



MEADOW PARK  
SCHOOL

**Year 9 Pathways  
Booklet  
2025-2026**



Pathways



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# Introduction

This pathways booklet will give you the guidance, support and opportunity to make decision on the subjects you wish to take at Key Stage 4. This has been designed to:

- Provide access to a variety of subjects to suit all interests.
- Increase the chances of you achieving the best overall grades possible at the end of Year 11.
- Provide a wide range of opportunities for you to progress beyond Year 11.

## **Making the Right Choices**

Making the right decision is vitally important because the subjects you choose could influence your future career possibilities. It is useful to consider the following:

- Choose subjects you enjoy and in which you have the ability to be successful. You will be studying this subject for the next 2 years so it is important that you are interested in it.
- Do some research into the careers and courses that might interest you when you leave in Year 11. Find out which subjects you might need and what grades you would need to achieve to do these courses.
- DO NOT choose subjects because your friends are doing them or you think you will get a particular teacher. There is no guarantee that you will be in the same group or with the same teacher as someone else.
- Learn about the courses you are interested in. Have a look at the types of learning, assignments and examination tasks involved.
- Look at this website:
  - <https://careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects>
- Look at these short videos offering advice:
  - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/stories/choosing-your-gcses>
  - <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/stories/year-9-choosing-your-options>

And remember.... all subjects will be HARD WORK. There is no such thing as an 'easy' subject; it may seem that way because you are interested in it or are good at it.



# Different Types of Qualifications

## BTEC Technical Awards/Vocational Awards

BTEC Technical Awards/Vocational Awards are vocational qualifications and are recognised nationally by employers and colleges as an alternative to traditional GCSE courses.

Vocational courses are assessed through on-going assignments with one of the compulsory units being externally examined. They are equivalent to one GCSE and are graded Level 2 – Distinction\* (\*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass or Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), and Pass (P1).

## GCSEs

You will be taking GCSEs at the end of Year 11. These will be graded from 9 (highest result) down to 1 (lowest result). In many subjects' coursework has been removed, so for the majority of subjects you take you will be assessed through exams at the end of Year 11. Practical subjects such as food & nutrition and art will still include practical elements, but expect some of the course to be examined.

### OFSTED REPORT JANUARY 2024

The school has thoughtfully designed a curriculum that is ambitious and tailored to the interests of pupils.

Older pupils are on programmes that meet their personal ambitions and aspirations for their future.

A broad range of subjects is offered at Key Stage 4, including several vocational subjects.

Teachers know their pupils well, including pupils with special educational needs and / or disabilities. Teachers have high expectations of what pupils with SEND can achieve.

Pupils, parents and staff all describe the significant improvements that have taken place at the school since the arrival of the new headteacher.

There is now a clear and ambitious vision evident from all leaders to improve the quality of education for all pupils.

# Pathway Process

## Compulsory Subjects

English	Maths	Science	RE*	PE*	PHSE*
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\* Students will not sit formal examinations / will not receive a qualification in these subjects

## Triple Science Pathway

Triple Science	History or Geography	French or Spanish or Mandarin
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## Combined Science Pathway

History or Geography or a Language**	Option 2	Option 3
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\*\* French, Spanish or Mandarin, you will need to have studied this subject previously

### Attendance - 95% and above

Missing school can seriously affect your long-term future. If you are not in class, your teacher cannot teach, help, support or guide you through your courses. 90% attendance might sound very good, but: -

**90% attendance** means you are missing half a day of school every week. This equates to four weeks of school a year. During your time at secondary school this would be half a school year missed putting you half a year behind someone with full attendance.

**80% attendance** means missing one day of school per week. This means eight weeks per year or one full year of schooling.

**Research shows that a Year 11 student, who misses 17 days during the year, making their attendance 91%, will get ONE GRADE LESS AT GCSE.**



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# Compulsory

## Compulsory Subjects

English	Maths	Science	RE*	PE*	PHSE*
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**All students will study the following courses:**

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Triple Science



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# GCSE English Language & Literature

## Why is English important?

Studying English Language and English Literature opens up a world of inspiration and creativity, while also developing skills that are essential for future careers in a global environment. English Literature will help you to make sense of the world through stories, poems, novels and plays, whilst English Language will sharpen your ability to write, read, analyse, persuade and communicate.

## Exam Board? AQA

## What will I study?

In English Language, you will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts as well as writing your own. In English Literature, you will study a range of texts that include: 'Macbeth', 'A Christmas Carol', 'An Inspector Calls' and an anthology of poetry.

## What skills will I need for this course?

You will need to be able to:

- Read a variety of texts and show that you understand what they are about
- Have an opinion on what you have read
- Analyse the words and structure that the writer uses
- Write fiction and non-fiction texts for different audiences and purposes

## How will I learn?

In English Language and English Literature, you will learn to:

- Explore how writers construct plot and characters and how contexts influence writers
- Analyse language and writers' methods
- Analyse the structure of texts
- Critically evaluate what you have read and identify writers' viewpoints
- Write for different audiences and purposes

Study is supported by online videos, DVDs and resources, some of them interactive, drawn from the internet and the examination board's own website.

Many Key Stage 4 students have opportunities to visit the theatre as part of their course. They also have opportunities to take part in interactive writing and revision workshops.

## How will I be assessed?

English Language – 100% final exam

Paper 1 - exploring creative reading and writing (50%)

Paper 2 - exploring writer's viewpoints and perspectives (50%)

Spoken language – a separate endorsement (pass, merit or distinction)

English Literature – 100% final exam

Paper 1 is an external examination on Shakespeare and a nineteenth century novel (40%)

Paper 2 is another external examination on a modern text and poetry (60%)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

English is good for any job that involves communication, writing and / or literary knowledge. These include: advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, law, consultancy, business, teaching, performing arts, government, linguistics, foreign languages, media and design.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Miss. H Russell, Director of English and Literacy, on [h.russell@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:h.russell@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Mathematics

## Why is Mathematics important?

It is a given fact that you will use some part of Mathematics every day for the rest of your life. You may not realise it; the process may be intuitive or have been taught but the presence of maths in our thinking and in our actions is a constant. Much content is to be learnt and it is the reasoning and application of these processes in order to solve problems that are the basis or transferable skill that many occupations and careers require. Maths is seen by many employers as amongst that most desirable qualifications as it is an indication of the hard working, resilient and independent attitude that is required in the modern workplace.

