

Hillcrest School
Key Stage 4
OPTIONS GUIDE
Year 9



INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

MAKING YOUR DECISION

Choosing the subjects you want to study in Years 10 and 11 takes time and needs careful thought. Your parents, tutor, teachers, friends, careers advisors and others will all help you with your decisions. Selecting which subjects you study in Year 10 and 11 is a very important decision as it will affect:

- ❖ Your progress over the next 2 years
- ❖ Your choice of subjects at sixth form/college, and
- ❖ Your employment prospects in the future

Your choice of GCSE subjects will be determined by the following important factors:

- ❖ **Enjoyment-** Choose subjects you really enjoy. The course will last for three years - if there is no liking for the subject in the first place it is very easy for things to go wrong. But beware! Be sure that the reasons for liking the subject will still apply in three years' time and weren't just a passing phase based on one unit of work in Year 8.
- ❖ **Ability-** Choose subjects you are good at. It is important to choose subjects in which you are successful rather than others where you may do less well as things get harder - your Year 8 Progress Report should help you decide which these are.
- ❖ **A Balanced Education-** Balance in your choice of subjects provides you with a wider range of opportunities. For example, balance will result in keeping open doors that over-specialisation might otherwise close and will provide a fuller, more rounded education which will develop your whole personality.
- ❖ **Career Relevance -** You may not know exactly where you are going just yet, but even if there is only a vague idea it can be worthwhile finding out which subjects would be essential or useful. We stress the importance of choosing a balanced range of subjects as we recognise that career ideas develop and change.

SOME DOS AND DON'TS

- ❖ Do talk to parents, subject teachers, your form tutor, older students, careers staff they are all here to help.
- ❖ Do read the subject details in this booklet carefully and ask if you need to know more.
- ❖ Do opt for a balanced choice of subjects to keep open future careers and study options.
- ❖ Do choose subjects you enjoy.
- ❖ Do not choose a subject because your friends are choosing it. You are deciding about your future, and they may not be in the same group as you.
- ❖ Do not choose a subject because you like the teacher you may have a different teacher next year.



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

At Hillcrest School, we have developed the Key Stage 4 curriculum with the intention of offering students a useful, appropriate and relevant suite of qualifications. We work from the perspective of students' aspirations, strengths and needs, workforce demands and progression routes to further and higher education.

WHAT WILL THE CURRICULUM LOOK LIKE?

There are several core subjects that the government requires all students to study, such as English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Religious Education. Students also study French and either History or Geography.

In addition to the core, students make guided choices from a range of subjects including Art, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Music, and Design Technology. This ensures that we provide opportunities for different kinds of learning to suit the interests and abilities of individual students, whilst retaining a strong focus on academic subjects which will enable them to progress to further and higher education. We aim to give as many students as possible the opportunity to achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) by the end of Year 11.

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself. It is a wrap-around award that recognises students' achievements across a core of selected subjects. Students would be expected to attain between grades 9 to 5 in English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography.

The EBacc is highly regarded by colleges, sixth form, universities, other higher education institutions and employers. Therefore, this award would be advantageous to students who are intent on further study for an Undergraduate Degree or equivalent.

CURRICULUM ALLOCATIONS AT KEY STAGE 4

	Year 10	Year 11
English	8 hours	9 hours
Mathematics	8 hours	9 hours
Science	8 hours	9 hours
Physical Education	2 hours	2 hours
Religious Education and Life Skills	2 hours	1 hour
French	5 hours	5 hours



COURSE CONTENT

All students study this core subject, which leads to a GCSE qualification graded 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest); students' certificates will also be endorsed with a three—tiered grade (Pass, Merit and Distinction) to reflect their ability to speak formally in spoken language.

Component 1 - 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Section A (20%) - Reading: Understanding of one extract (about 60-100 lines) of literature from the C20th. Structured questions.

Section B (20%) - Prose Writing. One creative writing task selected from a choice of four titles.

Component 2 - 19th and 21st Century Non-fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Section A (30%) - Reading: Understanding of two extracts (about 900-1200 words) of high-quality non-fiction writing, one from C19th and one from C21st. Structured questions.

Section B (30%) - Writing: Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks.

Component 3 - Spoken Language: A formal speech, including responses to questions and feedback.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Linear: all examinations take place at the end of the Year 11 course. The qualification is graded 9-1. Spoken Language is a compulsory component but does not contribute to the overall grade. Sentence structure, punctuation, spelling and vocabulary carry a heavy weighting (20% of qualification).

