

Year 9 Subject Choices 2025-2029



PARK HOUSE SCHOOL

Information Booklet



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Introduction

You have now arrived at the point in your school career when you are able to start making choices about the subject you wish to study. This is an extremely important decision and one that should be taken after careful thought and consideration. Not only does this decision decide which subjects you will study at Park House for the next two years, but it also has implications for your Post-16 study choices. Once you have completed your GCSEs you will go on to study in the Sixth Form, college or through an apprenticeship scheme. Having the right subjects to get on these Post-16 courses is incredibly important so we are here to help you all through it and make sure that your 'Choices' are the right ones.

This booklet has been designed, not only to help you make your subject choices, but also to outline the courses you will be required to study as part of the core curriculum.

Core Curriculum

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined or Separates)
- Physical Education (Core) - No Exam
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic / Religious Education (PSHE/RE) - No Exam

English Baccalaureate Choice - You must choose one

- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish

Open Choice - You must choose three

- GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art) or GCSE Art and Design (Textile Design)
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Design and Technology
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE French
- GCSE Geography
- GCSE History
- GCSE Media Studies
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Psychology
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Separate Sciences (Three GCSEs)
- Vocational Health and Social Care

You will make your subject choices on the Applicaa platform. This will open on Friday 21st March and close on Monday 31st March. Your choices will be confirmed by Monday 9th June. We cannot guarantee that you will get all the subjects you put at your first choices due to staffing and timetable structure, as well as minimum numbers to run courses therefore it is important you have a reserve choice.



Advice

It is important that you make the right choices for you and your future. You must be prepared to ask for help and advice when making decisions. This booklet is designed to give you information on all the subject choices. Also each subject has prepared an information video that will be available on the school website.

When making your subject choices remember:

- **DO** consult with your teachers about subjects
- **DO** review your latest report and consult with your teachers at Parents Evening
- **DO** attend Choices Evening to ask questions about what you will learn and be assessed for each subject
- **DO** pay close attention during the new subjects assemblies
- **DO** seek advice from staff if you are in doubt about certain qualifications required for certain jobs / careers
- **DO** talk about your subject choices with your parents / careers, so that you and they understand why you are making particular choices
- **DO** consider subjects that you think will motivate and inspire you to learn

Poor reasons for choosing a subject inevitably lead to problems later on so:

- **DO NOT** choose a subject you do not like
- **DO NOT** choose a subject because your friend is choosing it
- **DO NOT** choose a subject just because it looks new and interesting, do your research
- **DO NOT** worry if you cannot take all the subjects you would like to study; many subjects can be enjoyed through extra-curricular activities or studied in Sixth Form



Advice from your Careers Advisor – Mrs Tebble Associate Assistant Headteacher

General guidance

Most GCSEs will be good general preparation for further learning and work so it's not crucial to choose specific subjects to fit with a specific career at this stage.

There are a few things to bear in mind when choosing:

- If you want to have a career in Art or Design in the future, then choose an Arts focused GCSE
 - If you want to deal with customers from other countries or work abroad then a language will be very useful
 - If you want to be doctor or vet then you need to triple science and top grades as your GCSE grades will be considered as well as A Level's when applying to university
 - Some careers such as architecture, veterinary medicine, working with languages etc. may require specific degree courses. In this case work backwards - to get into these degree courses you may need specific A levels/Level 3 qualifications, and to do these you may need certain GCSE subjects and grades.
 - However remember some subjects you can start studying at A Level even though you have not studied at GCSE
- Check out what GCSE/A level subjects and grades you need for particular degree courses on

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees>

Finding out about careers

No idea what you want to do after your GCSEs?

- Don't worry, choose a mix of KS4 subjects to give yourself as many different options as possible.

If you like one of your GCSE subjects and are looking for more information on careers or courses it could lead onto – go to <https://careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects>

For face- to-face Careers Support and advice please come and see me in the sixth form centre or email me on mtebble@parkhouseschool.org to make an appointment.