## Exam Board? Pearson Edexcel

## What will I study?

Over the 2 years you will learn to:

- look for patterns and solve problems in a structured and concise way
- calculate numerical problems accurately, showing all stages of working out
- manipulate algebraic notation to find values and simplify expressions
- work with shapes and measurements, determining key properties and using accurate methods to manipulate calculations or construct diagrams
- handle data and analyse statistics to make reasoned assumptions and decisions

## What skills will I need for this course?

You will need resilience to complete tasks, and the drive to have a go at problems, even if you don't necessarily know how you are going to get to the final outcome immediately. Most importantly you will need a strong work-ethic, as the best progress made by students in math's is by the ones who put the most time and effort in.

## How will I learn?

Math's lessons will continue to be as they have been in KS3, but there will be an even greater emphasis on trying to solve problems independently and seeking guidance from your peers through constructive discussion. A mixture of independent, paired, and grouped work will form the basis of your GCSE course.

## How will I be assessed? 100% Final Exam

Paper 1:	1hr. 30 min, non-calculator	(80 marks)	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %
Paper 2:	1hr. 30 min, calculator	(80 marks)	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %
Paper 3:	1hr. 30 min, calculator	(80 marks)	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

A good qualification in Maths is seen as a clear indication of someone who works logically and perseveres until a desirable outcome is achieved. A grade 6 or above would allow you to continue Maths on to Post 16, and if successful there, possibly on to university. Where there is an intention not to continue studying mathematics beyond Key Stage 4 it should still be noted that many level 3 qualifications require a minimum of a grade 5 in maths upon entry, with science courses often requiring even higher grades.

Research by the Department of Education shows an A-level in mathematics can add between £6,000 and £10,000 to a salary in just six years. Government analysis has shown how pupils' subject choices aged 16 can affect their earnings years later, finding that sixth formers who take A-level Further Mathematics earn on average £25,500 by the age of 24 which is more than any other A-level.

Studying Maths at A-level leaves student with the research skills that will allow you to find solutions to problems, investigate theories, and therefore give you the ability to find new information more effectively. This can give you a number of advantages in the careers market, and gives you a plenty of job opportunities. Mathematicians play a key role in many areas that you might not expect, such as astronomy, architecture and machine construction. Some of the more traditional occupations that you might associate with strong mathematicians are jobs in the financial sector like accountancy or banking, teaching, or engineering.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Ms. M Foster, Director of Mathematics and Numeracy, on [m.foster@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:m.foster@meadowparkschool.com)



# GCSE Combined Science

## What is GCSE Combined Science?

GCSE Combined Science is a compulsory core subject that is studied amongst 14–16-year-olds nationally.

Your child will receive two GCSE grades for this course.

This course is accessible to students of all abilities and aspirations.

**Exam Board?** AQA Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

## What will I study?

There is seven biology topics; Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.

There are nine chemistry topics; Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources.

There are also seven physics topics; Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism.

## How will I learn?

All science lessons provide of strong emphasis to support your child to develop and recall subject knowledge and be able to apply that knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. There is also an emphasis on developing investigative skills by undertaking required practical activities, literacy skills by practicing longer style questions and developing numeracy skills to apply, re-arrange formula and analyse investigative data.

## How will I be assessed?

The combined science course is assessed based on examinations at the end of year 11. There are six exams; two for each science. Each exam is 1 hr 15 minutes in length.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. A Symon, Curriculum Lead, on [asymon@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:asymon@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Triple Science

## What is GCSE Triple Science?

GCSE Triple Science is an option most suited for academic students who are considering a science related degree at a university and would like to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Your child will receive three GCSE grades for this course. This course requires your child to have a strong passion and enthusiasm for science. Therefore, to be accepted onto this pathway there is a selection process and an entrance exam to pass.

**Exam Board?** AQA GCSE Biology (8461), GCSE Chemistry (8462) and GCSE Physics (8463)

## What will I study?

There is seven biology topics; Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology.

There are nine chemistry topics; Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources.

There are also eight physics topics; Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Electromagnetism and Space Physics.

## How will I learn?

All science lessons provide of strong emphasis to support your child to develop and recall subject knowledge and be able to apply that knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. There is also an emphasis on developing investigative skills by undertaking required practical activities, literacy skills by practicing longer style questions and developing numeracy skills to apply, re-arrange formula and analyse investigative data.

## How will I be assessed?

The triple science course is assessed based on examinations at the end of year 11. There are six exams; two for each science. Each exam is 1 hr 45 minutes in length.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. A Symon, Curriculum Lead, on [asymon@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:asymon@meadowparkschool.com)



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# Humanities and Languages

## Triple Science Pathway

Triple Science	History or Geography	French or Spanish or Mandarin
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## Combined Science Pathway

History or Geography or Language**	Option 2	Option 3
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# GCSE French or GCSE Spanish

## Why should I choose French or Spanish?

You should choose a language GCSE if you want to join the 320 million speakers of French and 600 million global speakers of Spanish around the world – think of the opportunities that you could enjoy! Learning another language will help you to learn about other cultures, and it is proven to be excellent for your brain, developing transferrable skills such as communication, problem solving, and analysis.

## Exam Board? AQA

## What will I study?

You will study three main themes. You may have the opportunity to attend an overseas residential trip in addition to your learning.

Theme 1: People and lifestyle: 1. Identity and relationships with others; 2. Healthy living and lifestyle; 3. Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture: 1. Free-time activities; 2. Customs, festivals and celebrations; 3. Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us: 1. Travel and tourism, including places of interest; 2. Media and technology; 3. The environment and where people live

## Who would suit this course?

Someone who has a can-do attitude, wants to succeed and is able to tackle problems and has confidence to try new things.

Someone who wants to develop their skill in clearly articulating your ideas and expressing justified opinions on various topics.

As speaking is a component of the exam, you must be willing to talk and present ideas with a degree of confidence.