Examinations:

Paper 1 (Assesses Component 1): 1 hour, 45 minutes (40% of total qualification)

Paper 2 (Assesses Component 2): 2 hours (60 % of total qualification)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken language (unweighted but separately endorsed as P, M or D)

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The study of English Language is essential for the future career prospects of all students. The government's recent emphasis on academic rigour and the importance of the traditional subjects means this is more important than ever for students.

Language interrogation encourages enquiring minds to supports study across the curriculum.

A hugely diverse range of careers follow the study of English, including writing, journalism, teaching and research.

High profile graduates include: Oprah Winfrey (Broadcaster, Writer & CEO), J K Rowling (Author), Judy Finnegan (Presenter, Author & national Book Club director), Vanessa Feltz (Broadcaster and Journalist), Stephen Spielberg (Film Director) and Vin Diesel (Actor) to name but a few!





COURSE CONTENT

Almost all students study this academic subject, which leads to a GCSE qualification graded 9 (highest) to 1. A small number of students following Pathway 3 focus on achievement in English Language only.

Component 1 - Shakespeare and Poetry

Section A - Shakespeare (20%): one extract and one essay question based on the reading of a whole Shakespeare play.

Section B - Poetry from 1789-present day (20%): two questions (poems from an anthology, one of which involves comparison).

Component 2 - Post-1914 Prose/Drama

C19th Prose and Unseen Poetry

Section A - Post-1914 prose/drama (20%): One, source-based question on a whole post-1914 Prose or Drama text studied.

Section B - C19th Prose (20%): One, sourced-based question on a whole C19th text studied.

Section C - Unseen poetry from the C20th/21st (20%): Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involved comparison.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment is by end of course, linear examinations. There is no non-examination assessment and all examinations are closed-book. Marks are included for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar (5% of qualification).

Examinations:

Paper 1: Component 1 - 2 hours (40% of qualification)

Paper 2: Component 2 - 2 hours, 30 minutes (60% of qualification)

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The study of English Language is essential for the future career prospects of all students. The government's recent emphasis on academic rigour and the importance of the traditional subjects means this is more important than ever for students.

Language interrogation encourages enquiring minds to supports study across the curriculum.

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COURSE CONTENT

Mathematics is a core subject and must be taken by all students at the tier most appropriate to their ability and target. In this course, you will continue to study the following areas of mathematics: number, algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability, as well as learn how to apply these techniques.

You will need your own scientific calculator to use throughout the course. It is important that you know how it works and when you should be using it. In the examinations, you are not allowed to ask for help with this, so it's important you have plenty of practice beforehand.

For students wishing to take GCE ('A' level) Mathematics, achieving at least a high grade 7 on the higher tier is essential, since only those students who achieving at this level are likely to succeed at this subject at 'A' level ('A' level students will need to be algebraically fluent and confident with trigonometry as well as transforming graphs, for example.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Assessment is by three written equally weighted examinations. Paper 1 is non-calculator. Papers 2 and 3 are with a calculator. Our students currently sit the AQA examinations, however we review this regularly.

These papers are each out of 80.

The marks are added together to decide your overall grade. At foundation tier, grades 1 – 5 may be awarded. At higher tier, 9- 4 are available. Students will be expected to take their GCSE in the summer of year 11.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Maths is useful for many careers and it is a requirement of almost all further and higher education courses, which require a pass at Grade 5 or above. People enjoy the interest, challenge and clarity of Mathematics, and that Maths usually has a definitive answer. Finding a solution to a problem can be exciting and satisfying. Those who qualify in Mathematics are in the fortunate position of having a wide range of career choices. This Mathematics course will vastly improve the students' abilities and confidence in thinking logically; formulating and solving problems; making deductions from qualified assumptions; and using more advanced mathematical concepts to achieve goals.





COURSE CONTENT

All students are expected to study for the Double Award Science qualification unless they have chosen the Triple Award course and met its entry criteria. Students complete the AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy course over years 10 & 11. Award: AQA GCSE Combined Science at grades 9 – 1

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

In June of year 11, six papers will be taken, two in each of Biology, Physics, and chemistry. Each paper is a written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes duration with Foundation and higher tiers and is worth 70 marks, making 16.7% of the GCSE in Combined Science. The papers consist of multiple-choice, structured, closed short-answer, and open-response questions.

