

KEY STAGE 4 GCSE Courses Information Booklet 2024



BROOK MEAD
ACADEMY

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The Principal's Introduction

Our aim at Brook Mead is to **Build Better Futures**. We simply want you to have the best futures possible, to have the most choice with your future careers. An important part of the route to this future success is to leave BMA with the best possible GCSE grades in subjects which will open the most doors.

You will find that most subjects are compulsory which means that you must study them to make sure that you have a broad education that prepares you for whatever you may choose to do in the future. We want to ensure that you have the qualifications which will lead on successfully to further study at college, employment, or training.

For most of you, the CORE curriculum will include all the subjects that make up the English Baccalaureate. This means you will study either Geography or History GCSE, along with GCSEs in English, Mathematics, two or three Sciences and French. This set of subjects open the most doors to further study and fulfilling careers.

You also have some decisions to make. To help with this, you will have a discussion with a member of senior staff who will help you with your decisions. After the meeting, you should discuss your ideas with people who you know will give you sensible advice – your family, teachers, the careers team, and your Form Tutor. Use this booklet to find out more about the courses on offer to you.

Whatever subjects you choose, the learning that takes place at Key Stage 4 will enable you to grow as an individual, secure lots of powerful knowledge and realise how you can use this.

It is an exciting time but also a time you need to take seriously. Think carefully about what you might want to do at college, make sensible decisions and then work hard for the rest of Year 9 so that you are ready for the challenge of Years 10 and 11.

A scholar's view of choosing their GCSE courses

When my teachers first talked about GCSE courses, I was worried, I didn't know what I was going to do as a career, and I didn't know what courses to choose. Whatever GCSE courses you choose will impact your life, and they are the biggest decision of your life so far.

However, all the support we got in school helped me pick the right GCSE courses for me. The subjects I chose to study at Key Stage 4 were PE and Geography. I picked PE because it is my favourite subject and I enjoy the practical side, but I am also interested in the theory side. I chose Geography as I find the subject interesting and knew it was important.

My teachers advised me to choose subjects I do well at and enjoyed. Don't forget if you ever need any help or any guidance you always have teachers, parents, careers advisors and your tutor.

Finally, a bit of advice, these decisions will set you up for your future so pick courses that you really want and not because your friends are doing them. If you do not have a career in mind, choose a wide range of different subjects that you enjoy.

Year 10 Student



The Core KS4 Curriculum

All scholars will follow GCSE level courses in:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Science
- French
- Religious Education

All scholars study Science and this will lead to two or more GCSEs.

Scholars will also do core PE, which is a non-examination subject.

Other courses on offer

For the remaining time, scholars will be guided in choosing additional subjects from the following full course GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

Most scholars must choose one of the following GCSE courses:

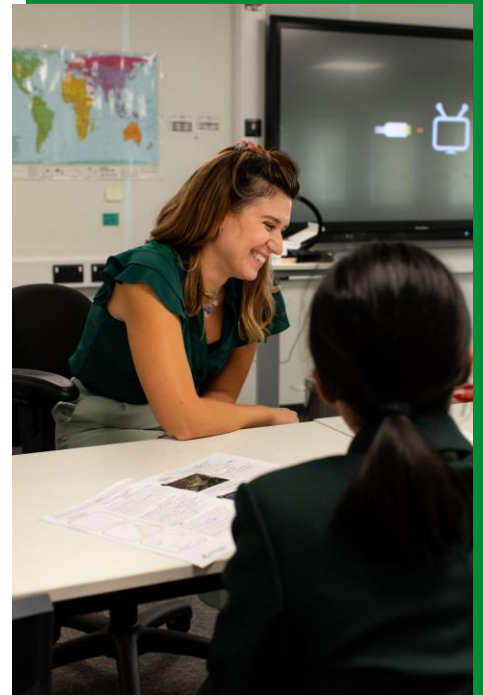
- History
- Geography

Also, one of the following GCSE courses:

- Art
- Computer Science
- Food & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education

Each subject has a page devoted to it in this booklet. These pages tell you more about the course and what you can expect from it.

Scholars will be asked to make a first choice and 2 reserve choices. Wherever possible, scholars will be granted their first choice. **However, the courses will only run if they are a viable option, and there are many issues that may affect this.**



On this page, we have included a brief description of PSHCE, Core PE and BBT. These are all valuable parts of the KS4 curriculum, but they do not lead to a qualification.



Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

During KS4, scholars develop their understanding of the rights and responsibilities they have as active British citizens and members of society. There are opportunities to discuss significant topical issues and develop an understanding of how society works, and the skills and abilities needed to navigate this. They can develop skills such as debating, research techniques, negotiation and participation.

The **careers programme** at KS4 helps scholars to explore the range of opportunities available post 16. Scholars research their own career aspirations alongside advice and guidance from careers advisers. They will develop employability skills through work experience and have many interactions with employers from a variety of work areas. In year 11, scholars complete applications for post 16 education and training. The application process is an opportunity for scholars to showcase their academic ability and their wider school and external contributions.

Coping strategies and mental health awareness are also addressed.



Core Physical Education

Physical Education remains a compulsory subject in Years 10 and 11 and all scholars have 2 lessons of curriculum time dedicated to the subject. The emphasis in KS4 is on developing Sports Leadership skills; to plan, deliver and critically evaluate their own performance and that of others. We also place a high importance on participation and enjoyment to inspire and instill a lifelong love and interest in sport and physical activity in our scholars.