## How will I learn?

You will learn Spanish or French by learning to:

- look for patterns and work out links between languages
- read for detail and gist
- listen for key information
- write in detail with a wide range of language
- speak with confidence on a variety of topics

## How will I be assessed?

You will have assessments at the end of each module which will assess 2 out of the 4 following skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. At the end of year 11 you will sit 4 exams which will make up your grade:

Paper 1: Listening 25%

Paper 2: Speaking 25%

Paper 3: Reading 25%

Paper 4: Writing 25%

There are two tiers of entry for your final exams:

Higher: Grades 9-4 and Foundation: Grades 5-1

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

There are many opportunities that will be open to you if you choose to study a language at GCSE or beyond, not just ones that are specific to using a language. Languages is one of the few subjects you could use in any career pathway. Some of these include: International business, medicine, politics, travel, teaching, aid work, journalism, fashion design, engineering, film and television, translation, sport management & coaching.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Dr. M O'Neill, Curriculum Lead, on [m.oneill@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:m.oneill@meadowparkschool.com)

# GCSE Mandarin

## Why should I choose Mandarin?

Mandarin is highly valued in the workplace and give you a lifelong skill. At GCSE, you will continue to learn Mandarin that you have studied at KS3.

## Exam Board? AQA

## What will I study?

The topics covered fall into the following three themes and build upon previous knowledge:

Theme 1 Identity and culture: me, family and friends, technology, free time activities, customs and festivals.

Theme 2 Local, international and global areas of interest: home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues, travel and tourism.

Theme 3 Current and future study and employment: my studies, life and school/college, education post-16, jobs, careers and ambitions.

## Who would suit this course?

You **MUST** be studying Mandarin present to pick this subject. You will improve your communication skills and your understanding of other cultures. In addition, it would be useful to those students who might wish to live or work abroad or to work for international companies.

## How will I learn?

You will practise the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a variety of different contexts using up to date authentic materials and engaging resources. You will have the opportunity to complete GCSE style activities and receive regular feedback on your progress.

## How will I be assessed?

The GCSE consists of 4 papers in listening, reading, writing and speaking (teacher examiner) each of which is worth 25% of your final grade. These exams will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

There are two tiers of entry for your final exams:

Higher: Grades 9-4

Foundation: Grades 5-1

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

A language GCSE will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, analysis and independence. It can be very useful if you wish to travel or live abroad.

A language qualification makes you VERY employable and there are lots of careers in which you can use your skills directly or indirectly such as business, journalism and engineering.

Many top universities expect students to have a GCSE qualification in a language as it is a facilitating subject.

You can move onto studying a language at A Level or university. Many degree courses offer a language option in conjunction with other subjects e.g. international politics with Chinese, Business and Chinese, some of them include a period of work or study abroad.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. M O'Neil, Curriculum Lead, on [m.oneil@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:m.oneil@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Geography

## Why should I choose Geography?

The subject content at GCSE enables students to build on their own knowledge and skills from Key Stage 3 to develop and extend their knowledge of locations, places and environments. Topics of study include; poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. They will need to gain a clear understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the interrelationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts. Students will need to apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding.

## Exam Board?

AQA GCSE Geography

## What will I study?

Unit 1: The challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK

Unit 2: Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management,

Unit 2: Fieldwork and Geographical skills.

## Who would suit this course?

Anybody who enjoys, has a passion for the subject or wants to work in a related career should take geography but it is a useful subject for anyone who is considering higher education as it develops a wide range of transferable skills. These skills are equally valued in a wide range of areas of employment.

## How will I learn?

GCSE Geography is a demanding subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills in lessons through some engaging topics and themes across the UK and around the world. Students will have opportunities to study in-depth, contemporary case studies, both local and global in nature. Have a deep understanding of the dynamic and diverse geography of the UK and explore the complexities of the planet and its interconnections whilst embedding geographical skills and fieldwork investigations both locally and nationally.

## How will I be assessed?

Exam - three papers all completed at the end of year 11.

Paper 1	- Living with the physical environment- 35%	(1 Hour 30 Minutes)
Paper 2	- Challenges in the human environment	- 35% (1 Hour 30 Minutes)
Paper 2	- Geographical Application and skills - 30%	(1 Hour 15 Minutes)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Transition to study geography at A-Level or at university. Possible careers beyond further education include; environmental consultancy, international aid or development work, work in the travel industry, market research and education.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. J Walker, Curriculum Lead, on [jwalker@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:jwalker@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE History

## Why should I choose History?

The subject content at GCSE enables students to investigate a broad and rich range of options drawn from different periods and diverse societies. Students will opportunities to investigate, analyse and evaluate historical figures and events from the broad range of options on offer. They will also need to become competent in writing extended paragraphs in depth to achieve the higher grades at GCSE.

## Exam Board? Eduqas

## What will I study?

You will study:

- The History of three different countries during times of great social, religious and political change.
- How one area of history has changed over one thousand years and the causes and consequences of these changes.
- Historical skills relating to a variety of different sources and written techniques.

## Who would suit this course?

Anybody who enjoys and has a particular interest in the subject or wants to work in a related career should take history but it is a useful subject for anyone who is considering higher education as it develops a wide range of transferable skills that universities are looking for.

## How will I learn?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills in lessons for employment or further study. These include reaching conclusions and making judgements, problem solving, extended writing skills, research skills, independent study skills, analytical and evaluative skills and making connections.

## How will I be assessed?

Exam - four papers all completed at the end of year 11.

Unit 1: British Studies in Depth: The Elizabethan Age 1558 - 1603 (25% - 1 hour)

Unit 2: Non - British Studies in Depth: Germany in Transition, 1910 – 1939 (25% - 1 hour)

Unit 3: Period Study: The Development of USA, 1929 – 2000 (20% - 45 minutes)

Unit 4: Thematic Studies: Changes in Entertainment and Leisure, c.500 to the present day (30% - 1hr 15mins)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Transition to study History at A-Level or at university. Possible careers beyond further education consist of a Heritage manager, a Museum curator, a Secondary school teacher, and an Archaeologist.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. J Walker, Curriculum Lead, on [jwalker@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:jwalker@meadowparkschool.com)





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# Option Courses

## Combined Science Pathway

History or  
Geography or  
Language\*\*

Option 2

Option 3

GCSE Fine Art  
GCSE Business  
Cambridge National in Creative iMedia  
GCSE Drama  
GCSE Design and Technology  
Cambridge National in Engineering Design  
GCSE French or GCSE Spanish  
GCSE Mandarin  
GCSE Geography  
BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care  
GCSE History  
Vocational Award in Hospitality & Catering  
GCSE Religious Studies  
BTEC Tech Award in Sports  
GCSE Sociology





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# GCSE Fine Art

## **Why should I choose Art?**

Choosing Art is a rewarding yet challenging course for any student that wants to develop self-confidence, creative thinking and practical skills for life. Arts subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. Creativity can also help with wellbeing and improving health and happiness. Studying arts subjects also help to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us.