Core Curriculum



Subject Information



Subject: English Language

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Achieving a Grade 4+ in English opens doors to your future, whether that be sixth form, college, apprenticeships or other forms of workplace training. We feel that we teach young people to become effective and impressive communicators which is an essential skill for adult life.
- Reading and writing will be assessed equally accounting for 50% each of the overall qualification. Speaking and Listening, whilst not counting towards the overall grade, will be reported as a separate endorsement.
- English Language covers a wide range of texts and will focus on works from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries. Students will be taught a combination of fiction and non-fiction texts, including essays, articles, speeches and reviews. In the exam students will respond to unseen texts and they will prepare for this by experiencing a wide range of texts from various genres. Students will become confident using the necessary skills required to analyse both fiction and non-fiction texts and they will be assessed on the following skills: comprehension, critical reading, summarising and synthesis. Students will also have the opportunity to produce creative and transactional writing which will also be assessed for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How will I be assessed in English Language?

- 100% Examination
 - Paper 1 - 50% Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
 - Paper 2 - 50% Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- Within the examinations 20% of the marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- The assessment will also include a non-examination element focusing on Spoken Language which will be a presentation to the teacher and peers which will be reported separately.

What can it lead to?

- All careers, regardless of the entry level requirement, require a solid grounding in English and communication.

For further information please contact Mr Gook at JGook@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: English Literature

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Achieving a Grade 4+ in English opens doors to your future, whether that be sixth form, college, apprenticeships or other forms of workplace training. We feel that we teach young people to become effective and impressive communicators which is an essential skill for adult life.
- English Literature covers the study of Shakespeare; a 19th Century novel; a selection of poetry Post-1798 and a Post-1914 Drama text. Students will also be exposed to a variety of texts both seen and unseen.
- Students will explore layers of meaning in texts as well as learning how to evaluate and critically respond to texts.

How will I be assessed in English Language?

- 100% Examination
 - Paper 1 - 40% Shakespeare and the 19th- Century novel
 - Paper 2 - 60% Modern Texts and Poetry
- Within the examinations 5% of the marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

What can it lead to?

- All careers, regardless of the entry level requirement, require a solid grounding in English and communication.

For further information please contact Mr Gook at JGook@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Mathematics

Exam board: Edexcel

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- GCSE Mathematics will help to build up essential skills that are used on a daily basis in real life. Skills such as problem solving, analysing data, communication, logical thinking and attention to detail are all taught throughout the course and linked to the different sections of the course.
- The course is split into 6 sections which are:
 1. Number
 2. Algebra
 3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
 4. Geometry and measures
 5. Probability
 6. Statistics

How will I be assessed in Mathematics?

- 100% Examination - either Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grade 4-9)
 - Paper 1 - Non Calculator
 - Paper 2 - Calculator
 - Paper 3 - Calculator
- Each paper has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts. The mathematical demand increases as students progress through the paper, using the following assessment objectives:
 - AO1 - Using and applying standard techniques (standard recall)
 - AO2 - Reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically
 - AO3 - Solving problems with a much greater focus on solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts

What can it lead to?

- Many jobs require students to have achieved at least a grade 4 in their Mathematics GCSE
- Students who achieve a grade 4 or higher may want to go on to study Mathematics further in the form of Core Maths, A Level Maths or A Level Further Maths.

For further information please contact Mr D Thorne at DThorne@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Combined Science: Trilogy

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Science encompasses ideas about the material, physical and living world. Combined Science will include Chemistry, Physics and Biology – investigating, observing, experimenting and testing out ideas and thinking about them.
- The way scientific ideas flow through Combined Science will support students in building a deep and valuable understanding of science. This will involve talking about, reading and writing about Science plus the actual doing, as well as representing Science in its many forms both mathematically and visually through models, so students are engaged and enthused.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Subject Content		
Cell Biology Organisation Infection & Response Bioenergetics Homeostasis & Response Inheritance, Variation & Evolution Ecology	Atomic Structure & The Periodic Table Bonding, Structure and The Properties of Matter Qualitative Chemistry Chemical Changes Energy Changes The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Chemistry of the Atmosphere Using Resources	Energy Electricity Particle Model of Matter Atomic Structure Forces Waves Magnetism and Electromagnetism
Required Practicals		
Microscopy Osmosis Enzymes Food Tests Photosynthesis Reaction Time Field Investigations	Making Salts Electrolysis Temperature Change Rates of Reaction Chromatography Water Purification	Specific Heat Capacity Resistance I-V Characteristics Density Force and Extension Acceleration Waves Radiation and Absorption



How will I be assessed in Combined Science?