Brook Bonus Time

Scholars will continue to be able to select one BBT elective each term as we strongly believe in offering you the chance to try something new and discover hidden talents. BBT is designed to extend and enrich your experience at Brook Mead Academy and is the right of every scholar.

Successful learning is a partnership.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be an examination in my chosen subject?

Every GCSE will include some written examination at the end; in most cases this is at the end of Year 11. With changes made in recent years to exams by the Government, this is usually the main method of assessment in each subject.

Will I be in different groups?

In all your subjects you are likely to be in groups with different scholars. Some subjects are grouped according to progress already made and others are grouped differently.

Where can I get extra help and guidance in making my decision?

Your GCSE course choices should be made after careful consideration and discussion. These are the subjects you will study for the next two years and so it's important that you make the best choice possible.



Help is available from the following people:

- Subject teachers
- Form tutors and your year team staff
- Mrs D Walker – Careers Leader (Dwalker@brook-tmet.uk)
- Senior Leadership Team (*Ms Hindocha, Mrs Morgan, Miss Walker, Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Evans*)

What now?

- Listen and participate in the careers sessions each week.
- Read this Course Information Booklet in full.
- Look at your latest Achievement Report to see which subjects you are doing well in.
- Attend the GCSE Courses Information Evening on **Thursday 18th January** so that you can find out more about the courses on offer.
- Attend Parents' Evening so that you can ask your teachers questions about your progress and attainment in each subject (M band – 25th January, B band – 8th February)
- Complete the choices form in tutor time during week commencing 12th February.
- Research online and read GCSE exam board specifications.
- Discuss your interests and ambitions with your family.
- Talk to your form tutor and subject teachers.

It is possible that some scholars will not be able to follow the exact combination of subjects they prefer. We will do our best to meet as many requests as possible, but the order of preference and the selection of reserve choices is important. Keep an open mind and try to consider alternatives. You will receive confirmation of your GCSE courses, when the process has been completed, and subjects have been allocated.



KEY STAGE 4

Core Curriculum



Course Overview

GCSE English Language is one of two GCSEs that you will study in English. All students sit the same exams – there is no higher or foundation tier exams.

There are **two written exams** and one **speaking assessment**. The speaking assessment is usually assessed in Year 10. Throughout the course you will practise your extended writing, and also read a variety of types of texts.

GCSE English Language, along with GCSE Mathematics, is often the most important subject for entry to further study. Even for non-English-related subjects like Medicine, universities and HE providers will expect you to have a good GCSE grade that demonstrates your written and spoken abilities.

What are the topics I will study?

For Paper 1, you will read **modern fiction texts**. Each year the topic is different. You will read a variety of types of fiction text (usually parts of novels) and analysing what happens. You will also practise your creative writing, using a variety of prompts such as sentence starters, titles and images to inspire your creativity.

For Paper 2, you will read **non-fiction texts** on a variety of topics. These can go as far back as the Victorian Era – for example, articles, diary entries, or letters. You will learn to compare points of views and evaluate them using evidence. You will also practice your extended writing of forms such as articles and speeches on a range of topics relevant to you, such as whether schools should have uniforms. These topics change every year on the exam, so we will prepare you to write about a range of ideas.

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Half of the GCSE exams are based on your **extended writing skills**. This means producing a piece of creative writing, like a short story, as well as a piece of non-fiction writing, such as an article. You will learn how to write in a persuasive manner to a variety of audiences. You will also practice how to write original and engaging stories with a range of vocabulary.

Furthermore, you will continue to practise your **analytical writing** skills, using evidence to analyse modern texts and texts from the nineteenth century. You will get used to reading new content regularly, as the texts on the exams are different every year.

Further reading

The best way to prepare for this GCSE is to read widely or read whatever you love. If you love manga, read lots of manga. If you love history, read lots of history journals and historical fiction. Remember: non-fiction opinion pieces in the newspaper, online blogs or reviews of TV shows, music, films, travel journals or even listening to podcasts are just as helpful as novels and stories.

[AQA | GCSE | English Language | Specification at a glance](#)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

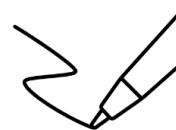
100% examination: 2 exams
Paper 1 and Paper 2

Possible careers:

- Journalist
- Speech writer
- Solicitor
- Barrister
- Copywriter
- Civil Servant
- Novelist
- Poet
- Comedian
- TV or film script writer
- Grant writer or fundraiser
- Local Councillor
- Politician
- Researcher

Employability Skills:

- **Creativity:** The ability to imagine and create new material will be so helpful when writing your short stories or descriptive pieces.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to use ambitious vocabulary and precise scholarly language will help you to achieve your goals in this exam.



Key Contact: Mrs L Kuhivchak D028

Course Overview

GCSE English Literature will give you the chance to explore other worlds, have rich discussions, and enjoy the power of fiction from across the ages to entertain, delight, and intrigue.

You will study a range of classic and modern texts which have been specially chosen to provoke thought about serious issues, particularly social injustice that still exist in our society today.

GCSE Literature is assessed through two exams. Everyone studies the same texts across the two years of study. These texts are from the **Elizabethan, Victorian, and Modern eras**.

