal Development (non-qualification subject; includes careers, sex and relationships education and key skills development).

We have a statutory obligation to deliver Religious Education to all of our students. At Thamesmead we made a decision many years ago to do this by entering KS4 students for the GCSE exam, in order that they gained a qualification as a result of their studies. You have already started this subject and you will be sitting your GCSE exam in May of Year 10.

7 Where do I start?

Option Choices

You have 3 option choices which you can choose from a range of subjects. The only requirement in place is that you must choose at least one subject from the following:

Computer Science	French	Geography	History	Spanish	Triple Science
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Choosing your option subjects

It is important to have a selection of subjects which will keep all career paths open and will also provide variety. Universities and employers are looking to recruit people with a broad and balanced education.

Thamesmead's aim is to ensure that you engage in subjects in which you can achieve; this is why you should seek advice from your parents/carers, subject teachers, your form tutor, Head of Year and the Careers Department. They can help you by giving impartial and specific careers advice. There are also a number of on-line resources available, and these are described in Section 5.

Things to think about when making your choices

- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- What are your learning strengths and skills and which subjects do these go well with?
- Which qualifications might you need for a career or courses in higher education that will interest you?
- Does the content and style of learning interest you?
- Does the balance between coursework and examinations suit you?

Do not choose a subject because

- You like the teacher – they may not be teaching your class next year.
- Your friend is choosing it or wants you to choose it – you may end up in a different class to your friend.

Subject costs

- We cover the cost of course materials as far as possible. However, there may be some costs associated with some courses and these are detailed in the subject information pages later in this booklet (correct at time of printing).

The cost of materials should not stop you from taking a subject. If there is any financial difficulty please contact the Headteacher at school.

REMEMBER: The final choice must be your own.

8 Choosing your Option subjects and completing them Online

Step 1 Research

- Learn about the subjects you could choose at GCSE level.
- Read the subject profiles in this booklet. Subjects at GCSE can be very different to what you have been used to in Year 9. Make sure that you know how they differ. Discuss your ideas with your subject teachers, during your Options meeting and with your tutor.

Step 2 Complete your Options Online

- Follow the instructions on the online Options Form carefully to make sure you choose the correct number of optional courses.
- Students will receive an email on **Monday 2nd March 2026** with a link to access their options choices, a help guide will be included. They have until Wednesday 11th March to submit their choices, and Mrs Naseem will be able to assist if further help is required with this.

Step 3 Deadline for Submitting your Options form

- The deadline is **Wednesday 11th March 2026**.

Important things that you need to know:

- Choices are not allocated to people who submit their online choices first so please take your time to consider the options available. However, if you do not complete your online submission by the deadline then it may be difficult to accommodate your preferences.
- Please consider your choices carefully as often it is not possible to change courses at a later date as many courses will be full.
- Sometimes it is not possible to allocate all first choices. This is usually because courses are timetabled at the same time. Every effort will be made to try to give you your first choices; however, if this is not possible then you will have a meeting with Mrs Eley or Mr Grafton who will explain why and then look with you at the other choices available.

PLEASE NOTE:

The subjects being offered and the course descriptors are correct at the time of publishing; however, they are subject to change because of the ongoing government review of the curriculum.

Please be aware that if there are insufficient numbers of students choosing a course, it may not run. In this case, the reserve subject(s) will be used.

9 Core Subjects Information

Department	Core qualification subjects	
	GCSEs	Vocational Courses
English	GCSE English Language <i>E</i>	
	GCSE English Literature <i>E</i>	
Maths	GCSE Mathematics <i>E</i>	
Science	GCSE Combined Science <i>E</i>	
	GCSE Biology <i>E</i>	
	GCSE Chemistry <i>E</i>	
	GCSE Physics <i>E</i>	
Humanities	GCSE Religious Studies (RPE)	

E Indicates subjects that count towards the EBacc (see Section 3).

All students will also study non-qualification National Curriculum subjects:

- Core Physical Education
- Personal Development (formerly known as Citizenship)

Personal Development also includes statutory National Curriculum material.

Information about each core subject follows in alphabetical order by subject name.



GCSE English Language

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8700

Subject contact: Ms J. Williams, Curriculum Leader for English

<p>Course Description</p> <p>GCSE English Language will help you to develop your ability to use English in real life contexts. The course involves assessments of two different aspects of English: reading and writing.</p> <p>Students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read fluently, and with developed understanding, a wide range of texts from 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries, including literary and non-literary fiction and non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism.• Read, analyse and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts.• Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve writing.• Write effectively and coherently using standard English appropriately.• Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary.• Listen to and understand spoken language and use standard spoken English effectively; develop rhetoric and oracy skills.	<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p>None</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>100% examination.</p> <p>50% - Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing Section A: Reading – one literature fiction text and four questions on this. Section B: Writing – descriptive or narrative writing.</p> <p>50% - Paper 2: Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives Section A: Reading – one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text and four questions on this. Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Good written work and creative ability. Students should be reading independently outside of lessons.</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>GCSE English Language is required for most of the course's students will take in the future. Many employers expect young people to have at least a grade 5 and to demonstrate effective communication skills. Students who achieve a grade 5, or above, can progress onto A level in English Literature or English Language and Literature.</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>While there are no specific texts that students need to purchase, there will be revision guides available.</p>
	<p>Careers</p> <p>English Language is a core subject and may be studied at A level and University. It is also vital for other subjects, such as History or Geography where good written expression is required. It can lead into careers in the media, law, education, government and politics and creative industries.</p>
	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Exam support sessions are available weekly. Focussed revision sessions will be offered nearer the exam. Grade 9 club runs once per week and is open to all.</p>



GCSE English Literature

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8702

Subject contact: Ms J. Williams, Curriculum Leader for English

Course Description
<p>GCSE English Literature will encourage students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have the chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of some of the best English literature ever written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely and for pleasure.</p> <p>Students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read a wide range of literature fluently and with a developed understanding, making connections across their reading. • Read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas. • Develop the habit of reading widely and often. • Appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage. • Write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using standard English. <p>This is a core subject and is taken with GCSE English Language.</p>

Entry Requirements
None.