BIOLOGY: Paper 1: 1: Cell biology 2: Organisation 3: Infection and response 4: Bioenergetics Paper2: 5: Homeostasis and response 6: Inheritance, variation, and evolution 7: Ecology

CHEMISTRY: Paper 1: 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table 2: Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3: Quantitative chemistry 4: Chemical changes 5: Energy changes. Paper 2: 6: The rate and extent of chemical change 7: Organic chemistry 8: Chemical analysis 9: Chemistry of the atmosphere 10: Using resources.

PHYSICS: Paper 1: 1: Energy 2: Electricity 3: Particle model of matter 4: Atomic structure Paper 2: 5: Forces 6: Waves 7: Magnetism and electromagnetism

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Preparing students thoroughly to progress to 'A' level studies in any of the three science disciplines. It is, therefore, an ideal qualification for anyone considering a career that requires science at an 'A' level.

GCSE Double Award Science is also a valuable stand-alone qualification.

Students who have successfully achieved high grades in Double Award Science could enter employment in laboratory work or use the qualification to access other progression routes to higher education.





COURSE CONTENT

All students will follow a core Physical Education programme which follows National Curriculum guidelines. Students will have 2 lessons over the two-week timetable. All lessons will be practical.

The course develops pupils' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that become a central part of their lives, both in and out of school. Students develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When they are performing, they think about what they are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. They also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve them.

The course helps students to make informed choices about lifelong physical activity and focuses on developing physical literacy and healthy active lifestyles. The course will also focus on developing and expanding leadership skills.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

These are the essential skills and processes in physical education that students need to learn to make progress:

Physical Me - Developing skills in physical activity and developing physical and mental capacity. Learning about movement through movement.

Thinking Me - Making and applying decisions, evaluating and improving, making informed choices about healthy, active lifestyles, applying knowledge to improve performance and lifestyle habits.

Social Me - Developing key inter-personal social skills such as communication, team work, resilience and problem solving skills essential for the world of work.

Mind-Set Me – Developing concentration, focus and determination to improve performance, lifestyle habits to achieve positive outcomes.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Maintaining and improving areas of fitness, trying new activities and improving knowledge of the sport's world.

The world of sport is a big business with many different careers and opportunities available ranging from coaching, physiotherapy, sports development, police, sports fashion, sports management and sports business, to name but a few.

Students interested in physiotherapy and sports-related careers can undertake a BTEC Level 3 Sport qualification post-16.

This is an exciting area with a range of opportunities following on from The Olympics in London 2012 and the Commonwealth games in Birmingham in 2022.



COURSE CONTENT

As all students are required to learn religion and worldviews in school up until KS4, your daughter will receive one hour per week of Religion and Ethics until the end of year 10 and lessons will continue in year 11.

In Religious and worldviews, we are passionate about teaching social, moral, cultural, and spiritual values which will enable students to understand and explore a range of ethical issues. During year 10 students begin the year by looking at religious attitudes to the value of life, where they will evaluate the arguments for and against ethical issues such as abortion and euthanasia. During the spring term, work will focus on crime and punishment, where they will discover religious and non-religious views on issues such as the benefits of prison and arguments for and against the death penalty. The summer term is when students will investigate religious attitudes towards wealth and poverty, looking at definitions of wealth and poverty and religious responses to issues such as gambling and moral and immoral occupations.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

As there is no formal examination at the end of the course, the assessments will be varied. They will be designed to facilitate many skills that the students will need to be accomplished in other areas. The students will have the opportunity to engage with examiner style questions, as well as practising skills that will be vital for them to achieve success in other subjects across the curriculum – description, evaluation, analysis and written communication.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Religion and worldviews is important because it equips students with cultural, social, moral and spiritual knowledge that aids in mental and physical development within society. The lessons learned in religion and worldviews prepare students for responsibilities, experiences and opportunities later in life as well as giving students a platform to become practiced in the skills needed to be successful in their GCSE's and beyond. Skills such as:

- * The ability to interpret different opinions and have the confidence to apply your own personal view point's
- * The ability to understand the meaning of complex written documents and analyse them
- * Organisational and time management skills with regards to team work
- * Communication skills, written and verbal
- * Writing in paragraphs including evidence and examples
- * The ability to construct a reasoned argument
- * Empathy and the ability to understand people and take on board others' views
- * Independence of mind and the ability to think for yourself





COURSE CONTENT

GCSE French continues to build on what you have learned at KS3. You will continue to develop your listening, reading, speaking, writing and translation skills so that you can communicate more fluently and effectively. You will develop your ability to speak spontaneously, understand authentic texts including literary texts, translate into French and English and apply new language and structures independently.