What are the topics I will study?

Paper 1:

Macbeth, a tragic play by William Shakespeare

This tragic play builds on your knowledge of Shakespeare from KS3 and will encourage you to think about key themes of ambition, power and fate.

A Christmas Carol, a novel by Charles Dickens

This classic novel will encourage you to think about what it means to be a good member of society and learn how issues from the nineteenth century are still with us today.

Paper 2:

An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley

This play is based on a detective story, but with a twist. You will explore the idea of social injustice in twentieth century society, while also learning about how plays can be performed.

Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology by a variety of authors

This collection of famous poems from across the ages will give you the chance to learn about different poets and discuss how war and conflict has changed lives across the centuries.

Unseen Poetry

This topic will test your analytical skills and your knowledge of poetic techniques.

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

You will continue to develop your knowledge of literature as well as your analytical writing skills. You will become adept at interpreting evidence and making academic arguments.

Further reading

[AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Specification at a glance](#)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

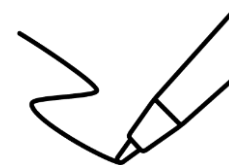
100% examination: 2 exams
Paper 1 and Paper 2

Possible careers:

- Journalist
- Speech writer
- Solicitor
- Barrister
- Copywriter
- Civil Servant
- Novelist
- Poet
- Comedian
- TV or film script writer
- Grant writer or fundraiser
- Local Councillor
- Politician
- Researcher

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.



Key Contact: Mrs L Kuhivchak D027

GCSE Maths

“Go down deep enough into anything and you will find Mathematics.” – Dean Schlicter

Course Overview

Mathematics in the wider world is used as a tool to calculate, to compare, to contrast and to communicate. Without a mathematical framework, the work of scientists, engineers, economists, business owners and architects, among many others, would be impossible. But mathematics also has a beauty and richness of its own.

Mathematics is not just a collection of skills, but a way of thinking. We aim to inspire our pupils to appreciate the beauty of Mathematics, and to provide them with a toolbox of strategies that they can utilise in other subject areas, such as science, geography, and design technology, as well as in their everyday lives. GCSE Mathematics is not only a subject that every student must study, but one which provides the essential life-skill of numerical competency that is needed to run a household and to navigate the world of work.

What are the topics I will study?

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion, and rates of change
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics and Probability

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

In GCSE Mathematics lessons scholars will continue to use and apply standard mathematical techniques. They will also learn the skills needed to reason, interpret and communicate mathematically and be able to make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions from mathematical information. A key part of mathematics is solving problems including translating problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or series of mathematical procedures. Scholars learn to interpret results in the context of the given problem, and to evaluate the methods used, for efficiency and appropriateness to the problem.

Further reading

[AQA | GCSE | Mathematics | Specification at a glance](#)

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

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three papers at the same tier, two calculator and one non-calculator. Each paper is worth 80 marks, regardless of tier, and lasts for 90 minutes. There is no coursework component to the course.

Possible Careers

- Engineer
- Scientist
- Computer Scientist
- Statistician
- Economist
- Business

Examples:

Elon Musk (Engineering), Jeff Bezos (Business/finance), Sheryl Sandberg (Computing)

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.



Key Contact: Mr B Keegan F012

GCSE Science- Combined Award

"We will always have STEM with us. Some things will drop out of the public eye and will go away, but there will always be science, engineering, and technology. There will always, always be mathematics."

Katherine Johnson- NASA scientist

Course Overview

Scholars who study GCSE Combined Science, will be provided with the knowledge that enables them to understand the world and make sense of the Science that they come across in everyday life. Through studying this course, scholars will develop a body of foundational knowledge that will encourage them to be curious and excited by natural phenomena, whilst also enabling them to link their learning to other observations. By studying GCSE Science, scholars will come to appreciate what Science can tell them about themselves, the environment, and the Universe.

GCSEs in Combined Science will allow progression to several A-Level and college courses. The course provides a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding in the subject, whilst also developing practical skills.

What are the topics I will study?

- Chemistry - Atoms and the Periodic table, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy changes, Rates of reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical analysis, Atmosphere and Using Resources.
- Biology - Cells, Organisation, Infection and Disease, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Evolution, Inheritance and Selection and Ecology.
- Physics - Energy, Electricity, Particle Theory, Atomic Structure and Radioactivity, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism.

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Throughout this course, scholars will develop their scientific thinking and their experimental skills. Scholars will plan experiments to make observations and to test their hypothesis. They will make and record observations using a range of apparatus and will evaluate methods and suggest appropriate improvements.

Further reading

[AQA | Science | GCSE | Combined Science: Trilogy](#)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam Board:** AQA
- **Specification:** 8464 (Trilogy)
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

AQA Trilogy GCSE (9–1) in Combined Science consists of six externally examined papers at the end of the course. These are available at foundation tier (grades 1 to 5) and higher tier (grades 4 to 9).

Each paper consists of a total of 70 marks. The six papers include: two Biology papers, two Chemistry papers and two Physics papers.

Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration and consists of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. They examine fact recall, application of understanding, evaluation, practical apparatus, and techniques and working scientifically skills.

Practical skills are assessed through the written assessment in the final exams. The content of the course includes 21 required practicals in class and will also be examined in the final exams.