Key Skills
<p>Good written work and creative ability.</p> <p>Students should be reading independently outside of lessons.</p>

Cost
<p>Students will be required to purchase copies of the texts in order to annotate thoroughly. Texts will be confirmed by the end of Y9. Poetry anthologies will be provided free of charge but they may wish to purchase a revision guide for this, and each of the other set texts.</p>

Assessment
<p>100% Examination</p> <p>50% - Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the 19th Century Novel (A Christmas Carol)</p> <p>50% - Paper 2: Modern texts (An Inspector Calls) and Poetry (Power & Conflict, and unseen poetry)</p>

Careers
<p>Literature is a core subject and may be studied at A level and University. It is also useful for other subjects, where good written expression is required. It can lead into careers in film and media, law, education, and creative industries.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>GCSE English Language is required for most courses students will take in the future. Many employers expect young people to have at least a grade 5 and to demonstrate effective communication skills. Students who achieve a grade 5, or above, can progress onto A level in English Literature or English Language and Literature, though due to the demands of A level Literature, some colleges demand a grade 6.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>Exam support sessions are available weekly. Focused revision sessions will be offered nearer the exam.</p>



GCSE Mathematics

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: 1MA1

Subject contact: Miss R. Harris, Curriculum Leader for Mathematics

Course Description <p>Mathematics encourages you to develop confidence in, and have a positive attitude towards, mathematics. You will recognise the importance of mathematics in your own lives and to society. This qualification prepares you to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices.</p> <p>You will cover a wide variety of topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• numbers and measures• algebra• ratio, proportion and rates of change• geometry and measures• probability <p>You will be expected to use and apply your knowledge through a range of investigations in lessons and tests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• acquire and use problem-solving strategies• select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations• reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions• interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.	Entry Requirements <p>None</p>
	Key Skills <p>Application of number, interpretation, working with others, communication, problem solving, mathematical reasoning, deduction and inference and drawing conclusion.</p>
	Cost <p>Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Maths Higher Tier Revision Workbook ISBN: 1292210885</p> <p>Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Maths Foundation Tier Revision Workbook ISBN: 1447987926</p>
Assessment <p>100% 3x 1 hour 30-minute exams in the Summer of Year 11</p> <p>All GCSEs are now 'linear' meaning that all exams must be taken at the end of the course.</p> <p>Paper 1 will be a non-calculator exam and Papers 2 and 3 will be calculator exams.</p> <p>Students will be entered into either the Foundation or the Higher Tier, depending on their ability.</p>	Careers <p>Accountancy, Business, Computing, Communications, Construction, Engineering, Government (e.g. GCHQ), Finance, Healthcare, Insurance, Manufacturing, Media, Operational Research, Recruitment, Academic Research, Science and more.</p>
Further education opportunities <p>GCSE Mathematics provides access to numerate AS and A Levels, such as: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, the Sciences, Geography and other qualifications which require mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding.</p>	Enrichment and Support <p>Exam revision sessions. Separate Additional Maths qualification offered to most able mathematicians.</p>



GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8464

Subject contact: Mrs E. McCarthy, Co. Curriculum Leader for Science

<p>Course Description</p> <p>GCSE Combined Science is the academic study, investigation and explanation of the world we live in. This course will equate to two GCSEs. It includes the study of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The subjects are assessed in separate papers, but the grades combined to give two GCSE grades. The knowledge and skills learnt and developed in science will help you throughout your lives.</p> <p>The course is delivered in distinct units.</p> <p>The units include:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Biology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><u>Physics</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism & electromagnetism </td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Chemistry</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources 	<p><u>Biology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology 	<p><u>Physics</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism & electromagnetism 	<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p>None</p>
<p><u>Biology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology 	<p><u>Physics</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism & electromagnetism 		
<p>Assessment</p> <p>100% 6 x 1 hr 15 min examination papers (Summer of Year 11)</p> <p>All examinations are in May/June. Individual exams cannot be retaken. There are two tiers in the examined units, Foundation tier and Higher tier. Students will be guided to take Foundation or Higher depending on their progress and ability. Questions include multiple choice, structured, closed short answers and open response.</p>	<p>Careers</p> <p>Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacology, Medical Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Engineering, Veterinary Sciences, Sports Sciences, and more.</p>		
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>This qualification will enable students to complete Level 3 science qualifications such as A-level Sciences or Level 3 BTECs</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Revision support sessions</p>		



GCSE Religious Studies

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8062

Subject contact: Ms S. Weeks, Subject Leader for Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