- 100% Examination leading to a Double GCSE - either Foundation Tier (Grades 1-1 to 5-5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4-4 to 9-9)
 - Biology Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 and Paper 2 covers topics 5-7
 - Chemistry Paper 1 covers topics 1-5 and Paper 2 covers topics 6-10
 - Physics Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 and Paper 2 covers topic 5-7

What can it lead to?

- Our Combined Science course leads nicely into studying Science A-Levels in the Sixth Form, usually for those considering careers such as Engineering, medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, ophthalmology and scientific research.
- This course can also lead to Level 3 Applied Science to consider work as a science technician, as a quality control analyst in a research lab or possibly working for a scientific magazine.

For further information please contact Mr S Combstock at SCombstock@ParkHouseSchool.org



Ebacc and Open Choices



Subject Information



You may only take either Art and Design (Fine Art) or Art and Design (Textiles Design) as these subjects discount each other and other centres may not recognise them as two separate qualifications.

Subject: Art and Design (Fine Art)

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Practising and studying art can equip you with transferable skills such as creativity, critical thinking, attention to detail, problem-solving, effective communication, and time management. Art education encourages self-expression and discipline, and the process of creating art teaches you to embrace failure and learn from mistakes, fostering a growth mindset and resilience in the face of challenges. These skills are valuable in various areas of life and work, making art education a sound investment.
- GCSE Art is a completely coursework-based subject, and the initial stages of the course are designed to develop skills by exploring a broad range of disciplines through lessons covering drawing, painting, photography, sculpture and digital art, among others.
- Your skills will be gradually developed from traditional techniques to improve observational skills to more complex ideas by studying a broad range of artists and styles. All along the way, you will be encouraged to experiment and take risks to help you develop your own unique artistic voice.
- This will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses, which will benefit you to successfully complete self-directed projects during later stages of the course.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE art is a completely coursework-based subject. There are two components that will form the base of your final GCSE grade:

- **Component 1: Portfolio (60%)** - a selection of best work produced during lessons over the course and at least one complete project.
- **Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%) or the exam unit.** - This component starts in January of your second year, with AQA providing you with a selection of starting points to choose from. You will research the topic, experiment and generate ideas and plans during the preparation period. Your final piece will be then produced under exam conditions over the space of two days shortly after Easter. There is no written exam involved but instead you get assessed on the work that you produce over the course.
- **Each component will be marked out of 96 marks equally divided across four assessment objectives.**
 - AO1- focuses on your ability to source inspiration and learn from other artists
 - AO2- focuses on your ability to experiment with and control different media



- AO3 - focuses on your ability to record observations and your design process
- AO4 - focuses on your ability to consolidate knowledge and understanding into a successful final piece.

What can it lead to?

- Studying Art at GCSE will allow you to pursue vast number of traditional art careers including:
- Fine Artist, Art Teacher, Art Therapist, Art Director, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Animator, Museum Curator, Exhibition Designer, Art Conservator, Art Appraiser, Art Historian, Photographer, Art Critic, Interior Designer, Set Designer, Concept Artist, Art Restorer and many more
- The recent advancements in technology have created new opportunities in the field of digital art. Companies and organisations are seeking individuals who possess traditional artistic skills that underpin any position within the creative industry.
- Web Designer, Video Game Artist, Virtual Reality Artist, Augmented Reality Artist, 3D Modeler, Motion Graphic Designer, Digital Illustrator, User Experience Designer, User Interface Designer, Web Developer, Game Developer, Video Editor, VFX Artist, Motion Capture Artist, Digital Content Creator, E-Learning Designer, Digital Marketing Designer and many others
- Besides art-based careers, you will develop many transferable skills applicable across a vast number of industries.

For further information please contact Mrs I Taylor at ITaylor@ParkHouseSchool.org



You may only take either Art and Design (Fine Art) or Art and Design (Textiles Design) as these subjects discount each other and other centres may not recognise them as two separate qualifications.

Subject: Art and Design (Textiles Design)

Exam Board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

Textiles as a subject gives all students the opportunity to develop their practical and creative ability through observation, experimentation, exploration, and contextual connections.