The following themes are studied:

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

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Examinations can be taken at Higher or Foundation level. You must take the same level in all papers.

There are 4 papers: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

Each paper is worth 25% of the total grade.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Developing your communication skills in both French and English, becoming an independent learner and learning about other cultures. Linguists are highly valued in almost every career as every company requires articulate employees with good communication skills. In addition, most companies work with organisations abroad and / or speakers of other languages in this country. Languages are particularly useful in Business, Management, Law, Marketing, Administration, Medical careers and Journalism. Britain has a national shortage of employees at all levels with language skills.

Please note: Universities are increasingly insisting on a GCSE in a language as an entry requirement. Languages are compulsory in primary schools and, therefore, an essential skill for anyone considering such a career. You must study French at GCSE if you want to study it at 'A' Level.





COURSE CONTENT

Studying GCSE Spanish introduces you to Spanish language and culture. You should also make more rapid progress as you have already learnt many of the language learning skills and strategies you have already practised in French at KS3. You will develop your listening, reading, speaking, writing and translation skills, so that you can communicate more fluently and effectively. You will develop your ability to speak spontaneously, understand authentic texts including literary texts, translate into Spanish and English and apply new language and structures independently.

The following themes are studied:

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

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Examinations can be taken at Higher or Foundation level. You must take the same level in all papers.

Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing.

Each paper is worth 25% of the total grade.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

To develop your communication skills in both Spanish and English and become an independent learner and to learn about other cultures. Linguists are highly valued in almost every career as every company requires articulate employees with good communication skills. Having a GCSE in both French and Spanish is highly prized. In addition, most companies work with organisations abroad and /or speakers of other languages in this country. Languages are particularly useful in Business, Management, Law, Marketing, Administration, Medical careers and Journalism. Britain has a national shortage of employees at all levels with language skills.

Universities are increasingly insisting on a GCSE in a language as an entry requirement. Languages are compulsory in primary schools and, therefore, an essential skill for anyone considering such a career. You must study Spanish at GCSE if you want to study it at 'A' Level.





COURSE CONTENT

Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, and translators.

Programming

Students will learn to program using the Python programming language. This will be taught alongside the theory topics. Students will need to apply their knowledge of programming in the Component 02 paper.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

The assessment for Computing will take place in 2 examinations.

- Written exam Computer systems (01) 80 marks paper for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of the overall grade.
- Written paper Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02) 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of the overall grade.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Students who have taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their peers who are picking up the subject at these levels.





COURSE CONTENT

TO qualify for Triple Award Science, students must have completed the higher-level assessments and spoken to their class teacher. By choosing the Triple Award Science option, students undertake extra science lessons each week to complete the extra Biology, Chemistry, and Physics content for the award of three separate GCSEs. The course is completed over years 10 and 11.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

In June of year 11 six papers will be taken, two in Biology, Physics & Chemistry. Each paper is a written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes duration with Foundation and Higher tiers and is worth 100 marks making 50% of the GCSE in that Science. The papers consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

BIOLOGY: Paper 1: Cell biology 2: Organisation 3: Infection and response 4: Bioenergetics Paper2: Homeostasis and response 6: Inheritance, variation and evolution 7: Ecology

CHEMISTRY: Paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table 2: Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3: Quantitative chemistry 4: Chemical changes and 5: Energy changes. Paper 2: 6: The rate and extent of chemical change 7: Organic chemistry 8: Chemical analysis 9: Chemistry of the atmosphere and 10: Using resources.

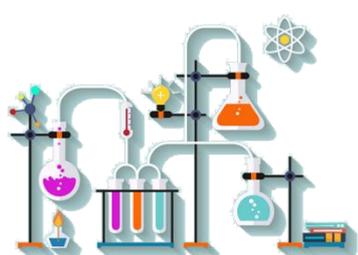
PHYSICS: Paper 1: Energy 2: Electricity 3: Particle model of matter 4: Atomic structure Paper 2: Forces 2: Waves 3: Magnetism and electromagnetism 4: Space Physics

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

It thoroughly prepares students to progress to A-level studies in the three science disciplines. Therefore, it is an ideal qualification for anyone considering a career requiring science at A level.