<p>Course Description</p> <p><u>Component 1: The study of religions, beliefs, teachings and practices</u> This unit will encourage you to reflect upon different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. This knowledge may be applied throughout the assessment of the subject content. Students will also be required to provide their opinion on the issues studied in a logical and reasoned way.</p> <p>You will cover two religions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christianity • Judaism <p><u>Component 2: Thematic Studies</u> During this unit you are encouraged to reflect upon issues to do with right and wrong within society. Students should consider different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and their impact and influence in the modern world. You will consider these issues from different perspectives and learn to argue your own opinion in a logical and reasoned way.</p> <p>You will cover four topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships and families • Religion, peace and conflict • Religion, crime and punishment • Religion and Life 	<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p>This is part of the core curriculum so all students study a full GCSE.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>100% exams (2 x 1 hour 45 min papers in Summer of Year 10)</p> <p>You will complete several internal assessments and complete practice questions frequently throughout the course.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Enquiry, communication, evaluation, empathy, independent learning, extended writing.</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>You will receive a full GCSE. This will be a valuable addition to any college application; however, some of you may choose to go on the study A Levels in any of the Social Sciences, for example Sociology, Psychology or Law. You might also choose to continue your Religious Studies by taking a Philosophy and Ethics A Level. Some of you may also go on to complete a Level 3 BTEC in Health and Social Care.</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Judaism Revision Guide:</p> <p>ISBN: 978 138 207 3707 £11.00</p>
<p>Careers</p> <p>Teacher, Social Worker, Human Resources, Youth Worker, Lawyer. The understanding and skills developed are of value in many career areas.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision support sessions • Revision Guide



Personal Development

(formerly known as Citizenship)

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: n/a

Course code: n/a

Subject contact: Mr D. Todd, Student Personal Development and Mental Health Lead

Course Description
<p>This course is designed to support the holistic, personal development of students. Fundamentally, this is concerned with the development of skills and with the acquisition of relevant knowledge and understanding. This will enable students to lead confident, healthy, responsible lives as individuals and members of society.</p> <p>The Personal Development curriculum encourages students to value others and feel valued, respect others and be respected, be independent and interdependent, behave responsibly, have a concern for justice and uphold the rights of others, understand the consequences of their actions and treat others with compassion and empathy.</p> <p>The themes of Health and Well-Being, Relationships (including Relationships and Sex Education), Living in the Wider World and Careers are covered during the course, with the topics including personal identities, healthy lifestyles, study skills, sex and relationships, personal finance and developing an understanding of careers and next steps.</p> <p>You will work individually, in a group and as a class. The programme is varied, not only in content, but in responses required from each person. The ability to work with others is extremely important.</p>

Entry Requirements
Students will build upon their prior progress in Key Stage 3 Personal Development.

Key Skills
Developing personal wellbeing; relationships and sex education; understanding of the wider world; economic and financial capabilities; developing career choice skills.

Cost
There are no costs associated with this course.

Assessment
This course is a non-qualification subject and is delivered through lessons with the tutors and include the use of guest speakers. There are no exams or coursework.

Careers
Skills, knowledge and understanding development in this programme will support entry into various jobs and careers.

Further education opportunities
Social sciences qualifications such as A Level Sociology and Psychology.

Enrichment and Support
n/a



Physical Education (Core PE)

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: n/a

Course code: n/a

Subject contact: Mr J Lawson, Director of Sport

Course Description
<p>In 'Core PE', you will participate in 1 lesson week. The work covered builds on the basic skills and activity knowledge gained in Years 7-9. The emphasis in Year 10 changes to the performance of more advanced skills and in particular being able to apply these skills where appropriate in fully competitive situations.</p> <p>The opportunity to develop and form your own tactics and strategies is increased and you will be expected to work closely with others to develop teamwork.</p> <p>You are given the opportunity to cover 2 activities in each of 3 terms thus giving you the chance to study in longer blocks of work; this allows you to gain a greater understanding by taking on responsibility for warming up, coaching and officiating.</p> <p>Some of you will have the possibility of developing your own fitness: guidance will be given on ways to use the Fitness Suite. Everyone is encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle with the aim of encouraging you to participate in some form of healthy activity when you leave school.</p> <p>You are still expected to adhere to the strict guidelines regarding kit (these are located on school's website).</p>

Entry Requirements
None.

Key Skills
Physical motor skills, teamwork, planning and evaluating performance, leadership.

Cost
None.

Assessment
This course is a non-qualification subject. There are no exams and there is no coursework.

Careers
Professional Sport, Coaching, Officiating, Physiotherapy, Personal Training, Teaching, Sports Science, Sports Development.

Further education opportunities
Level 2 subjects, coaching courses.

Enrichment and Support
Full and extensive range of extra-curricular clubs.

9 Optional Subjects Information

Information about the optional subjects begins on the next page. Courses are shown in alphabetical order by subject name.

Please remember that if you were given a place at Thamesmead School based on your Performing Arts ability (Drama or Music), then that subject must be one of your choices. Remember that you must select at least one subject from Computer Science, French, Geography, History, Spanish and Triple Science.

Department	Optional subjects	
	GCSEs	Vocational Courses
Art	GCSE Art and Design	
Performing Arts	GCSE Drama	
	GCSE Music	
Humanities	GCSE Geography <i>E</i>	
	GCSE History <i>E</i>	
Computer Science and Business and Enterprise	GCSE Computer Science <i>E</i>	BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise
Languages	GCSE French <i>E</i>	
	GCSE Spanish <i>E</i>	
Physical Education	GCSE Physical Education	BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Sport
Technology	GCSE Design Technology	
	GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	

E Indicates subjects that count towards the EBacc (see Section 3).



GCSE Art and Design

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course code: 1AD0

Subject contact: Mrs H. Long, Subject Leader for Art

Course Description

The GCSE in Art, Craft and Design is a broad and flexible course that requires students to develop an appreciation of the creative process through a practical response, using a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, materials, techniques and processes. Students should explore critically how artists, craftspeople and designers from diverse cultures, times and societies have arrived at solutions and communicated meaning using the formal elements. Students should use this knowledge when developing new ideas, recording observations and creating outcomes which fully realise their personal intentions.