## **Exam Board - AQA**

## **What will I study?**

In GCSE Fine Art, you will develop and apply relevant subject-specific skills in order to use visual language to communicate personal ideas, meanings and responses. To do this, you will work on projects with a given theme as a starting point, experiment with different ideas through the use of media and materials and you will reflect critically on your work. You will experiment and develop the use of different media and materials. This might be through drawing, painting, stitching, printing, or clay work. You can explore working in 2D and 3D. To conclude the project, you will develop interesting and individual final pieces. You will be expected to visit art galleries for further research and inspiration.

## **Who would suit this course?**

Anybody who is creative and enjoys experimenting with different media and materials. Transferable skills that you will learn - independent thinker, problem solving, ability to adapt, develop fine motor skills, perseverance skills, critical thinking.

## **How would I learn?**

You will learn through a series of shorter projects in year 10 and a longer project in year 11. Art is a practical subject, so in lessons you will create practical work, while developing your skills for use in different media, materials and specialist processes. You will be inspired by things that are around you, and different artists to create individual portfolio of work. All the work that you create throughout the course can be entered as your coursework portfolio. In January of year 11, you will work on your exam project with the support of your teacher. You will sit your exam in April. During this exam, you will create a final piece for your project.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

Personal Portfolio (60% of final mark)

Externally set assignment (40% of final mark) 10-hour exam over 2 days

## **How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?**

Further study at A level, BTEC's and beyond to degree level in a variety of different creative subjects such as fine art, textiles, fashion, architecture, graphics, photography - fashion designer, fine artist, graphic designer, illustrator, industrial/product designer, jewelry designer, photographer, printmaker, textile designer, teaching, engineering, games designer, animator, theatre/television/film, teaching or lecturing, graphics, media editor or producer.

## **If I want to know more, I should ask...**

Mrs. C MacLean, Curriculum Lead, on [c.maclean@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:c.maclean@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Business

## Why should I choose Business?

Choose this course if you have an interest in business and everything from self-employment to working for a big multinational corporation. GCSE Business equips students with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect decision-making. You will develop your understanding of concepts, objectives and terminology, and the impact of contemporary issues on business operations. You will acquire the knowledge and skills needed to enable you to draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems in local, national and global contexts.

## Exam Board? OCR

## What will I study?

### Paper 1

You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and find out how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn that into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage finances. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved including employees and customers.

### Paper 2

In year 11, your focus will be on larger businesses and the strategies businesses use to grow and become more efficient and profitable. There will be elements of Marketing, Production, Finance and Human Resources included in the course. You will understand how these different functions work within a business to help achieve its objectives. There will be a lot of focus on the Finance aspect of a business where you will learn how to create cash flow forecasts, calculate interest payable, analyse break even graphs and calculate profit margins. The course will be challenging with formulas to remember and therefore you need to be able to work with numbers at ease. The exams will expect you to write essay style answers using analytical skills and be able to conclude your answers with your opinion and to be able to justify it. There is no NEA, so regular revision skills will be needed throughout both years of study.

## Who would suit this course?

This course suits students who have a keen interest in the world around them and feel they have the creativity and drive to create their own future in the challenging and competitive area of Business. If you are someone who has the ability to analyse situations and offer solutions, communicate effectively and want to learn key skills that complement learning in your other GCSE subjects and drive your own future, then this is the course for you!

## How will I learn?

Lesson activities center around discussion, debate, booklet led learning, individual research opportunities, flipped learning and lots of opportunities for the exam practice that is critical for you to successfully sit your end of course exams. Additionally, a visit to a local organisation and the occasional invited speaker, make up a fully diverse set of activities for learning.

## How will I be assessed?

The assessment consists of two externally exams that are both 90 minutes long. Each exam is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

Paper 1 based on Unit 1,2,3

1hr 30mins

Paper 2 based on Unit 4,5,6,7

1hr 30mins

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

If you achieve a good pass or above you will be able to progress to study A level Business or Level 3 BTEC Nationals Business. Studying GCSE Business encourages students to make well informed choices about a wide range of career pathways and further learning opportunities, as well as developing life skills that enable you to become financially and commercially aware. Many Business students also go on to successfully study Business and associated courses at university or gain successful employment and training through apprenticeships.

The Business industry has a vibrant and ever developing range of sectors and roles, students who study Business develop the skills and knowledge to go on to pursue careers in sectors such as Civil Service, Economics, Finance and Accountancy, Marketing, Logistics/Supply Chain, Fashion, Consultancy, Public Relations, Human Resources, Media, Marketing and Branding and Consultancy.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr K Bains, Curriculum Lead, on [K.Bains@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:K.Bains@meadowparkschool.com)

# Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

## **Why should I choose Creative iMedia?**

You should choose my course if you have an interest in computer-based work, but also an interest in Media products that we use every day. These can include promotional material, interactive menu boards, comics, magazines and social media. You'll learn how to make these exciting so audiences use them and also how to create a brand and establish a style that makes your brand stand out in a crowd.

## **Exam Board? OCR**

## **What will I study?**

You will look at four main areas of the media.

- Planning and Pre-production,
- Comics,
- Interactive Media products
- Digital Graphics.

Across these four areas, you will look at different target audiences and work for different hypothetical clients.

## **Who would suit this course?**

The assessment for this course is very heavy on producing multiple ICT related documents, so you have to enjoy computer work for this course.

## **How will I learn?**

You will mainly be using software including Comic Life and Photoshop, so you will learn to use this software to an advanced level. You will also learn how to pick out strengths and weaknesses of products and write detailed evaluations of media products to inform a client's opinion.

## **How will I be assessed?**

This course has one exam and it's worth 40% of your GCSE grade and marked out of 60 marks. You sit this exam in the Summer of Year 11. You then have 2 controlled assessments, known as Non-Examined Assessments that make up the other 60% of your grade.

## **How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?**

Many students continue to study the Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Digital Media. Successful students on this course have gone on to study digital animation, graphical design and social media management.