GCSE Triple Award Science is also a valuable stand-alone qualification.

Students who have successfully achieved high grades in Triple Award Science could enter employment in laboratory work or use the qualification to access other progression routes to higher education.





COURSE CONTENT

GCSE History enables students to build on the key historical skills and processes learnt during their Key Stage 3 study. There is a balance of British history and wider world history, of local, national and international themes and of medieval, early modern and modern history.

Firstly, students embark on a wider world depth study on Germany 1890-1945: this study takes Germany through three very different periods in history – monarchy, democracy and dictatorship, including the rise and fall of Nazism. Following this, students will study international relations in the period between the two World Wars. This includes efforts to keep peace throughout the world and the eventual build-up of tension and outbreak of the Second World War.

Next, students will study the reign of Queen Elizabeth I for their British depth study, alongside a study of a historic site of Elizabeth’s reign. Finally, pupils will study how the identity of the people of Britain has been shaped by their interaction with the wider world through their thematic study: migration, empires and the people c.790-present.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

The assessment for GCSE History takes place in two examinations at the end of Year 11. Different historical skills are tested in each paper. Each paper is worth 50% of the GCSE.

Paper 1: Germany 1890-1945 and the Interwar Conflict and Tension 1918-1945

Paper 2: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day and Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

The assessments test the following assessment objectives:

AO1: ability to recall knowledge and understanding

AO2: ability to explain concepts like cause and consequence, change and continuity, and significance

AO3: ability to analyse sources

AO4: ability to analyse historical interpretations

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

In GCSE History you will learn about people, countries, cultures and societies – it is fascinating to understand huge range of people and societies from medieval kings to 20th century dictators and everything in between. You will learn to sift through information, analyse, and present what you’ve learnt in a way that makes sense to other people. Furthermore, GCSE History uses several key skills such as chronological thinking, comprehension, analysis and interpretation, research skills and decision making. These skills will help you with other subjects, as well as leading on to a wide range of opportunities for your education and career options after your GCSEs.





Geography is the study of the earth, our place in the world, and the pressing challenges that we face. At GCSE, you will study a range of human and physical aspects of geography, as well as learning a range of skills. You will also have the opportunity to take part in both human and physical fieldwork.

The main topics covered are:

Paper 1: Changing Physical and Human Landscapes - 1 hour 30 minutes, 35%

- Landscapes and physical processes
- Rural-urban links
- Coastal hazards and their management

Paper 2: Environmental and development issues - 1 hour 30 minutes, 35%

- Weather, climate and ecosystems
- Development and resource issues
- Environmental challenges

Paper 3: Applied Fieldwork Enquiry - 1 hour 30 minutes, 30%

- Fieldwork methods, representation and analysis
- Using fieldwork to investigate geographical concepts
- Applying geographical concepts to the UK to make and justify decisions

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Geography is vital to our understanding of the world around us. Through geography, we study many of the greatest challenges that we face in the future, including climate change, conflict over resources, crowded cities, natural disasters, deforestation, and a wide range of other issues. Not only do we aim to understand the problems, we also try to find solutions that will help us to meet the needs of the future as well as the needs of today.

Geography is an excellent choice for employment. A few examples of career options are shown below.

Volcanologist	Transport planner	Environmental consultant
Recycling officer	Architect	Town planner
Cartographer (working with maps)	International aid worker	Travel writer
Disaster response	Geographical information systems	Holiday companies
Resource management	Conservation	Teaching





COURSE CONTENT

Students may choose the Philosophy and Ethics full course GCSE which is an extension of the core Religious Studies subject. During this course Christianity and Islam will be examined according to the Philosophy and Ethics topics specified below. Students undertaking the course should be able to explore the significance and impact of religions and support their answers with reference to the teachings, sacred texts, beliefs and attitudes of the faiths where appropriate. Students should reflect on the idea that religions have different approaches and attitudes and that there is diversity within each faith, its understanding of texts and its philosophy and ethical teachings. They should consider these issues in relation to the religion itself and to its impact on individuals, communities and societies, locally, nationally and globally, whilst realising that these aspects may vary in significance between religions and communities. Students will study all the components below:

Beliefs, Teachings & Practices

Students are required to study two religions: Christianity and Islam.

Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective

Students are required to study this from the perspective of either Christianity or Islam.