Possible Careers

Scholars could follow a wide range of career opportunities beyond studying Science. These could include becoming a: Zoologist, Doctor, Forensic Scientist, Paramedic, Teacher, Veterinary Surgeon, Sport Scientist and an Engineer.

Employability Skills

Listening: The receiving, retaining and processing of information or ideas.

Problem Solving: The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.

Key Contact: Ms R Fearn/Miss H Walker F007

GCSE Separate Sciences



"Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge."

Carl Sagan
(1934-1996) – American astronomer

Course Overview

Scholars who study the contents of GCSE Separate Sciences will be provided with the knowledge that enables them to understand the world and make sense of the Science that they come across in everyday life. Through studying this course, scholars will develop a body of foundational knowledge that will encourage them to be curious and excited by natural phenomena, whilst also enabling them to link their learning to other observations. By studying GCSE Science, scholars will come to appreciate what Science can tell them about themselves, the environment, and the Universe.

GCSEs in the Separate Science will allow progression to several A-Level and college courses. The course provides a solid foundation of knowledge and understanding in the subject, whilst also developing practical skills.

What are the topics I will study?

- Chemistry - Atoms and the Periodic table, Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical Changes, Energy changes, Rates of reaction, Organic Chemistry, Chemical analysis, Atmosphere and Using Resources.
- Biology - Cells, Organisation, Infection and Disease, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis, Evolution, Inheritance and Variation and Ecology.
- Physics - Energy, Electricity, Particle Theory, Atomic Structure and Radioactivity, Forces, Waves, Magnetism and Electromagnetism and Space Physics.

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Throughout this course, scholars will develop their scientific thinking and their experimental skills. Scholars will plan experiments to make observations and to test their hypothesis. They will make and record observations using a range of apparatus and will evaluate methods and suggest appropriate improvements.

Further reading

[AQA | Science | GCSE | Physics](#)
[AQA | Science | GCSE | Chemistry](#)
[AQA | Science | GCSE | Biology](#)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam Board:** AQA
- **Specification:** 8461, 8462, 8463
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

Scholars who study Separate Science will achieve a separate GCSE in each of the three Sciences, one in Biology, one in Chemistry and a third in Physics. Their overall grade for each Science GCSE is calculated through examinations that will be sat at the end of the course.

The Separate AQA GCSE (9–1) in Biology, Chemistry and Physics consists of two externally-examined papers for each GCSE.

Each paper is one hour forty-five minutes long and consists of different question styles including: multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. These are available at foundation tier and higher tier. Each externally examined paper consists of a total of 100 marks.

Practical skills are assessed through the written assessment in the final Year 11 examinations. The content of the course includes 28 core practicals that will be studied in class and will be examined in the final exams.

Possible Careers

Scholars could follow a wide range of career opportunities beyond studying Science. These could include becoming a: Zoologist, Doctor, Forensic Scientist, Paramedic, Teacher, Veterinary Surgeon, Sport Scientist and an Engineer.

Employability Skills

Listening: The receiving, retaining and processing of information or ideas.

Problem Solving: The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.

Key Contact: Ms R Fearn / Miss H Walker F007

GCSE French

'Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about' – **Benjamin Lee Whorf**

Course Overview



Scholars follow the AQA GCSE course over three lessons per week in Year 10 and 11. Throughout the course, scholars will learn high frequency, transferable language and they will study a range of topics.

At Key Stage 4 we will build on the foundational knowledge and skills developed at Key Stage 3, expanding scholars' knowledge of vocabulary, structures and grammar surrounding topics such as Education and work, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Travel and Tourism, as well as venturing into new topics such as Celebrity culture, the Environment and Technology.

Scholars tackle each of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing across each of these topics, developing them into confident problem-solvers and communicators.

Scholars are provided with a range of useful resources and guidance to support their revision.

What are the topics I will study?

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Studying a language opens up many opportunities for future careers as it helps you to develop a range of important skills that are essential in the workplace. When learning a foreign language, you develop communication skills, confidence, social skills, resilience, problem solving skills and open mindedness – these are all skills which top employers are looking for so learning a language will make you stand out from the crowd.

Further reading

[AQA | GCSE | French | Specification at a glance – www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

GCSE French is a linear course which means it is assessed at the end of Year 11. The exams are split into Higher and Foundation. There are four exams, one in each skill:

Listening (25%)

Higher 1 hour 15 mins

Foundation 1 hour

Speaking (25%)

Higher 10 – 12 mins

Foundation 7 – 9 mins

Reading (25%)

Higher 1 hour

Foundation 45 mins

Writing (25%)

Higher 45 mins

Foundation 35 mins

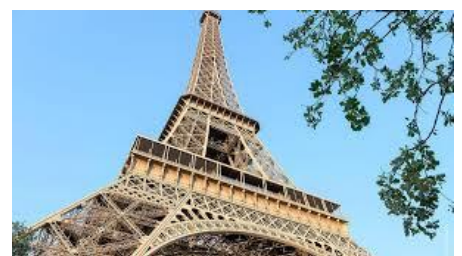
Possible Careers

- International Law
- Interpreting/Translation
- International Business and Marketing

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Speaking:** The oral transmission of information or ideas.