Textiles encourages students to:

- Actively engage in the creative textile process in order to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with considerate and enquiring minds.
- Develop creative, imaginative, and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts, and products.
- Become confident in taking risks and learning from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials, and techniques - both new and old.
- Develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical, and expressive skills.
- Develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes, or solutions with increasing independence.
- Acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent.
- Develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices evident in the production of art and textiles in the creative and cultural industries.
- Understand and demonstrate safe working practices in art and textiles.

Students can work in one or more of the following areas of Textile Design:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| ● art textiles | ● stitched and/or embellished textiles |
| ● fashion design and illustration | ● accessory or jewellery design |
| ● costume design | ● soft furnishings |
| ● constructed textiles | ● textiles for interiors |
| ● printed and dyed textiles | ● digital textiles |
| ● surface pattern | ● installed textiles |



How will I be assessed in Textiles?

Component 1: Portfolio (60% Weighting)	Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% Weighting)
Students develop responses to initial starting points, project briefs or specified tasks and realise intentions informed by research, the development and refinement of ideas and meaningful engagement with selected sources. Responses will include evidence of drawing for different purposes and needs and written annotation.	Students respond to a starting point provided by AQA. This response provides evidence of the student's ability to work independently within specified time constraints, realise intentions that are personal and meaningful and explicitly address the requirements of all four assessment objectives.

What can it lead to?

- Further education and study, including A-Level Art and Design (Textile Design) at Park House School and other vocational Level 3 Art, Textiles and Design courses.
- University degrees in Fashion, Textile Design, Costume Design, Art and many others upon successful completion of Post-16 study.
- Employment opportunities in Fashion, Design, Textiles, Fibre Science, Marketing, Art Therapy, Interior Design, Product Design, Visual Merchandising, Jewellery, Trend Forecasting and a whole host of other apprenticeships and employment progression opportunities.

For further information please contact Miss Brooke-Mee at JBrookeMee@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Business

Exam board: Edexcel

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- The Edexcel Business Studies GCSE is designed to introduce students to the world of business and develop their understanding of key business concepts. The course looks to give you an understanding of a wide range of ideas, theories and skills that are essential for any business to succeed, with particular focus on small businesses and business start-ups.
- The course is divided into two themes, both with five different topics.
- Theme 1 – Investigating small business
 - Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
 - Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
 - Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
 - Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
 - Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business
- Theme 2 – Building a business
 - Topic 2.1 Growing the business
 - Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
 - Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions
 - Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
 - Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

How will I be assessed in Business?

- Each theme has its own paper at the end of year 11. Both papers are in the same format.
- The papers are divided into three sections:
 - Section A: 35 marks
 - Section B: 30 marks
 - Section C: 25 marks.
- The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

What can it lead to?

- The Edexcel GCSE Business Studies qualification can serve as a foundation for further study in business-related subjects at the A-level (Advanced Level) or vocational qualifications. It also provides students with insights into the world of business, helping them understand economic and commercial issues.

For further information please contact Mr Howe at SHowe@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Computer Science

Exam board: OCR

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Computer Science GCSE gives students the opportunity to develop logical, problem-solving skills and gain a hands-on, practical understanding of technology. Learners will enhance their knowledge and understanding in the following areas:
 - Hardware – Understanding the internal components that make up modern computers, how they work and interact with each other.
 - Networks – Modern life revolves around the internet. Students gain an understanding of the technology that allows computers to communicate, and how to protect ourselves from cyber threats.
 - Ethics, Law and Environment – We focus on the environmental impacts of technology, the ethical questions of technological advances (in areas such as AI), and the legal structure that applies to computer use.
 - Programming – Students will use Python as the main programming language. Creating programs with fundamental building blocks, through to defensive design and software testing. Additionally, students will be creating web pages with HTML, CSS and JavaScript.
 - Algorithms – Designing and creating logical solutions to real-world problems. Breaking down complex tasks, identifying the key elements to tackle and finding creative solutions.

How will I be assessed in Computer Science?

- 100% Examination
 - Paper 1 - 50% Computer Systems
 - Paper 2 - 50% Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

What can it lead to?