## **If I want to know more, I should ask...**

Mr K Bains, Curriculum Lead, on [K.Bains@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:K.Bains@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Design and Technology

## Why should I choose Design & Technology?

Design and Technology prepares you to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing world. You learn to think and intervene creatively to improve quality of life. We will teach you about the design process and the skills you will need to turn your designs into products. You will be able to give practical solutions to real problems and see how your work relates to real-life. Design and Technology will teach you how to be an independent autonomous learner who can take responsibility for planning and organising your work, and be able to evaluate it in a reflective and critical manner. You will learn how to work practically both individually and with others and have the satisfaction of successfully completing a practical project.

## Exam Board - AQA

## What will I study?

**Core technical principles** – new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties.

**Specialist technical principles** – selection of materials and processes, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.

**Designing and making principles** – investigation, primary and secondary data, environmental, social and economic challenge, the work of others, design strategies, communication of design ideas, prototype development, selection of materials and components, tolerances, material management, tools and equipment and techniques and processes.

## Who would this course suit?

If you are interested in the products we use and have thought about how you could design better or more attractive solutions, then you would find this course both useful and inspiring. If you would also like to present your design proposals in a professional manner, then you will find this course equips you with the necessary skills. A comprehensive design and make task take up a large part of the course and involves careful consideration with regards to time management.

## How will I learn?

You will learn and develop a variety of skills by completing a series of short projects. These will enable you to experience the iterative design process from start to finish. You will also develop your independent learning skills by experimenting with different methods of how to create final outcomes and products. Theoretical work and preparation for the GCSE examination will take place with concepts and content introduced through a variety of practical making lessons, designing and drawing lessons as well as pure theory-based lessons. You will complete your Non-Exam Assessment during the course of Year 11 which will include a larger scale manufactured product linked to a design context set by the exam board.

## How will my work be assessed?

### 50% Non-Exam Assessment

This is a single design and make project, which should take approximately 30 - 35 hours to complete. You can choose a project from a list set by the exam board.

### 50% Final Exam

This written exam is sat at the end of Year 11.

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Careers - Product Designer, Automotive Industry, Aerospace Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Architect, Fashion Designer, Web Designer, Stage/Performance Designer, Costume Design, Lighting Designer and Designer.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. C MacLean, Curriculum Lead, on [c.maclean@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:c.maclean@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Drama

## Why should I choose GCSE Drama?

GCSE Drama is a course that is designed to improve self-confidence, problem solving, social understanding and communication. GCSE Drama can complement English Literature through its practical exploration of text. Ties can also be found in History and PSHE as the course requires each student to consider social, historical and cultural elements of each performance they see and texts they study. This subject is a change of pace from other subjects and encourages learning and analysis through practical exploration of plays/musicals/dances and their context, themes, and characters.

## Exam Board? Edexcel GCSE

## What will I study?

Throughout this course, you will learn about different theatre practitioners such as Brecht, and Stanislavski. You will use the influence of theatre practitioners to create your own piece of theatre. Additionally, you will learn to apply the stage craft needed to stage a piece of scripted theatre. You will explore a range of texts selecting one that you feel most engaged with. Lastly, you will study the play 'DNA', considering how you would stage and perform the various roles in the play. This approach will support your exploration of poems and stories in English and allow you to be creative in your reimagining of the play.

## Who would suit this course?

This course would suit those interested in pursuing the Performing Arts (Drama & Theatre), wanting to build their confidence or gain transferrable skills. Those who have an interest in Theatre Design - lighting, sound, costume, stage and set, should consider this course. This course allows you to develop your group work, independent and leadership skills that are desirable employment skills.

## How would I learn?

Lessons are mostly practical, with some written elements, and computer work for coursework in Components 1. In lessons you will explore a range of skills, techniques, styles, genres and practitioners to build into your performances. As a class we will watch a range of performances both at the theatre and in the classroom, to gain inspiration and take ideas for your own performances.

## How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1** – Devising Theatre (40% of GCSE). You will create a group play based off a choice of three stimuli given by the teacher. You will document your creative, development, rehearsal process and analyse your performance through six questions.
- **Component 2** – Performing from Text (20% of GCSE). This component is entirely practical, and you will perform two extracts from a scripted play of your choice.
- **Component 3** – Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of GCSE). This component requires the class to go to the theatre to watch a play, for Section B of the written exam. For Section A, we will study 'DNA' practically in class, learning to answer questions as an Actor, Director and Designer. The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes.

The assessment structure is designed so that you can build on what you have learnt, and develop your skills, as you move through the course.

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

After Year 11, you could go on to study A-Level Drama or BTEC Performing Arts Level 3. Performing Arts is not just about becoming a performer. The skills that you acquire from this subject go much further than you might realise. Possible career paths are Actor, Teacher, Theatre Designer, Director, Producer and Playwright.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. N Walsh, Curriculum Lead, on [n.walsh@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:n.walsh@meadowparkschool.com)

# Cambridge National in Engineering Design

## Why should I choose Cambridge certificate in Engineering Design?

Engineering design is a process used to identify market opportunities and solve problems which contribute to the development of new products and systems. Through research and practical activities, learners will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Engineering Design, including the design process, types of drawings, influences on design, and the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD). This qualification will develop practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations. Skills will be developed in thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically to study these processes.

## What will I study?

You will study the key aspects of engineering design and have the opportunity to apply what you learn through a number of practical experiences. This will involve you studying three mandatory units:

**Principles of engineering design:** This is assessed by an exam. In this unit you will learn about the design process, and all of the stages that are involved. Topics include; designing processes, designing requirements, communicating design outcomes and evaluating design ideas.

**Communicating designs:** This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to use sketching and engineering drawings to communicate your ideas. Topics include; manual production of freehand sketches, manual production of engineering drawings, use of computer aided design (CAD).

**Design, evaluation and modelling:** This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to create and test models of your design. Topics include; product evaluation and modelling design ideas.

## Who would this course suit?

The engineering design course will suit learners who enjoy analysing problems in design terms through a mixture of both written assignment work and practical work. You will be encouraged to communicate using both 2D and 3D engineering design techniques, design new products to meet a design brief and solve problems by exploring different engineering design options. Learners need to be creative in order to develop imaginative solutions through creative thinking, evaluate designs through product disassembly and apply the process of using product analysis. If you are interested in applying practical skills to produce a prototype in the form of a model and test design ideas to inform further product development this could be the course for you.