Key Contact: Miss C Henson F013



GCSE Religious Education

'Religion is the impotence of the human mind to deal with the occurrences it cannot understand.' – **Karl Marx**

Course Overview:

BMA scholars will learn about how religions have evolved throughout the centuries and will be taught, in depth, about the impact that religions have on our lives today. Scholars will learn about a range of religious beliefs with an in-depth focus on Christianity and one other religion. Scholars will develop the skills to approach situations with empathy, respect and understanding. Scholars will explore the importance of community, the injustices of prejudice and a range of both religious and non-religious world views.

Scholars will examine, explain, and understand how and why people express their beliefs in diverse ways. This will enable students to make connections between religious and non-religious beliefs so that they are able to discern potential connections between the ideas studied within class and their own perception of the world.

What are the topics I will study?

An in-depth study of 2 religions:

- Christianity: Beliefs and Practices
- One other religion from Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism or Sikhism

Beliefs and Practices 4 Thematic topics:

- Life and death
- Relationships
- Good and evil
- Human rights

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

- Analytical and critical thinking skills.
- The ability to work with abstract ideas.
- Research skills

These are all transferable skills that will support scholars throughout their career journey.

Further reading:

Do animals have rights? - Yolanda Brooks
Should we eat animals? - Andrew Langley
Why do people fight wars? – Alison Brownlie
Christianity, a short introduction – Keith Ward
WJEC Eduqas Specification – [RE](#) – www.eduqas.co.uk

Qualification Details:

- Qualification: GCSE
- Exam board: EDUQAS

Assessment Pathway:

3 written examinations:

Component 1 – Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the Modern World - 2 hours (50% of qualification).

Component 2 – Study of Christianity - 1 hour (25% of qualification).

Component 3 – Study of a World Faith - 1 hour (25% of qualification).

Possible Careers:

Acquiring an RE GCSE, will enable scholars to develop several transferable skills to support them in a variety of jobs:

- Lawyer
- Barrister
- Solicitor
- Journalism
- Teacher
- Equality, Diversion, and Inclusivity Officer.

Employability Skills:

-Problem Solving: The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.

-Aiming High: The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.



Key Contact: Miss L Elliott D024

KEY STAGE 4

Additional Courses Choices



**BROOK MEAD
ACADEMY**

GCSE Art

"You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have." – **Maya Angelou**



Why study Art?

Do you...

- ... enjoy exploring your thoughts, feelings, and passions creatively, in a supportive and mature studio atmosphere?
- ... want to learn about art history and the great 'masters' through the ages and learn their techniques?
- ... have a desire to independently explore your imagination with teachers that will encourage and support you?
- ... look forward to going 'off script' and being creative and free?
- ... have a love and enjoyment of communicating visually?
- ... enjoy working on your art to develop stamina and resilience?

In art we inspire, challenge, and motivate every scholar, no matter your starting point, while supporting and guiding you in creative, practical, engaging lessons. **Everybody is an artist.**

What are the topics I will study?

Through a range of projects over the two years we will support you to develop new skills, exploring materials and techniques in workshop-style lessons that spark your imagination and let you express yourself in areas that include:



- ✓ **Painting**
- ✓ **Drawing**
- ✓ **Print making**
- ✓ **Photography**
- ✓ **Sculpture**
- ✓ **Clay**
- ✓ **Mixed media**
- ✓ **Digital art**

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Scholars will realise their potential through developing their visual literacy, art history knowledge, fine art techniques and processes and contemporary practice. You are provided with a safe, risk-taking environment where you can develop deeper opinions and confidence to persevere. You develop critical thinking, time-management, resilience, creativity, and more transferable skills. With the freedom to be inspired, art brings out the best in you.

Further reading

- AQA Specification - [Art and Design](https://www.aqa.org.uk) – www.aqa.org.uk
- Why study art? – Tate Gallery – www.tate.org.uk
- Futures in Creative Industries – www.unifrog.org

Qualification Details

- Qualification: **GCSE Fine art**
- Exam board: **AQA**

Assessment Pathway

1. Coursework Portfolio (60%)

A personal project of artworks completed in school and at home.

2. Exam Portfolio & Final Piece (40%)

A 2nd project on a topic you choose from selected AQA titles. This portfolio is used to support a 10-hour supervised final-piece exam which takes place across 2 days.

There is NO written GCSE exam paper in Art.

Careers in art

Possible Careers & Further Education Art GCSE enables you to study any creative course at KS5, degree and beyond (this includes design tech, fashion and photography). Studying art opens the door to a range of careers in the creative industries which are an important part of the British economy – one of the economic areas that is still growing.

"But I don't want to be an artist – so why bother studying art?" ... The leading people in any industry are those who can think creatively and innovatively.

• Like creative writing?

Book/magazine illustrator, art critic, photojournalist, graphic designer, creative director, animator, art curator, cartoonist.

• Enjoy history?

Art historian, gallery assistant, sculptor, museum curator, art restorer, freelance photographer, anthropologist.

• Do you like games & tech? *Game developer, website developer, graphic artist, character designer, app developer*

Employability Skills:

- **Creativity:** Creativity is the ability to think about a task or a problem in a new or different way, or the ability to use the imagination to generate new ideas
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.

Key Contact: Mrs J Bamkin-Kettle F005

GCSE Computer Science

'Learning to write programs stretches your mind, helps you think better and creates a way of thinking about things that is helpful in all domains.' - **Bill Gates**

Course Overview

Your pathway to building the next big app or website starts here!