- Further study, including A Levels, or Cambridge Technicals.
- University degree in Computing upon successful completion of post-16 study.
- Employment opportunities in STEM such as; Software development, Cyber security, Engineering, Data analysis, Web design, AI

For further information please contact Mr R Phillips at RPhillips@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Dance

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

"Dance is vital, an activity both exhilarating and liberating to watch or do. The instinct to dance is fundamentally joyous and no matter how hard you try you can't get away from that for long. It can also be a huge force for good, effectively drawing people together and levelling everyone through sheer hard work. It can speed up your heart rate, it can enliven your being, it can change your life" **Richard Alston CBE**

Students who study GCSE Dance will:

- learn to choreograph, perform and appreciate dance as an art form
- respond creatively and imaginatively to a range of stimuli, solve problems, communicate ideas and learn to understand a variety of choreographic forms and devices
- develop physical, technical, mental and expressive skills in performance
- analyse, interpret, evaluate and appreciate professional dance works
- work collaboratively with others whilst developing knowledge, skills and understanding of health, well-being and safe dance practice

How will I be assessed in GCSE Dance?

Component 1: Performance and choreography (60% of GCSE)

- Set phrases through a solo performance of approximately one minute in duration
- Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes duration)
- Solo or group choreography

This is internally marked within school and externally moderated by AQA.

Component 2: Dance appreciation (40% Of GCSE)

- Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes

What is assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills
- Critical appreciation of own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

What can it lead to?

- Further study, A Levels or other vocational Level 3 Dance or Performing Arts courses.
- University or conservatoire degree in dance or Performing Arts upon successful completion of Post-16 study.
- Employment opportunities in dance or theatre such as: performer, teacher, choreographer, arts administration, box office work, etc.

For further information please Mrs R Mawazini at RMawazini@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Design & Technology

Exam board: OCR

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- In GCSE D&T you will develop your ability to research, analyse, and observe day to day objects to support design idea development that improve lives and solve problems. You will also develop your practical ability, working with and combining a range of material areas. D&T applies learning from many other subjects, developing skills for many career directions. Whether going into the creative industries, engineering, the Sciences, or a different direction, the skills gained at GCSE are extremely valuable for many careers.
- In Year 10 you develop skills working with and combining a range of material areas, gaining theory knowledge and investigative, design, development and practical skills.
- In June of Year 10 you will be given three contexts/problems by the exam board for that year (they change yearly) and start your GCSE NEA. Using the skills and knowledge gained during Year 7-10 the project should result in a final prototype/product and a digital portfolio of approximately 30 slides documenting your design journey - research, ideas, developments, modifications, manufacturing, and testing of the final outcome.
- In the summer exams of Year 11, you will also take a 2-hour exam, which accounts for the other 50% of your GCSE grade. Testing the Principles of D&T and the knowledge and understanding of D&T theory gained during Years 10 and 11, but also knowledge taught during Key Stage 3. The exam will also include Maths and Science content, applying Key Stage 3 and 4 skills.

How will I be assessed in GCSE Design & Technology?

- Unit 1 - Non-Examined Assessment based on contexts issued by the exam board in June of Year 10, comprises approximately 30 slides of a digital portfolio documenting this work. Internally assessed, with a selected sample externally moderated.
- Unit 2 - Externally Examined Assessment - Principles of Design and Technology

What can it lead to?

- Further study – A level Design & Technology or other BTEC or NVQ related creative courses
- Creative or engineering related degree upon successful completion of post-16 study.
- Apprenticeships in the creative, engineering, or construction industries.
- Careers in creative, engineering, or science related careers.

For further information please contact Miss Brooke-Mee at JBrookeMee@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Drama

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- The GCSE Drama gives learners the opportunity to build on knowledge and skills learnt in practical lessons and through their written work. GCSE Drama gives learners the opportunity to do what they like best – participate in performance. All students devise drama. All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances. Students will be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons.
- How to analyse and understand plays, to know how to perform, direct and evaluate them.
- How to collaborate with a group of students to create, perform and evaluate your own original performance.
- How to rehearse, develop and perform two sections from a play.

How will I be assessed in GCSE Drama?

- Understanding Drama - 40% Written Exam
- Devising Drama - 40% Internally assessed coursework - Performance and written
- Texts in Practice - 20% Externally assessed performance

What can it lead to?

- Further study, including A Levels.
- University degree in Drama, Theatre Studies, or Performing Arts, upon successful completion of post-16 study.
- Employment opportunities in Drama, Theatre, Performing Arts, and wider creative and media sectors such as Writer, Director, Actor, Designer, Technician, Teacher, Lecturer, Researcher, Venue/Festival Manager.

For further information please contact Mr N Sutton at NSutton@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

This GCSE course is designed to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and understanding needed to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating.