## How will I learn?

This course will enable learners to develop the skills and understanding required to carry out a range of engineering tasks and is based around both practical and written work. In year 10 and 11 students will learn and develop their knowledge and a variety of skills to satisfy the assessments of the three units. This will encompass, computer aided design and manufacturing skills as well as knowledge on engineering design. Lessons are kept as varied as possible and where theory work can be delivered by making and doing, they are done so.

## How will my work be assessed?

Students must complete three units: one externally assessed examined unit **Principles of engineering design** and two NEA (Non-Exam Assessed) units **Communicating designs, and Design, evaluation and modelling**.

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

A Level Design and Technology, Apprenticeships e.g. Design and Development Technician (Level 3), Cambridge Technicals Engineering (Levels 2 and 3). Engineering careers in the Automotive Industry, Aerospace, Mechanical or Civil Engineering.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. C MacLean, Curriculum Lead, on [c.maclea@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:c.maclea@meadowparkschool.com)





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# GCSE French or GCSE Spanish

## Why should I choose French or Spanish?

You should choose a language GCSE if you want to join the 320 million speakers of French and 600 million global speakers of Spanish around the world – think of the opportunities that you could enjoy! Learning another language will help you to learn about other cultures, and it is proven to be excellent for your brain, developing transferrable skills such as communication, problem solving, and analysis.

## Exam Board? AQA

## What will I study?

You will study three main themes. You may have the opportunity to attend an overseas residential trip in addition to your learning.

Theme 1: People and lifestyle: 1. Identity and relationships with others; 2. Healthy living and lifestyle; 3. Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture: 1. Free-time activities; 2. Customs, festivals and celebrations; 3. Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us: 1. Travel and tourism, including places of interest; 2. Media and technology; 3. The environment and where people live

## Who would suit this course?

Someone who has a can-do attitude, wants to succeed and is able to tackle problems and has confidence to try new things.

Someone who wants to develop their skill in clearly articulating your ideas and expressing justified opinions on various topics.

As speaking is a component of the exam, you must be willing to talk and present ideas with a degree of confidence.

## How will I learn?

You will learn Spanish or French by learning to:

- look for patterns and work out links between languages
- read for detail and gist
- listen for key information
- write in detail with a wide range of language
- speak with confidence on a variety of topics

## How will I be assessed?

You will have assessments at the end of each module which will assess 2 out of the 4 following skills: Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing. At the end of year 11 you will sit 4 exams which will make up your grade:

Paper 1: Listening 25%

Paper 2: Speaking 25%

Paper 3: Reading 25%

Paper 4: Writing 25%

There are two tiers of entry for your final exams:

Higher: Grades 9-4 and Foundation: Grades 5-1

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

There are many opportunities that will be open to you if you choose to study a language at GCSE or beyond, not just ones that are specific to using a language. Languages is one of the few subjects you could use in any career pathway. Some of these include: International business, medicine, politics, travel, teaching, aid work, journalism, fashion design, engineering, film and television, translation, sport management & coaching.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Dr. M O'Neill, Curriculum Lead, on [m.oneill@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:m.oneill@meadowparkschool.com)

# GCSE Mandarin

## Why should I choose Mandarin?

Mandarin is highly valued in the workplace and give you a lifelong skill. At GCSE, you will continue to learn Mandarin that you have studied at KS3.

## Exam Board? AQA

## What will I study?

The topics covered fall into the following three themes and build upon previous knowledge: Theme 1 Identity and culture: me, family and friends, technology, free time activities, customs and festivals. Theme 2 Local, international and global areas of interest: home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues, travel and tourism. Theme 3 Current and future study and employment: my studies, life and school/college, education post-16, jobs, careers and ambitions.

## Who would suit this course?

You **MUST** be studying Mandarin present to pick this subject. You will improve your communication skills and your understanding of other cultures. In addition, it would be useful to those students who might wish to live or work abroad or to work for international companies.

## How will I learn?

You will practise the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a variety of different contexts using up to date authentic materials and engaging resources. You will have the opportunity to complete GCSE style activities and receive regular feedback on your progress.

## How will I be assessed?

The GCSE consists of 4 papers in listening, reading, writing and speaking (teacher examiner) each of which is worth 25% of your final grade. These exams will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

There are two tiers of entry for your final exams:

Higher: Grades 9-4

Foundation: Grades 5-1

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

A language GCSE will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, analysis and independence. It can be very useful if you wish to travel or live abroad.

A language qualification makes you VERY employable and there are lots of careers in which you can use your skills directly or indirectly such as business, journalism and engineering.

Many top universities expect students to have a GCSE qualification in a language as it is a facilitating subject.

You can move onto studying a language at A Level or university. Many degree courses offer a language option in conjunction with other subjects e.g. international politics with Chinese, Business and Chinese, some of them include a period of work or study abroad.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. M O'Neil, Curriculum Lead, on [m.oneil@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:m.oneil@meadowparkschool.com)





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# GCSE Geography

## Why should I choose Geography?

The subject content at GCSE enables students to build on their own knowledge and skills from Key Stage 3 to develop and extend their knowledge of locations, places and environments. Topics of study include; poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. They will need to gain a clear understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the interrelationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts. Students will need to apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork, and to contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding.

## Exam Board?

AQA GCSE Geography

## What will I study?

Unit 1: The challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK

Unit 2: Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management,

Unit 2: Fieldwork and Geographical skills.

## Who would suit this course?

Anybody who enjoys, has a passion for the subject or wants to work in a related career should take geography but it is a useful subject for anyone who is considering higher education as it develops a wide range of transferable skills. These skills are equally valued in a wide range of areas of employment.

## How will I learn?

GCSE Geography is a demanding subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills in lessons through some engaging topics and themes across the UK and around the world. Students will have opportunities to study in-depth, contemporary case studies, both local and global in nature. Have a deep understanding of the dynamic and diverse geography of the UK and explore the complexities of the planet and its interconnections whilst embedding geographical skills and fieldwork investigations both locally and nationally.

## How will I be assessed?

Exam - three papers all completed at the end of year 11.