Assessment

The GCSE Art & Design course is divided into 4 assessment areas each equally weighted:

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language
-

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (internally set) 60% of final GCSE grade

Component 1 is coursework covered through year 10 and in the first term of year 11. All class work and homework completed during this time counts towards the coursework grade awarded. Students' work must comprise supporting studies and personal response(s). Students' work must show evidence of all four Assessment Objectives.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% of final GCSE grade

The Externally Set Assignment (ESA) comprises of preparatory studies and personal response(s). Preparatory studies will include a portfolio of development work based on the ESA broad-based thematic starting point. During the 10-hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions, students will work unaided to produce personal response(s), with reference to their preparatory studies, in response to the ESA broad-based thematic starting point. Students' work must show evidence of all four Assessment Objectives.

Further education opportunities

The value of studying a creative subject has been widely promoted in recent years; it develops independent learners who are able to adapt and develop new understandings with confidence. The courses available for further study at college vary from Fine Art to 3-Dimensional Design to Graphics.

Entry Requirements

Good prior achievement in Art & Design and a commitment to the subject.

Key Skills

- Develop visual language skills presenting different ideas in a variety of formats including sketchbooks
- Research, gather -Research, gather material from a variety of primary and contextual sources
- Study artists' techniques and styles
- Analyse and evaluate your work and work of others
- Experiment with a variety of media, materials, techniques and processes
- Present personal response(s) to theme(s)

Cost

An Art pack is sold by the department for GCSE students which includes essential equipment for the course such as lino, A1 boards and embossed sketchbooks. We recommend that students buy additional materials depending on their choice of media used within the projects.

Careers

Employment opportunities are extensive and include industries including graphic design, advertising, computer animation, fashion, digital media, theatre, architecture.

Enrichment and Support

Targeted GCSE Art sessions. Year 10 trip -Wisley Gardens. Year 11 trip-Tate Britain



BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Business &
Enterprise

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Code: 603/7068/3

Subject contact: Ms H. Lewis, Subject Leader for Business and Enterprise

Course Description
<p>This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the business and enterprise sector or progress to further study.</p> <p>This qualification will promote the learner's understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entrepreneurial characteristics and business aims and objectives • business organisation, legal structures and stakeholder engagement • market research, market types, marketing mix and market orientation • human resource requirements for business and enterprise • operations management • business growth • sources of enterprise funding and business finance • the impact of the external environment on business and enterprise <p>Learners must achieve a minimum of a Level 1 Pass in both the external assessment and the internal assessment to achieve the overall qualification.</p> <p>This is a vocational qualification equivalent to GCSE grades 8–1</p>

Entry Requirements
<p>Must be interested in developing a significant core of knowledge and understanding and know how to apply these needed qualities to the business and enterprise sector.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Learners will develop skills and knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -in adapting their own ideas, responding to feedback, evaluating their own work -analysing data, making decisions essential for the business and enterprise sector, such as evaluation skills; responding to data; independent working; working to deadlines; efficient use of resources.

Assessment
<p>Unit 1: 30% NEA (project) Unit 2: 30% NEA (project) Unit 3: 40% Exam (May / June of Year 11)</p>

Cost
<p>There are no charges for the course.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>Learners who achieve at Level 2 might consider progression to Level 3 qualifications post-16 such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 Applied Generals in: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Financial Studies, Business and Enterprise, Applied Business, Business. • A Level in Business <p>Learners who achieve at Level 1 might consider progression to Level 2 qualifications post-16 such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a GCSE in Business Studies. <p>study at Level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships and further study. Examples include Level 2 Technical Certificates in: Accounting, Accounting & Business, Business Administration, Business & Enterprise, Customer Service Operations, Business Support</p>

Careers
<p>Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the business sector or through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as in marketing, business administration and human resources.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>Visit to local business</p>



GCSE in Computer Science

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course code: 1CP2

Subject contact: Ms A. George, Key Stage 4 Leader for Computer Science

Course Description
<p>At Thamesmead we teach the Edexcel GCSE Computer Science Qualification.</p> <p>This consists of two exams worth 50% each. Paper 1 is a written examination and Paper 2 is a practical onscreen assessment.</p> <p>The main programming language used at key stage 4 is Python, this builds on nicely from the introductory work the students will have completed in year 7, 8 and 9.</p>

Entry Requirements
<p>Students must be comfortable with mental arithmetic and understand basic expressions and formulas.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Writing Programs, Debugging, Testing, Communication, Problem Solving, Arithmetic, Multi-Tasking, Computational Thinking.</p>

Cost
<p>Access to a home computer</p>

Assessment
<p>Component 1: Principles of Computer Science Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes</p> <p>50% of the qualification (75 marks)</p> <p>This paper consists of five compulsory questions, each one focuses on one topic area. The questions consist of multiple-choice, short, medium and extended open responses, tabular and diagrammatic items.</p> <p>Component 2: Application of Computational Thinking Onscreen examination: 2 hours</p> <p>50% of the qualification (75 marks)</p> <p>This practical paper requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems.</p> <p>Students will complete the assessment onscreen using Python in the Thonny integrated development environment.</p>

Careers
<p>Programmer Systems Analyst Cyber Security Consultant Network Manager Web Developer Software Tester Data Scientist Software Engineer AI Research Scientist</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>Apprenticeships, Diplomas, A-Levels and Degrees at college and university are available in a wide variety of careers related to this qualification.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>BBC GCSE Bite-Size Computing, Thonny.org, EdExcel website, Revisecomputerscience.com, Csnwbs.com, TutorialsPoint Python, YouTube channel: CrashCourse Computer Science</p>