Studying computer science gives you the power to build anything you want on a digital device, from financial software to online shops to games. You will learn the fundamental principles behind programming, the inner workings of computers and how they communicate over networks like the internet.

We will cover problem-solving techniques and Python programming language. Lessons will be a mix of practical and theory.

Almost all sectors have been turned upside down by technology. Computers are everywhere, they have revolutionised agriculture, entertainment, manufacturing, medicine, even fashion!

Studying computer science is a gateway to anything you want to do or be in the future and Tech companies are some of the most powerful, innovative, and fun places to work in the world!

What are the topics I will study?

- Programming fundamentals and algorithms
- Networks, network security and the internet
- Systems architecture
- Data representation and Boolean logic
- Ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental impacts of technology

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Problem solving – the ability to analyse problems, break them down, ignore irrelevant information and piece together a plan for how to solve it. Coding – you will learn how to write code in Python, it is used by Intel, IBM, NASA, Pixar, Netflix, Facebook, JP Morgan Chase, Spotify, and several other massive companies.

Further reading

OCR Specification [Computer Science www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** OCR J277
- Included in the EBACC award.

Assessment Pathway

- Two equally weighted 90-minute paper exams and one will assess your ability to write or refine programs.

Possible Careers

- This course is an excellent basis for an A Level in computer science.
- This can open the door to a **huge** number of degrees and apprenticeships.

Examples:

- **Hardware engineer** – Create, implement, and test physical components.
- **Software developer** – Manage the creation of computer programs.
- **Security analyst** – Protect networks from cyberattacks.
- **Video game developer** – Design the next big game.

Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.

Key Contact: Mr K Mistry F003

"Every girl deserves to take part in creating the technology that will change our world, and change who runs it."

— Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner



"If you want to create and be a visionary, you're probably going to be working with technology in some way."

"The value in learning computer science is pretty evident with how important tech is in our world."

— Steph Curry, three-time NBA Champion



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

'Food may be essential as fuel for the body, but good food is fuel for the soul.' — **Malcolm S. Forbe**

Course Overview

The course focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure scholars develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of ingredients. At its heart, it focuses on nurturing scholars' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

What are the topics I will study?

- Food Nutrition and health
- Food Science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance
- Food preparation skills



What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Scholars will develop essential life skills such as the ability to prepare and cook dishes from a range of countries and cultures, developing curiosity about the world around them.

Scholars will be equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

You will be able to make informed decisions so you can feed yourself and others affordably and nutritiously.

You will be able to show crucial understanding of both functional properties and chemical characteristics of food that we consume and make, and understand all aspects of social, moral, ethical and environmental impacts of food choices at different life stages.

Further reading

Further reading AQA GCSE Food Prep and Nutrition Specification:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585>

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA

Assessment Pathway

NEA1- Written report 15%: Scholars conduct a food science investigation, to demonstrate knowledge of the functional, chemical, and working characteristics of ingredients.

NEA2-Practical element 35%: Scholars plan, prepare, cook and present three dishes that showcase their culinary skills. Scholars will complete a three-hour MasterChef style cooking session producing dishes to a high standard.

Written exam- 50%: A written theory exam of food preparation and nutrition.

Possible Careers

- Possible Careers
- Food Scientist/Technologist
- Sports Science
- Science & Microbiology
- Dietician
- Hospitality Industry/Chef
- Manufacturing
- Baker Nutritionist/ therapist
- Butcher Home
- Economist
- Barista
- NHS

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.

Key Contact: Mr N Patel D005

GCSE Geography

"The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have, and we need to defend it." - Sir David Attenborough

Without Geography – you are nowhere!

The world in which we live in is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before.

Geography explains why and helps to prepare you for those changes. Geography tackles, investigates, and searches for answers developing knowledge and understanding for big issues and challenges like environmental responsibility, our global interdependence and place in the world, cultural understanding, and tolerance. The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking and provides a firm basis for life-long learning. You will be able to see the world that you live in, question, and answer why it is like this and what the future holds.



What are the topics I will study?

- **The challenge of natural hazards** – tectonic hazards, weather hazards and climate change.
- **The living world** – tropical rainforests and hot deserts.
- **Physical landscapes in the UK** – river and coastal landscapes.
- **Urban issues and challenges** – the urban world, urban change in the UK and sustainable urban development.
- **The changing economic world** – the development gap, Nigeria as a Newly Emerging Economy, and the changing UK economy.
- **The challenge of resource management** – resource management in the UK, food management, water management or energy management.
- **Geographical skills** – decision-making, fieldwork, cartographic, graphical, and statistical skills.

Fieldwork: All scholars will go on two fieldtrips in Year 10 where you will collect primary data as part of fieldwork exercises to help you prepare for your paper 3 exam. Each fieldtrip will provide the opportunity to visit physical and human landscapes, e.g., a coastline and a city centre.

Further reading:

AQA GCSE specification: [GCSE Geography Specification Specification for first teaching in 2016 \(www.aqa.org.uk\)](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Royal Geographical Society – Choose Geography:
<https://www.rgs.org/geography/choose-geography/>

Qualification Details:

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award.

Assessment Pathway:

Geography is a linear course, which means that you will be assessed at the end of Year 11. You will sit three exams as follows:

- Paper 1 – **Living with the physical environment** (35%)
- Paper 2 – **Challenges in the human environment** (35%)
- Paper 3 – **Geographical applications** (30%)

Possible Careers:

• **Discover new places!**

Travel Agent, Tourism Officer, Media Researcher.