Paper 1 - Living with the physical environment - 35% (1 Hour 30 Minutes)

Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment - 35% (1 Hour 30 Minutes)

Paper 2 - Geographical Application and skills - 30% (1 Hour 15 Minutes)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Transition to study geography at A-Level or at university. Possible careers beyond further education include; environmental consultancy, international aid or development work, work in the travel industry, market research and education.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. J Walker, Curriculum Lead, on [jwalker@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:jwalker@meadowparkschool.com)

# BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health & Social Care

## Why should I choose Health & Social Care?

If you are interested in or have aspirations of working within the health and social care sector then studying health and social care will give you a good understanding of personal development and relationships, issues affecting the nature of quality of human life and the provision of health and social care services available.

## Exam Board? Pearson

## What will I study?

Demand for both health and social care is likely to rise and the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase. The award is for you if you wish to acquire knowledge, understanding and technical skills through vocational /practical contexts as part of your Key Stage 4 learning. The Award gives you the opportunity to develop career specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

## You will:

- learn how to read health and lifestyle data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- understand the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- develop knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

## Who would suit this course?

If you have an interest /desire for a vocational career, would like to develop your knowledge, understanding and practical skill set which will enable you to successfully progress into the highly rewarding Health and Social Care Sector.

## How will I learn?

The lessons will include a variety of teaching styles including teacher led learning, paired activities and group work to acquire and consolidate new knowledge. In addition, students benefit from practical lessons such as testing out equipment that measure our health e.g. peak flow and blood pressure testing, role playing working in a health and social care sector. The course layout ensures that students to the learning required to then complete their assessment piece of coursework in silence in timed conditions.

## How will I be assessed?

### 60% Controlled Assessment

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development 30%

Unit 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values 30%

### 40% Final Exam

Unit 3: Health and Wellbeing

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Learners who study BTEC Health and Social Care choose progression to: A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects, study of a vocational Health and Social Care qualification at Level 3 - which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector. Employment within the Health and Social Care sectors includes nurse, doctor, psychologist, social worker, primary or secondary school teacher, nursery assistant, carer, counsellor and therapist.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. N Hunter, Curriculum Lead, on [n.hunter@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:n.hunter@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE History

## Why should I choose History?

The subject content at GCSE enables students to investigate a broad and rich range of options drawn from different periods and diverse societies. Students will opportunities to investigate, analyse and evaluate historical figures and events from the broad range of options on offer. They will also need to become competent in writing extended paragraphs in depth to achieve the higher grades at GCSE.

## Exam Board? Eduqas

## What will I study?

You will study:

- The History of three different countries during times of great social, religious and political change.
- How one area of history has changed over one thousand years and the causes and consequences of these changes.
- Historical skills relating to a variety of different sources and written techniques.

## Who would suit this course?

Anybody who enjoys and has a particular interest in the subject or wants to work in a related career should take history but it is a useful subject for anyone who is considering higher education as it develops a wide range of transferable skills that universities are looking for.

## How will I learn?

GCSE History is the perfect subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills in lessons for employment or further study. These include reaching conclusions and making judgements, problem solving, extended writing skills, research skills, independent study skills, analytical and evaluative skills and making connections.

## How will I be assessed?

Exam - four papers all completed at the end of year 11.

Unit 1: British Studies in Depth: The Elizabethan Age 1558 - 1603 (25% - 1 hour)

Unit 2: Non - British Studies in Depth: Germany in Transition, 1910 – 1939 (25% - 1 hour)

Unit 3: Period Study: The Development of USA, 1929 – 2000 (20% - 45 minutes)

Unit 4: Thematic Studies: Changes in Entertainment and Leisure, c.500 to the present day (30% - 1hr 15mins)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Transition to study History at A-Level or at university. Possible careers beyond further education consist of a Heritage manager, a Museum curator, a Secondary school teacher, and an Archaeologist.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. J Walker, Curriculum Lead, on [jwalker@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:jwalker@meadowparkschool.com)

# Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering

## Why should I choose Hospitality and Catering?

WJEC Level1 /2 Vocational Awards provides learners with opportunities to study vocational subjects alongside GCSE and other general vocational qualifications as a broad programme of study. It can offer learners the opportunity to learn about this sector and provides a foundation for further study.

**Exam Board:** WJEC

## What will I study?

I will develop a comprehensive and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety and food safety.

I will develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. I will learn the skills needed to prepare cook and present dishes. I will learn how to review my work effectively.

## Who would suit this course?

If you have an interest in working in the Hospitality and catering Industry either part time whilst continuing your studies or full time. If you have an interest in cooking and nutrition then this course is for you.

## How will I learn?

You will be preparing and cooking a variety of recipes within the lesson and whilst this is a predominant skill, you will learn how to review your work effectively. There will be at least two of your lessons a week dedicated to understanding the Hospitality industry and the provision of health and safety and food safety.

## How will I be assessed?

**40% of the qualification written examination** – Questions requiring short and extended answers based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

**60% is a controlled assessment** – An assignment brief is provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks. Students will need to plan and then prepare two meals for a specific target group stated in the brief. Students will need to explain why they are making the dishes, talk about the nutritional values of the food, produce a time plan, make the dishes and finally evaluate the food prepared. This is a timed assignment that is completed during lesson time.

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Working in the commercial or non- commercial Hospitality Industry: Front of House, Waiting staff, Receptionist, Valets, As part of the kitchen brigade: Chef, Sous chef, Kitchen assistant, kitchen porter. Management: Food and beverage, housekeeping, marketing.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. C MacLean, Curriculum Lead, on [c.maclean@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:c.maclean@meadowparkschool.com)



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# GCSE Religious Studies

## Why is Religious Studies important?

The GCSE Religious Studies course covers a range of the major world religions and contemporary ethical themes ensuring students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture.

## Exam Board?

AQA Specification A

## What will I study?

Students will study component one (the beliefs, teachings and practices) of two religions: **Buddhism** and **Christianity**.

Alongside this, students will also study 4 Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes.

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

## What skills will I need for this course?

Students completing this GCSE course will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

## How will I learn?

GCSE Religious Studies is the perfect subject to develop and assess a wide range of transferable skills in lessons for employment or further study. These include reaching conclusions and making judgements, problem solving, extended writing skills, research skills, independent study skills, analytical and evaluative skills and making connections.