There are four themes to be studied:

- Relationships and families
- The existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Students will take two one-hour examinations on a study of each religion (63 marks each), together with a two-hour paper on the second theme, Religion, philosophy and ethics (126 marks).

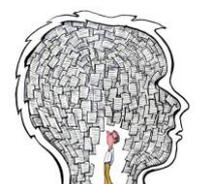
Students must be able to show knowledge and understanding, as well evaluation and discussion skills.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Enabling students to develop transferable skills for work, learning and life. Personal beliefs are not important, as long as students have an open mind. Students' opinions are encouraged and welcomed!

Philosophy and Ethics is a qualification which is valued by all universities and respected by a wide range of employers.

Students who have successfully studied A-level Philosophy & Ethics develop skills, such as reasoning and evaluation, which are valued in careers such as teaching, social work, youth work, the Civil Service, counselling and journalism.





COURSE CONTENT

The Art and Design: Fine Art course is aimed at students who enjoy Art and want to explore ideas to improve their skills within the subject. The course is made up of a variety of skills, techniques and processes. Students will develop and build up a bank of skills and portfolio projects during year 10, where students will be able to demonstrate their skills within Art and Design: Textiles. In year 11 students will prepare for the externally set examination task, which will be taken near the end of the spring term.

Skills and techniques that students will explore include printmaking, ceramics, drawing, painting, mixed media work and 3D work. Embedded in all of these skills are the links to contextual references and different cultures; work can also be influenced by students’ own interests. A key skill that is developed is learning to look at the world differently and finding alternative ways to reach conclusions to a piece of work.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Students will be assessed in two ways for the final GCSE grade. The first is via a portfolio project. Students will build a body of work based on a theme given by their art teacher. This will then result in a full portfolio of work that is assessed by the teacher and then externally moderated.

The second form of assessment is via an externally set examination task. Students will be given an examination paper by the examination board and must prepare for it during the spring term of year 11. They will then complete their final piece under examination conditions.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Students should consider Art and Design if they are considering any career in the creative industry. These include, but are not limited to illustration, graphic design, theatre design, film production, magazine publishing, book publishing, journalism, product design, animation, interior design and fine art.

Art is also a course that encourages students to think in different ways – often making them more able to deal with different situations in a more creative way and is, therefore a highly suitable course for most career paths.





COURSE CONTENT

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a creative course which focusses on the development of practical cooking skills and the knowledge of nutrition and health. Students will study the components outlined below:

- Food, nutrition and health – Exploring the function and the role of nutrients and the relationship between diet and health.
- Food science – Exploring the science of ingredients and cooking with a focus on the functional and chemical properties of food.
- Food safety – Exploring the needs for good hygiene practices to prevent food poisoning.
- Food choice – Exploring the factors why individuals choose specific foods and diets.
- Food provenance – Exploring the environmental impact on food sustainability and security.
- Food preparation skills – A group of 12 skill areas will be taught using practical activities to support students learning.

Students will make a wide selection of food products and participate in Investigational activities.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Written Examination – 50%

Non-examined assessment- 50%

Task 1 Food Investigation

Task 2 Food preparation assessment

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Studying Food Preparation and Nutrition is beneficial for those wishing to work in Hospitality and Catering, the Food Industry, Dietetics, Nursing and Health Care. Many food retailers employ food and nutrition specialists to develop new food products. Food advertising and food journalism are areas of growth. This course offers many opportunities and can be a step towards specialist Level 2 qualifications, apprenticeships and Level 3 qualifications/A level.





COURSE CONTENT

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behaviour. In Psychology, you will study deeply about the brain and its link with our behaviour, personality, sleep, and actions. You will also look at psychological disorders and what happens if the brain is damaged in any way. In Psychology you will analyse, discuss questions about why we think and act in a certain way and study brain processes such as making memories, how we develop from the womb to adulthood and how psychological treatments impact the brain.

The brain, and its relationship with you, is very complex. But, studying Psychology will begin to open doors for you in regards to the answers to some of the meaningful questions you might have about the mind and behaviour. It may also lead you to ask even more questions – which is the very essence of Psychology.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Paper One – 1 hour 45-minute exam – 55% of overall grade

- Topic 1: Development – How did you develop? *Can morals differ between cultures?*
- Topic 2: Memory – How does your memory work? *Is memory supposed to be accurate?*
- Topic 3: Psychological Problems – How might Depression or Addiction affect you?
- Topic 4: The brain and neuropsychology – How does your brain affect you? *Brain functions*
- Topic 5: Social Influence – How do others affect you? *Why did soldiers follow Hitler's tragic orders?*

Paper Two – 1 hour and 20-minute exam – 45% of overall grade

- Topic 1: Research Methods – How do you carry out psychological research?
- Topic 2: Criminal Psychology – Why do people become criminals?
- Topic 3: Sleep and dreaming – Why do you need to sleep and dream?