• **Enjoy being in the outdoors?**

Coastal manager, Geologist, Civil Engineer, Surveyor.

• **Interested in people?**

Planner, Social Worker, Market Researcher, Diplomat.

• **Interested in world events?**

Aid Worker, Refugee Advisor, Charity Coordinator, Disaster Management

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.

"Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future".

-Michael Palin

Key Contact: Mr C Miller / Ms O Skevington D019

GCSE History

Course Overview

Studying history will allow you to understand more about the way the world works. History helps us understand people and societies as well as how the society we live in came to be. Through History we are provided with a sense of identity as well as a moral understanding of the world. Apart from being very interesting, history is useful for a host of different careers, and life too! In fact, history is very practical and teaches you vital skills that employers want.

What are the topics I will study?

A Thematic Study and Historic Environment:

- *Migrants in Britain, c800–present and Notting Hill, c1948–c1970.*

A Period Study and British Depth Study:

Scholars take the following **British depth study** option:

- *Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88*

Scholars also take the following **period study** option:

- *Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91*

A Modern Depth Study:

Scholars will study the following **modern depth study**:

- *Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39*

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

- **Learning about people** – how they interact, the motives and emotions that can tear people apart into rival factions or help them to work together for a common cause.
- **Learning about countries, societies, and cultures** – so many of today's conflicts and alliances have their roots in the past; how can you negotiate with, trade successfully with, or report on a country if you know nothing of its history?
- **Learning to locate and sift facts** – to identify truth and recognise myth, propaganda, and downright lies (useful in every aspect of life!)
- **Presenting what you've learned in a way that makes sense to others and** having the confidence to defend your findings.

Further reading

For advice and guidance on the GCSE course of study:

[Edexcel GCSE History \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

For advice and guidance on choosing to study History:

[Choosing History / Student / Historical Association](#)

For advice and guidance on careers linked to History:

[Careers in History / Historical Association](#)

Qualification Details:

- Qualification: **GCSE**
- Exam board: **Pearson Edexcel**
- Included in the English Baccalaureate award.

Assessment Pathway:

3 GCSE exam papers at the end of Year 11

- **Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment**

Written examination: 1 hr and 15 mins
30% of the qualification

- **Paper 2: Period study and British depth study**

Written examination: 1 hr and 45 mins
40% of the qualification

- **Paper 3: Modern depth study**

Written examination: 1 hr and 20 mins
30% of the qualification

Possible Careers:

Studying history can lead to a great number of excellent careers as:

- *the media and journalism*
- *government, including local government and diplomatic services.*
- *law*
- *heritage organisations*
- *conservation*
- *teaching*
- *archives and library services*
- *museums and galleries*
- *charity organisations*
- *the police and law*



Key Contact: Miss A Michalaki D024

'sic itur ad astra' – Virgil

Course Overview

GCSE Latin provides scholars with the opportunity to further their knowledge and understanding of Latin language and study some of the best Latin literature.

Scholars will learn a defined vocabulary list, and study all of the main features of Latin grammar. They will also translate and analyse the style of a selection of Latin verse and prose literature.

THE ROMANCE LANGUAGE FAMILY TREE



What are the topics I will study?

Latin GCSE comprises four examinations, two focused on language and two on literature. The two language exams will require scholars to learn a defined vocabulary list and be able to recognise and translate all the main grammatical features of Latin.

The two literature exams will introduce scholars to original Latin texts – one prose and one verse. Scholars will study selections from the Roman historian Pliny as their prose literature set text. The verse literature set text will be an excerpt from Virgil's epic poem the *Aeneid*.

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Scholars who study GCSE Latin will develop their linguistic awareness and ability to translate increasingly complex sentences. They will develop their ability to understand English derivations, and the links between ancient and modern languages. Scholars will also develop their ability to analyse the style of different genres of literature, and their understanding of the cultural context in which these masterpieces were produced.

Further reading (available in translation online)

OCR Specification - [Latin](http://www.ocr.org.uk) – www.ocr.org.uk

Virgil *The Aeneid*

Pliny *avunculus meus*

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** OCR
- Included in the EBACC award.

Assessment Pathway – how

Scholars will sit four exams at the end of Year 11: two language exams, a prose literature exam and a verse literature exam. Each exam is worth 25% of the total qualification.

Possible Careers

Latin GCSE is highly sought after by academically elite universities and employers. Scholars considering careers in law, journalism, science, medicine, or other highly competitive fields should take GCSE Latin.

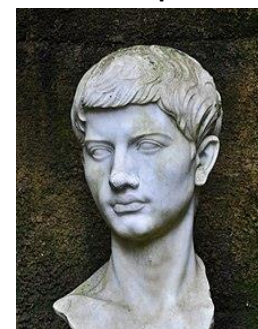
Examples:

- Barrister/solicitor
- Author
- Doctor
- Scientist
- Professor/teacher
- Comedian
- Journalist
- MP

Employability Skills:

- **Problem Solving:** The ability to find a solution to a situation or challenge.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route to achieving them.

Key Contact: Mrs C Goptu



Course Overview

GCSE Music offers scholars the opportunity to compose, perform and explore different areas of musical study.