GCSE Design Technology

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8552

Subject contact: Mrs H. Jones, Subject Leader for Design Technology

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GCSE Drama

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: WJEC/Eduqas

Course code: C690QS

Subject contact: Mrs B. Holmes, Subject Leader for Drama

<p>Course Description</p> <p>Drama GCSE builds upon the skills and knowledge that you have already learned at KS3. The course is a mixture of written exam, written controlled assessments, practical exploration and performance. <i>Students who were offered places at Thamesmead School under drama criteria will study GCSE Drama.</i></p> <p>During the course you will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop creative innovative ways of working in the art form of drama. • Develop your knowledge of theatre practitioners, companies and key aspects of the development of 20th & early 21st Century theatre practice. • Understand how playwrights use drama to realise text in performance. • Create your own performance from a chosen stimulus. • Develop your knowledge of acting, designing and directing. • Learn how to analyse and evaluate performance and live professional theatre. 	<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p>Students should be confident about their written ability and have good KS3 drama results.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Component 1: Devising Theatre (40 % of GCSE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of stimulus material through a group devised performance. • A written Portfolio of Evidence is completed to document the development of ideas. • A written evaluation of the performance is completed in controlled conditions. <p>Component 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of two extracts from a play text to a visiting examiner worth 20% of the final mark. <p>Component 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 30-minute written exam which is worth 40% of the final mark. • Section A and B examines your knowledge of theatre roles, terminology and will examine your understanding of the play text <i>Noughts & Crosses</i>. You will be expected to write about how you would act, direct and design the set text. • Section C will examine how you are able to provide an extended response to a live professional performance which you have to analyse and evaluate. 	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Acting and performance, Stagecraft, Self-confidence, Public Speaking, Teamwork, Collaboration and Communication Leadership, Analytical thinking, Evaluation/critique Creative thinking</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>A level Drama and Theatre, A level in Performing Arts, BTEC Performing Arts, Level 2 Vocational Performing Arts, Level 3 Vocational Performing Arts, Industry based apprenticeship</p> <p>Students develop confidence and analytical skills to study a wide range of other subject areas also.</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>Copy of set text (Noughts & Crosses/ The Crucible) – £10.00</p> <p>Theatre trips (at least one per year – approx. £40.00)</p>
<p>Careers</p> <p>Actor, Set designer, Director, Stage Manager Sound/lighting technician Costume designer, playwright, Prop maker. Journalism, Media, Law</p> <p>Drama also develops skills that many employers look for in most career choices.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>1:1 and small group support after school for written and practical tasks. Opportunities to take part in various performances and clubs to further improve skills.</p>



GCSE Food and Nutrition

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8585

Subject contact: Mrs C. Goddard, Subject Leader for Food and Nutrition

Course Description
<p>Food preparation and nutrition is a very exciting and creative subject. Working with a wide range of ingredients and equipment to develop complex practical skills. You will also study in some detail nutrition and what is needed to maintain a healthy diet and will understand and investigate more about the science of food and how food perform and change within a range of recipes.</p> <p>Food preparation and nutrition;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning about cuisines, recipes, foods, ingredients, processes and practical techniques. - Being creative and designing your own meals and recipes. - Developing skills which enable you to create original products. - Problem solving within recipes and learning how to modify and adapt recipes. - In depth understanding of nutrients, how to maintain a healthy diet and recognise symptoms of diet related illnesses. - Investigating, experimenting and testing different ingredients, recipes and techniques. - Understanding key food science terms and applying within practical. - Learning about different special diets such as religion, intolerances, allergies and moral beliefs. - Understanding how the food industry has an impact on the environment and learning ways we can all improve our carbon footprint. <p>You can expect to take part and source ingredients for a practical lesson once a week. You will also take part in investigations and food experiments within some of your theory lessons to develop the understanding of food science and to understand how particular ingredients behave or react. These ingredients will be provided by the department.</p>

Entry Requirements
<p>A passion for food. Ability to be creative and challenge yourself.</p> <p>Manage time effectively and to meet deadlines.</p> <p>Organise ingredients prior to practical lessons.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Independence, time management, working under pressure, dedication, passion, problem solving, resilience.</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation.</p> <p>Key knowledge and understanding of nutrition.</p>

Cost
<p>Students will be expected to supply their own ingredients for all practical work undertaken throughout the two year course.</p>

Assessment
<p>Non-Exam Assessments (NEA)</p> <p>15% NEA1- Food investigation task- students will investigation the properties and functions of different foods linking to food science. Completed year 11 October- November.</p> <p>35% NEA2- Food Preparation Assessment - Students plan, prepare and present 3 meals in 3 hours alongside a written report and 5 trial meals. Completed year 11 January- April.</p> <p>50% Written exam paper- You will sit a 1 hour 45 minute paper. Completed June/July.</p>

Careers
<p>Dietician, Nutritionist, Chef/ Sous Chef, Caterer, Food technologists, Food marketing/ management, Food publishing/media</p> <p>The understanding of nutrition would also help towards careers in the NHS or sport related careers.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>More practical based catering course are offered at colleges. A range of university courses are available including food science, food technology, nutrition and dietetics, food marketing and hospitality and catering.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>After school sessions to help build skills and knowledge of curriculum.</p>



GCSE French

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8652

Subject contact: Mrs N. Ripoché, Subject Leader for MFL

Course Description
<p>French GCSE is available to all students. You will learn to speak and write at a more advanced level, and since you have covered many of the topics in years 7-9, you will be in a strong position to get good grades! You will develop your communication skills, your understanding of grammar and your knowledge of French speaking countries (including Haiti, Canada and Ivory Coast) and their cultures.</p> <p>If you enjoy learning through film clips, songs, articles and apps, French is a great choice for you! Be prepared for pair and group work alongside independent work. Recent studies have proven that learning a foreign language can delay the onset of dementia, fight depression and improve confidence. What are you waiting for?</p> <p>By the end of Year 11 you will have covered the following areas:</p> <p>Theme 1: People and lifestyle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others • Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle • Topic 3: Education and work <p>Theme 2: Popular culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Free-time activities • Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations • Topic 3: Celebrity culture <p>Theme 3: Communication and the world around us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest • Topic 2: Media and technology • Topic 3: The environment and where people live •

Entry Requirements
None

Key Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Effective communication ○ Collaboration ○ Problem solving ○ Memorisation techniques ○ Adaptability ○ Tolerance of other cultures ○ Global awareness <p>The course is designed to enable you to communicate in real life situations in French speaking countries or whilst speaking with native French speakers.</p>

Cost
Pearson - AQA GCSE-Revision workbook- ISBN-10:129739754 (Higher & Foundation) Approx. £6.50. For exams from 2026

Careers
A grade 5 or above in GCSE French will enable you to continue your studies of French at AS and A2 levels. Career opportunities in numerous areas, including travel and tourism, the media, journalism, MI5, sales and marketing, customer support, education, translating and interpreting and many more.