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Psychology is a very interesting and valuable subject which can lead you onto many job avenues, ranging from being a Clinical Psychologist, Sports Psychologist, Social Worker, Neuropsychologist and so on. Not only this, Psychology also equips you with the skills to ask deeper questions about the mind. Psychology, as a Social Science subject studying behaviour, will further enhance your understanding of the world and beyond.





COURSE CONTENT

This qualification enables students to develop knowledge and understanding of music through four areas of study.

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Students will immerse themselves with music from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic eras. Students will engage with a variety of music from the prescribed area, through a range of performing, composing and appraising activities.

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Music for ensemble forms the basis for a study of texture and sonority. Through the study of diverse musical styles composed for ensemble, such as jazz and blues, musical theatre and chamber music, students will consider how music is composed for small groups of instruments and voices.

Area of study 3: Film Music

Through this area of study students are encouraged to consider how music for film is related, developed and performed, and the impact this has on the audience. Students have the opportunity to compose and perform film music and are encouraged to use musical technology to create mood and atmosphere through engaging with the story of the film.

Area of study 4: Popular Music

Through popular music students are encouraged to explore the musical idioms associated with a variety of genres of popular music. Students will have the opportunity to perform popular music and are encouraged to use music technology, understanding the impact this has on the way music is developed and performed.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

This qualification is divided into 3 components based on performing, composing and appraising.

Component 1: Performing worth 30% of the qualification. A minimum of two pieces, one a solo performance and the other an ensemble performance. Total duration of 4-6 minutes.

Component 2: Composing worth 30% of the qualification. Two compositions, one of which is in response to a brief set by the examination board. Total duration of 3-6 minutes

Component 3: Appraising worth 40% of the qualification. This component is assessed via a 1 hour 15 minutes listening examination where eight questions are set on extracts of music relating to four areas studied throughout the duration of the course.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This course is for students who wish to develop their performance and compositional skills, understand the business of the Music Industry and increase their scope as a professional musician. 60% of this course is coursework reducing the amount of pressure on exams.

This course opens doors to a wide range of careers both within and outside the arts boasting an array of desirable transferable skills such as, learning to think creatively and 'outside the box', engaging with in-depth analysis, problem solving and building confidence through public performances.



COURSE CONTENT

The Art and Design: Textiles course is aimed at students who enjoy textile and fashion design and want to explore ideas to improve their skills within the subject. The course is made up of a variety of skills, techniques and processes. Students will develop and build up a bank of skills and portfolio projects during year 10, where students will be able to demonstrate their skills within Art and Design: Textiles. In year 11 students will prepare for the externally set examination task, which will be taken near the end of the spring term.

Skills and techniques that students will explore include printmaking, drawing, painting, mixed media work, 3D and digital work involved in fashion design, embellished and constructed textiles. Embedded in all of these are the links to contextual references and different cultures; work can also be influenced by students’ own interests. A key skill that is developed is learning to look at the world differently and finding alternative ways to reach conclusions to a piece of work.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Students will be assessed in two ways for the final GCSE grade. The first is via a portfolio project. Students will build a body of work based on a theme given by their textiles teacher. This will then result in a full portfolio of work that is assessed by the teacher and then externally moderated.

The second form of assessment is via an externally set examination task. Students will be given an examination paper by the examination board and must prepare for it during the spring term of year 11. They will then complete their final piece under examination conditions.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Students should consider Art and Design if they are considering any career in the textiles and wider creative industry. These include, but are not limited to fashion design, textile design, textile production, illustration, graphic design, theatre design, film production, magazine publishing, book publishing, journalism, product design, animation, interior design and fine art.

Art and Design: Textiles is also a course that encourages students to think in different ways – often making them able to deal with different situations in a more creative way and is, therefore a highly suitable course for most career paths.





COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of three units:

Unit 1) Preparing participants to take part in Sport and Physical Activity.