30% of the course is dedicated to Composition. 15% of this is towards creating any song in any style of their choice. This ranges from the K-Pop song they've always dreamed of creating, or a String Quartet composition they would like to have performed. The other 15% is a composition set to an assignment brief by the OCR exam board at the start of Year 11.

30% of the course is also dedicated to performance on any instrument of their choice. By performance, this does not mean performing in front of a large audience. This could simply be one performance of a solo song recorded by the designated OCR GCSE Music Moderator (the class teacher), and one performance as part of a band (again, not necessarily in front of an audience). The final 40% is a listening exam, set in the same style as other GCSE exams, with the exception that there is Music to listen to help answer the questions.

Finally, all scholars choosing GCSE Music are entitled to one 25 minute a week instrument lesson on an instrument of their choice if the school can provide that specialised tuition.

What are the topics I will study?

- Area of Study 1 – My Music
- Area of Study 2 – The Concerto Through Time
- Area of Study 3 – Rhythms Of The World
- Area of Study 4 – Film Music
- Area of Study 5 – Conventions of Pop

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

You will be able to create your own songs and perform the songs you enjoy listening to on the instrument you've always wanted to learn. You will study a wide range of Music from the Brandenburg Concerto to Living on a Prayer by Bon Jovi, and you will be able to identify and articulate their key features.

Further reading:

- OCR GCSE (9-1) Specification – Music J536 – www.ocr.org.uk
- OCR GCSE Music Study Guide
- GCSE Music OCR Complete Revision & Practice

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** OCR

Assessment Pathway

- 1 free composition
- 1 exam board set composition
- 1 solo performance
- 1 ensemble performance

Possible Careers

- Secondary School Music Teacher
- Peripatetic Music Teacher
- Performing Musicians
- Ensemble Musician
- Composer

Examples:

- Ed Sheeran continued his education by completing a Music Performance qualification at university before becoming a world-famous Musician.
- Mr. Larsen went on to college to study Music and then to university to study Music with Education on his journey to becoming Director of Music.

Employability Skills:

- **Creativity** – In Music you will learn how to create your own Music. This is an amazing chance of you to put your own feelings into lyrics, into melody, or into the overall atmosphere of a piece.
- **Staying Positive** – Sometimes learning an instrument or creating a piece is hard. In Music you will clearly see how consistent practice and application results in you gaining more skill, and you will see why keeping positive about your progress ends in success.

Key Contact: Mr S Larsen F004



GCSE Physical Education

“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body; it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity.” - John F. Kennedy



BROOK MEAD
ACADEMY

Course Overview

A GCSE in Physical Education will equip scholars with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Scholars will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well-being.

GCSE PE is a subject which incorporates elements of Science (Anatomy, Physiology and Psychology), English and Mathematics, and focuses on two aspects: the theoretical and the practical elements of sport.

The theoretical element, which contributes 70% of the total marks, focuses on a range of topics in which scholars will be required to apply theory knowledge to a variety of sporting activities. Accordingly, a large percentage of the GCSE lessons will be theory based, allowing scholars to study the relevant topics and develop exam techniques. The theoretical elements include two external exams, and coursework which includes developing a personalized exercise programme and analysing their own performance.

The course is physically demanding and requires scholars to be physically competent, in three different sporting activities, from the specification list. From these three activities, one must be examined from team sports, one from an individual sport & an open choice for the third sport. Overall, scholar practical performances equate to 30% of the total grade awarded. The course requires commitment to improving performance and physical fitness as well as dedication to extracurricular activities over the duration of the course. Scholars must compete regularly in at least two sports.

What are the topics I will study?

- Health, fitness and well-being
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement analysis
- Sports psychology
- Practical Performance
- Use of Data

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

- Decision making
- Psychological understanding of people
- Independent thinking
- Problem solving
- Analytical skills
- Responding under pressure

Further reading

GCSE PE Specification – [PE](http://www.aqa.org.uk) – www.aqa.org.uk

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam Board:** AQA

Assessment Pathway

This course comprises of two written exams, and a practical exam. The practical element is worth 30% of the overall grade.

Therefore, scholars are required to have a strong practical ability.

Throughout the course, scholars will be offered revision sessions, mock examination days, coursework days, past papers, and intervention to maximize success.

Possible Careers

- Sports management
- Sports coaching
- Personal trainer
- Teaching
- Physiotherapy
- Sports psychologist
- Sports analyst
- Media and Events
- Sports Reporter

Employability Skills:

- **Leadership:** The action of leading a group of people or an organization.
- **Teamwork:** The combined action of a group, working towards a common goal.

Key Contact: Mr S Wotherspoon



GCSE Courses Overview

Compulsory Subjects for All

English Language	English Literature
Mathematics	Double Science
French	Religious Education
PSHCE / BBT / Core PE	

Course Selection

EBACC Route

1. Choose

History	OR	Geography
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2. Choose 1 subject from the following list:

Art	Music
Computer Science	Physical Education
Food & Nutrition	Latin
History	Geography

Non - EBACC Route

1. Choose 2 subjects from the following list:

Art	Music
Computer Science	Physical Education
Food & Nutrition	Latin

You will make your final choices in tutor time on Wednesday 14th or Thursday 15th February 2024.

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A series of 25 horizontal dashed lines spanning the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice.

Building Better Futures Together