Assessment
<p>At the end of your course you will sit an examination in four skill areas, each of which is worth 25% of your total mark.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listening – understand and respond to different types of spoken language. 2. Speaking – communicate and interact effectively in speech including describing a photo. 3. Reading – understand different types of written language and translate into English. 4. Writing – communicate in writing and translate into French.

Enrichment and Support
Small group support after school is available and all students receive an ActiveHub and Languagenut account to provide personalised support.

Further education opportunities
The knowledge of a foreign language would be an advantage for furthering your career in any field and some universities and colleges may require this as a condition of entry.



GCSE Geography

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON -QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8035

Subject contact: Miss R. Jones, Subject Leader for Geography

<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course gives our students the opportunity to understand more about the world and the challenges it faces. It enables students to become globally and environmental informed citizens of the world.</p> <p>Unit 1 Living with the physical environment</p> <p>a) The challenge of natural hazards b) The living world c) Physical landscapes in the UK</p> <p>To develop an understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, and meteorological processes in different environments, and the need for sustainable management strategies to reduce risks and impacts.</p> <p>Unit 2 Challenges in the human environment</p> <p>a) Urban issues and challenges b) The changing economic world c) The challenge of resource management</p> <p>To develop an understanding of a variety of places in various levels of development, such as higher income countries (HICs), lower income countries (LICs) and the need for sustainable management.</p> <p>Unit 3 Geographical applications</p> <p>a) Issue evaluation b) Fieldwork c) Geographical skills</p> <p>To develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills.</p> <p>It should be noted, <u>10% of the marks come from mathematical skills</u> and therefore they should be able to perform these accurately.</p>	<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p>Good prior achievement in Geography, Maths and English is required.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>100% Exams</p> <p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment. 1 hour 30 minutes (35%) Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment. 1 hour 30 minutes (35%) Paper 3: Geographical Applications. 1 hour 30 minutes (30%)</p> <p>Paper 3 is based on two separate days' compulsory field trips. These are the only field trips for the course held during Year 10.</p> <p>Rivers Day – Investigating the changes in a river downstream near Dorking Urban Day – Investigating regeneration and sustainability in the East Village in the Olympic Park.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication skills • Problem solving • Independent research, • ICT skills, • Map skills, • Decision making • Data collection and interpretation, fieldwork • Statistical representation.
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>Students will have the opportunity to take A level Geography and subjects related to geography such as sustainability, climate change, disaster management, environmental sciences, urban planning, logistics etc.</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>Exam practice Book approx. £3.50 Revision Guide approx. £4.50</p> <p>Students will also need to attend 2 fieldwork days. (Approx price for 2023, both trips, was £60)</p>
<p>Careers</p> <p>Agriculture, Art & Design, Business Studies, Cartography, Construction, Environmental Agency, Geology, ICT, Journalism, Languages, Law, Location Manager, Meteorology, Oceanography, Surveying, Teaching, Water Quality Scientist.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Revision support sessions. Wideworld Magazine.</p>



Students of Thamesmead
come study History

GCSE History

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: WJEC/Eduqas Course code: C100QS

Subject contact: Mrs M. Phillips, Subject Leader for History

<p>Course Description</p> <p>History at Thamesmead is made up of 4 topic areas, each focussing on a distinct period or theme in history.</p> <p>Component 1: Studies in Depth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603 – In depth study of Elizabeth I: Elizabeth’s popularity, lifestyles of the rich and poor during the Tudor period, the religious problems, threats against Elizabeth, the Spanish Armada. • Germany in Transition, 1919-39 – In depth study of Germany between WW1 and WW2: Problems of the Weimar Republic, the rise of the Nazis, life in Nazi Germany, Hitler’s foreign policy (lead up to WWII). <p>Component 2: Studies in Breadth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development of the USA, 1929-2000 – Breadth study of USA in the 20th century: the Depression, boom in the 1950s, changes in popular culture (Music, Film, TV), the Cold War (Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam), the war with Iraq. • Changes in Crime and Punishment in Britain, 500-present – Breadth study of crime and punishment over time: changes in crime, punishment and policing – e.g. prisons, the Bow Street Runners, the introduction of the police force, the development of forensic science and DNA. 	<p>Entry Requirements</p> <p>Enthusiasm and interest in the subject. Good prior achievement in KS3 History and English e.g. literacy and writing skills.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>100% Exam based (no coursework)</p> <p>Component 1 – 50% of grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Elizabethan Age – 1 Hour Exam • Germany in Transition – 1 Hour Exam <p>Component 2 – 50% of grade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the USA – 45 Minute Exam • Changes in Crime and Punishment – 1 hour 15-minute 	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Organisation, analysis of sources and interpretations, extended writing and independent learning. Empathy, research skills, report writing and communicating ideas.</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>The GCSE course prepares you very well for AS and A2 level History if you wish to take it at college. GCSE History is also a solid base for any other academic subject due to the skills involved. It goes particularly well alongside Law, Economics, Psychology, English, Geography, Politics, Criminology, Sociology.</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>Exam board revision book £8.80. All other course materials will be provided by the department.</p>
	<p>Careers</p> <p>History is relevant for many careers because of the skills and understanding of the wider world that it develops. Careers for which it is especially useful are law, journalism, politics, civil service, social work, marketing, advertising, media, international organisations and charities.</p>
	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Two trips to central London: Year 10 – Imperial War Museum Year 11- Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament / National Portrait Gallery. Weekly after school revision clinics in Year 11.</p>