Unit 2) Taking part and improving other participant's performance

Unit 3) Developing fitness to improve other participant's performance in sport and physical activity.

The three units in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding in the sport sector and specialist skills such as analysis, leadership, teaching and communication.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Unit 1 and 2 are internally assessed through written and practical coursework completed in controlled conditions. Both units are 30% of final grade.

Unit 3 is assessed through a 1.30 hour written exam at the end of the course. This is worth 40% of the final grade.

Final grades will be through a level 1 or 2 pass, merit or distinction.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Maintaining and improving areas of fitness, trying new activities and improving knowledge of the sports world. The BTEC framework enables students to develop and apply their literacy and numeracy skills through the course.

The world of sport is a big business with many different careers and opportunities available ranging from coaching, physiotherapy, sports development, police, sports fashion, sports management, sports business to name but a few.

BTEC sport shows employers and further education institutions that students have the ability to learn and apply theoretical applications to a practical setting whilst developing all the key characteristics needed in today's working environment, such as teamwork, communication and interpersonal skills.

Progressing to any course at key stage 5 and moving into a profession in the sport, leisure, or recreation industries. Progression onto Level 3 study (AS/A2 or BTEC National). Students will develop confidence, self-esteem, team spirit, skills and techniques.





COURSE CONTENT

You will complete 3 units: Exploring the Performing Arts

Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Responding to a Brief

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

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

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts:

Learners will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining the work of performing arts professionals and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts:

Learners will develop their dance techniques through the reproduction of professional repertoire as performers.

Component 3 -Responding to a Brief:

Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance, choreographing and performing in response to a brief and stimulus.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This exciting and practical Dance course allows students to explore a wide range of styles, study inspiring professional works, and develop strong technical and performance skills. With plenty of opportunities to perform and work with professional dance practitioners, this course provides students with inspiring real-world experience, confidence, and the skills needed to succeed in dance and beyond. Alongside practical training, students build valuable transferable skills including communication, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and self-discipline, supporting confidence and progression into further study and a wide range of dance and non-dance career pathways.





COURSE CONTENT

GCSE Drama is linked closely to the English curriculum. It aims to engage and encourage students to become confident speakers and performers with the skills they need for a bright and successful future. It is a course that focuses on speech and language to communicate effectively. These skills not only help in performance but for future life and careers.

Students will create, perform and respond to drama.

- Explore performance texts, understanding social, cultural and historical context
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performance
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- Develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students who are able to make informed choices in process and performance

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Component 1 - Understanding Drama – 40% of GCSE - 1 hour 45 minute written examination

Component 2 - Devising Drama – Creating a performance collaboratively

40% of GCSE

Devising log – written – 60 marks

Devised performance – 20 marks

Component 3 – Texts in Practice – 20% of GCSE -Two performances from the same play

Extract 1 – 20 marks & Extract 2 – 20 marks

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

This course is beneficial for those who want to have a career in many areas such as Drama and performance but also law, medicine, childcare, teaching, business and more. This is due to the transferable skills students gain and the different situations Drama can allow students to investigate. Many careers will need a confident, well spoken, empathetic, problem-solver with good communication skills, Drama is a great course to develop these areas.

FURTHER BENEFITS

A trip to the theatre to watch a live production paid by the school

Performance opportunities in school productions

Hillcrest offers Drama at Sixth Form.





COURSE CONTENT

GCSE Design Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. You can now study any material and be as creative as you like. You develop life skills that will stay with you for life.

You will study:

1. Core technical principles – In order to make effective design choices you need a breadth of core technical knowledge and understanding that consists of:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy generation and storage
- Developments in new materials
- Systems approach to designing
- Mechanical devices
- Materials and their working properties

2. Specialist technical principles – A specialist area will be chosen as a focus for this section of study, such as:

- Papers and boards
- Timber based materials
- Metal based materials

3. Designing and making principles – Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of designing and making principles through a range of focussed practical activities.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Written Examination – 50% A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12mark design question.

Non-examination assessment- 50% A design and make task selected from Tasks provided by the examination board. 30-35 hours duration. Focus on Investigating, designing and making, analysing and evaluating. You will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

WHY STUDY THIS COURSE?

Studying Design and Technology can lead to employment in such careers as architecture, product design, engineering, manufacturing, graphic design, advertising, fashion design, catering, food science. This course offers many opportunities and can be a step towards specialist Level 2 qualifications, apprenticeships and Level 3 qualifications/A level.