## How will I be assessed?

Two written exams completed at the end of Year 11;

- Component one (the beliefs, teachings and practices) - 1 Hour 45 Minutes (50% of overall GCSE grade)
- Component two (thematic studies) - 1 Hour 45 Minutes (50% of overall GCSE grade)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Transition to study Religious Studies at A-Level or at university. Possible careers beyond further education consist of a Counsellor, an international aid/development worker, a Chaplain, a Newspaper journalist or a Youth worker.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. J Walker, Curriculum Lead, on [jwalker@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:jwalker@meadowparkschool.com)



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# BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sports

## Why is BTEC Tech in sport important?

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by exploring the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. They will also explore the different types of participants and their needs in order to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for others in sport and physical activity and further develop their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology. Learners will undertake practical sessions to develop skills in planning and delivering sports activity sessions to participants. The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

## Exam Board? Pearson

## What will I study?

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

## Who would suit this course?

The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

## How will I learn?

You will complete mostly theory-based class room lessons. You will explore different ways of preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity plans. You will actively take Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance and finally develop fitness to improve other participants in sports and physical activity.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 5 hours of supervised assessment. 60 marks.

Component 2: Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 4 hours of supervised assessment. 60 marks.

Component 3: External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions. The assessment will be completed in 1.5 hours within the period timetabled by Pearson. 60 marks.

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

This course would prepare you for further study of PE at A-level and or a vocational level 3 sports course. Employment opportunities to pursue could include sports science, sports coaching, personal training, physiotherapist, sports therapy, PE teacher, sports coach, sports analyst, sports journalism, sports marketing, fitness centre manager, sports medicine.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mr. G Kandola, Curriculum Lead, on [g.kandola@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:g.kandola@meadowparkschool.com)





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# GCSE Sociology

## Why should I choose Sociology?

GCSE Sociology helps you to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

You will develop analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, you will develop transferable skills including how to investigate facts and make deductions, develop opinions and new ideas on social issues, and analyse and better understand the social world.

## Exam Board?

AQA

## What will I study?

The course is split into the following topics:

The sociological approach

Social structures, social processes and social issues

Families

Education

Crime and deviance

Social stratification

Sociological research methods

## Who would suit this course?

If you are keen to learn about any of these areas, then clearly sociology might be for you. Additionally, sociology develops a range of skills that are transferable to other areas in higher education and beyond. Sociology is usually suited to empathetic individuals that have good levels of written communication.

## How will I learn?

Students will develop as critical thinkers with the ability to evaluate and analyse the social structures and institutions around them. They will learn about key sociological issues in our societies with an in depth focus on social, political, legal and educational changes in society and their implications.

## How will I be assessed?

Exam - two papers all completed at the end of year 11.

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education 1hr 45 mins (50%)

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification 1hr 45 mins (50%)

## How can I use this course after year 11 and beyond?

Transition to study Sociology at A-Level or at university. Possible careers beyond further education might lie in areas such as: education, health services, human resources, social work and legal work.

## If I want to know more, I should ask...

Mrs. N Hunter, Curriculum Lead, on [n.hunter@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:n.hunter@meadowparkschool.com)



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# Helping you make the right choices!

Considering your option subject choices. Think carefully about:

- How you like to learn?
- What subjects do you already like?
- What subjects/courses do you need for your future?

It is important to have an idea of the route you would like to take, even if you are not sure of the exact job just yet.

- Do you want to go to university or go straight into a job?
- Do you know what subjects and grades they require to take that route?
- Complete the following to help you organise your thoughts and streamline your ideas.

Which subjects do you like?	Why?

Which subjects do you achieve well in?	Why?





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Which subjects do you find harder?	Why?

Which new subjects do you want to try?	Why?

Which subjects do you need for your future?	Why?



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# Helping you make the right choices!

## Second Step

It is important for you to choose subjects that interest you and motivate you.  
With your parent's/carer's support think about how you learn best.

**I learn best by (tick all that apply):**

- Seeing and reading
- Listening and talking
- Being active and doing
- Doing projects
- Doing assessments, tests and exams

**Choose which box below suits your learning style best:**

**A**

Creating things

Being active

Solving problems

Using tools and machines

**B**

Designing and presenting ideas

Writing stories

Performing

Creating things

**C**

Helping people

Supporting friends

Teaching others

Working in groups

**D**

Investigating things

Finding things out for myself

Researching

Doing calculations

**E**

Organising activities

Debating

Coming up with my own ideas

Seeing the big picture

**F**

Planning

Using computers or calculators

Discussing with others

Making final decisions



### Mostly A's

Are there options where you can use your **practical** skills and be **active**?



### Subject ideas

Design & Technology  
Hospitality & Catering  
Performing Arts  
Sports

### Mostly B's

Are there options where you can be **creative** and you can present your thoughts?



### Subject ideas

Fine Art  
Design & Technology  
Performing Arts  
Music

### Mostly C's

Are there options where you can find out more about **people and society**?



### Subject ideas

Health and Social Care  
History  
Geography  
Sociology  
Religious Studies

### Mostly D's

Are there options where you can **investigate** things and use thinking skills?



### Subject ideas

Design & Technology  
Hospitality & Catering

### Mostly E's

Are there options where you can use **communication** skills and test new ideas?



### Subject ideas

Business  
French/Mandarin/Spanish  
Sociology

### Mostly F's

Are there options where you can use **planning** skills and use technology to present your ideas?



### Subject ideas

Business  
Design & Technology



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# Submitting Your Pathway Choices

On Thursday 5th February at 4pm every Year 9 student will be sent an email with a link to the following form, to their school email address: -

## Year 9 Pathways

1. Student's First and Last Name \*

Enter your answer

2. Which Science do you want to study? (This will decide which the pathway you are allocated to). \*

- ☐ Triple Science (15 Science lessons, then you choose a Humanity and a Language)
- ☐ Combined Science (9 Science Lessons, then you choose 3 options subjects)

Once this has been completed, within 1 working day, you will be sent the relevant link to a pathways form for you to complete with your options choices.

The pathways form link will also be accessible through the Student Portal and MyChildAtSchool Bromcom apps.

The pathways form can only be submitted **once**, but you can 'Save for Later' if you wish to make changes later or to discuss it further with your parents/carers or teachers.

All forms need to be submitted by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**.

If you have submitted your pathway form but realise you have made a mistake then you need to contact Mrs Helen Heaton on [h.heaton@meadowparkschool.com](mailto:h.heaton@meadowparkschool.com).