GCSE Music

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: WJEC/Eduqas Course code: C660QS

Subject contact: Mr T Moses, Subject Leader for Music

Course Description
<p>Music at GCSE level will build upon the skills and knowledge that you have already learned at KS3 about composing, performing, listening to and writing about music.</p> <p>If you enjoy performing music in your own time and are learning an instrument, having singing lessons or enjoy creating music, then this is a great subject to choose.</p> <p>If you like to create music of your own, then composing will give you that opportunity and if you want to broaden your knowledge of all types of music, including classical, popular and world, then this exciting course will give you an appreciation of the diversity of musical styles that exist today.</p> <p>You will learn how to improve your performing skills and through your work in composing you will gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product. You will also learn how to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years.</p> <p>If you want to know how music can help you in the future, use this link to find out more: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=25183</p>

Entry Requirements
<p>Be learning to play an instrument or sing. You do not need to have taken graded exams but being approximately grade 2 or above would be desirable.</p> <p>N.B Students who were offered places at Thamesmead under Music criteria will study GCSE Music.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Individual and ensemble Performance skills Creative thinking Composition skills Team work skills Independent learning Working under pressure Analysis Time management</p>

Cost
<p>8 GB Memory Stick Revision Guide</p>

Assessment
<p>Listening - 40% ○ A 1 hour 15-minute exam based on the 4 areas of study and 2 set works</p> <p>○ Composing 30% 2 compositions (one free choice and one to a set brief in Year 11)</p> <p>○ Performing 30% - 2 instrumental or vocal performances (One solo performance and one ensemble performance)</p>

Careers
<p>Performer, Composer, Arranger, Studio Engineer, Music Therapist, Teacher, Producer, Theatre Technician</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>A Level Music, A Level Music Technology Performing Arts BTEC Level 2 Vocational Performing Arts Level 3 Vocational Performing Arts Music Performance BTEC, Music Apprenticeship</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>Choirs, Soul Band, Rock Band, School Musical, Orchestra, Composition Clinic, Concerts, Performances in the community, Music performance trips, Music Reps</p>



GCSE Physical Education

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course code: 1PE0

Subject contact: Subject contact: Mr J. Lawson, Director of Sport

Course Description	
<p>The course deepens your knowledge, understanding and skills, building on the work you have developed in Key Stage 3 PE.</p> <p>You will study the Theory of Physical Education which includes these topics:</p>	
<p>Component 1 Fitness & Body Systems 36%</p>	<p>1. Applied Anatomy & Physiology 2. Movement Analysis 3. Physical Training 4. Use of Data</p> <p>Written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes</p>
<p>Component 2 Health & Performance 24%</p>	<p>1. Health, Fitness & Well-Being 2. Sport Psychology 3. Socio-Cultural Influences 4. Use of Data</p> <p>Written examination of 1 hour 15 minutes</p>
<p>Component 3 Practical Performance 30%</p>	<p>Students must participate in three separate activities. One must be a team activity. One must be an individual activity. The final activity can be either/or.</p> <p>Teacher assessed and moderated by Pearson</p>
<p>The link below lists the assessable sports; https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Physical%20Education/2016/Specification%20and%20sample%20assessments/gcse-pe-erratum-notice-december-2022.pdf</p>	
<p>Component 4 Health & Performance 24%</p>	<p>Students will produce a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) and are required to analyse and evaluate their performance</p> <p>Teacher assessed and moderated by Pearson</p> <p>Written examination of 1 hour 15 minutes</p>

Entry Requirements
<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are required to participate competitively in at least two GCSE PE Sports (performed to a minimum of club level). • If you cannot meet this requirement, consider the BTEC Sport option as an alternative course. • Desirable - Students are strongly advised to have a solid understanding of Human Biology.

Key Skills
<p>Analysis of performance, extended project (PEP), independent learning, extended writing, organisation, and practical performance in three sports.</p>

Cost
<p>We strongly recommend that all students purchase a Revision Guide. & Workbook. The approximate cost is £8 Students will also have the option to buy a GCSE PE kit to wear in lessons. The approximate cost is £45 (sold by Shepperton Sports and delivered to the PE Department).</p>

Assessment
<p>60% - Two written examinations (see above) 30% - Practical performance (in three sports – see above) 10% - Controlled assessment: Analysis of performance (coursework)</p>

Careers
<p>Sports scientist, PE teacher, physiotherapist, professional sportsperson, sports coach/consultant, Sports policy maker, fitness instructor, and personal trainer.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>Students who achieve a 6 grade or higher will have the ideal preparation for progressing onto an A Level Physical Education Course, or a Level 3 equivalent qualification.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>GCSE practical after-school club, Revision sessions, Rock Climbing opportunity</p>



GCSE Spanish

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8698

Subject contact: Mrs N. Ripoché, Subject Leader for MFL

Course Description
<p>Spanish GCSE is available to all students. You will learn to speak and write at a more advanced level, and since you have covered many of the topics in years 7-9, you will be in a strong position to get good grades! You will develop your communication skills, your understanding of grammar and your knowledge of Spanish speaking countries (including Mexico, Chile and Argentina) and their cultures.</p> <p>If you enjoy learning through film clips, songs, articles and apps, Spanish is a great choice for you! Be prepared for pair and group work alongside independent work. Recent studies have proven that learning a foreign language can delay the onset of dementia, fight depression and improve confidence. What are you waiting for?</p> <p>By the end of Year 11 you will have covered the following areas:</p> <p>Theme 1: People and lifestyle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others • Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle • Topic 3: Education and work <p>Theme 2: Popular culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Free-time activities • Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations • Topic 3: Celebrity culture <p>Theme 3: Communication and the world around us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest • Topic 2: Media and technology • Topic 3: The environment and where people live •

Entry Requirements
None

Key Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Effective communication - Collaboration - Problem solving - Memorisation techniques - Adaptability - Tolerance of other cultures - Global awareness <p>The course is designed to enable you to communicate in real life situations in Spanish speaking countries or whilst speaking with native Spanish speakers.</p>

Cost
Pearson - AQA GCSE-Revision workbook- ISBN-10:1292471697 (Higher & Foundation) Approx. £6.50. For exams from 2026

Careers
A grade 5 or above in GCSE French will enable you to continue Spanish at AS and A2 levels. Career opportunities in numerous areas, including travel and tourism, the media, journalism, MIS, sales and marketing, customer support, education, translating and interpreting and many more

Assessment
At the end of your course you will sit an examination in four skill areas, each of which is worth 25% of your total mark. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Listening – understand and respond to different types of spoken language. 6. Speaking – communicate and interact effectively in speech including describing a photo. 7. Reading – understand different types of written language and translate into English. 8. Writing – communicate in writing and translate into Spanish.

Enrichment and Support
Small group support after school is available and all students receive an ActiveHub and LanguageNut account to provide personalised support.

Further education opportunities
The knowledge of a foreign language would be an advantage for furthering your career in any field and some universities and colleges may require this as a condition of entry.



BTEC LEVEL 1/2 Technical Award in Sport

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel

Course code: 603/7068/3

Subject contact: Mr J. Lawson, Director of Sport

Course Description
<p>The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts.</p> <p>Component 1: Learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.</p> <p>Component 2: Learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.</p> <p>Component 3: Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.</p> <p>Students would learn about the theory side of PE and then have a variety of written assessments (under exam conditions) and a written test.</p>

Entry Requirements
<p>Entry requirements: Pupils should have an interest in sport, physical activity and exercise. Pupils should be participating in at least one extra-club afterschool. Pupils will need to complete a workbook prior to starting the course</p>

Key Skills
<p>Research, Leadership, analysis and evaluation</p>

Cost
<p>A £15 contribution yearly to an online course resource. Students will also have the option to buy a TECH Sport kit to wear in lessons approximate cost £45 (sold by Shepperton Sports and delivered to Thamesmead PE Department).</p>

Assessment
<p>The assessment for the Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport are as follows: 2 Internal Written Assignments set by exam board (60% of Final Mark) Both are internally and externally marked and moderated. Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (5 hours of supervised assessment) Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (4 hours of supervised assessment)</p> <p>External Synoptic Assessment (40% of Final Mark) Component 3: A written assessment that requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole qualification in an integrated way. (The assessment will be completed in 1 hour and 30 minutes within the period timetabled by Pearson.</p>

Careers
<p>Recreational Management, Coaching, Fitness Industry, Officiating, Apprenticeships in Exercise and Fitness, Sports Nutrition.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>BTEC Sport Level 3, Higher Education & A-Level PE</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>Assignment catch-up sessions.</p>



GCSE Triple Science

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8461/8642/8643

Subject contact: Mrs E McCarthy, Co. Curriculum Leader for Science
Miss J. Shillabeer, Triple Science Co-ordinator.

Course Description	
<p>GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics is the in-depth study, investigation and explanation of the world we live in. This will equate to three GCSEs. This qualification provides a more detailed exploration of the science that is around us, stretching and challenging the most able. This course acts as an enrichment bridge between GCSE and A-level sciences.</p> <p>You will have timetabled lessons in biology, chemistry and physics. The course is delivered in distinct units. The units include:</p>	
<p><u>Biology</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cell biology2. Organisation3. Infection and response4. Bioenergetics5. Homeostasis and response6. Inheritance, variation and evolution7. Ecology	<p><u>Physics</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Energy2. Electricity3. Particle model of matter4. Atomic structure5. Forces6. Waves7. Magnetism and electromagnetism8. Space Physics
<p><u>Chemistry</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Atomic structure and the periodic table2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter3. Quantitative chemistry4. Chemical Changes5. Energy changes6. The rate and extent of chemical change7. Organic chemistry8. Chemical analysis9. Chemistry of the atmosphere10. Using resources	

Entry Requirements
<p>As a guide, would expect students to be achieving 75% or more on average in their Tri-weekly assessments. If your child is achieving less than this then please speak with their teacher about their suitability for the course.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Investigation and enquiry, analysis, extended writing, independent learning, organisation.</p>

Cost
<p>Revision guides and workbooks TBC</p>

Assessment
<p>100% 6 x 1 hr 45 min examination papers (Summer in Year 11)</p> <p>All examinations are in May/June. Individual exams cannot be retaken. There are two tiers in the examined units, Foundation tier and Higher tier. Students will be guided to take Foundation or Higher depending on their progress and ability. Questions include multiple choice, structured, closed short answers and open response.</p>

Careers
<p>Biotechnology, Chemical Engineering, Pharmacology, Medical Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Engineering, Veterinary Sciences, Sports Sciences, and more.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>This qualification will enable students to complete Level 3 science qualifications such as A-level Sciences or Level 3 BTECs.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>Esher college trips Revision support sessions</p>

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