While students will have opportunities to develop their cooking abilities, this course is heavily focused on the scientific aspects of food, including the physical and chemical changes that occur during cooking and how this impacts nutritional value. As a result, there is less practical cooking than students may expect.

Beyond learning how to cook, students will gain a deep understanding of food science and nutrition, enabling them to make informed food choices and prepare affordable, nutritious meals for themselves and others, both now and in the future. This knowledge is developed through a combination of written tasks, scientific investigations, and experimental work, alongside some practical cooking sessions.

As with practical work at Key Stage 3, there are financial considerations related to purchasing ingredients. We strive to minimize these costs as much as possible to ensure accessibility for all students.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing, and cooking a variety of food items, utilizing different techniques and equipment while considering microbiological food safety.
- Develop a deep understanding of the functional properties, chemical characteristics, and nutritional content of food and beverages.
- Explore the relationship between diet, nutrition, and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor dietary habits.
- Analyse the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural factors influencing food availability, production, dietary choices, and overall health.
- Investigate a variety of ingredients and culinary techniques from different traditions to inspire creativity and enhance or modify existing recipes.
- Beyond the curriculum, students will also cultivate essential skills such as teamwork, time management, organization, problem-solving, and independence.

How will I be assessed?

Non-Exam Assessment (50% Weighting)	Paper 1 (50% Weighting)
The Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) for AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE makes up 50% of the final grade and is split into two tasks. The first task, Food Investigation (15%) , focuses on food science. Student's research and test how ingredients work, carrying out experiments and writing a report (1,500–2,000 words) to explain their findings. The second task, Food Preparation Assessment (35%) , tests practical cooking skills. Student's research and plan three dishes based on a given theme, then cook them in a three-hour practical exam. They also create a portfolio showing their research, planning, and	Paper 1 is the written exam and makes up 50% of the final GCSE grade . It is a 1 hour 45-minute exam, worth 100 marks , and assesses students on their understanding of food preparation and nutrition. The paper is divided into two sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A – Multiple Choice Questions (20 marks): A series of short questions testing key knowledge. • Section B – Structured Questions (80 marks): A mix of short and long-answer



<p>evaluation. Both tasks are marked by teachers and checked by AQA. The NEA helps students develop practical skills and food science knowledge, alongside the written exam, which makes up the other 50% of the GCSE.</p>	<p>questions, including data analysis and case studies.</p> <p>The exam covers five main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Food, Nutrition & Health – Nutrients, diet, and health-related issues. ● Food Science – The functional and chemical properties of ingredients. ● Food Safety – Safe food handling, storage, and hygiene. ● Food Choice – Factors affecting food choices, including culture and dietary needs. ● Food Provenance & Production – Where food comes from, sustainability, and food processing. <p>Paper 1 tests students' ability to apply knowledge to real-life situations, analysing food-related issues and making informed decisions. It is marked externally by AQA and, alongside the NEA, determines the final GCSE grade.</p>
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What can it lead to?

- **Further Study:** A-Levels (Food Science, Biology, Chemistry), BTECs, Diplomas, or Apprenticeships in food, nutrition, or hospitality.
- **Careers:** Chef, food technologist, nutritionist, product developer, event manager, or health advisor.
- **University:** Degrees in food science, nutrition, dietetics, hospitality, or environmental health.
- **Other Opportunities:** Food blogging, media, business start-ups, or sustainable food production.

For further information please contact Miss Brooke-Mee at JBrookeMee@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: French

Exam board: EDEXCEL

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- French is one of the six official languages in the United Nations and it is the official language in 29 countries around the world. Learning French will open your mind to a world of opportunities both professionally and personally, allowing you to access the language as well as Francophone music, food, film, dance and art. You will be able to learn this through developing your skills in reading, listening, writing and speaking.

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

How will I be assessed in GCSE French?

- 100% Examination - either Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grade 4-9)
 - Paper 1 - 25% Speaking
 - Foundation 7-9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time
 - Higher 10-12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time
 - Paper 2 - 25% Listening and understanding in French
 - Paper 3 - 25% Reading and understanding in French
 - Paper 4 – 25% Writing in French

What can it lead to?

- Studying a language at GCSE will open more doors in the future. Learning French will develop many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, as well as essential life skills, such as: the ability to communicate clearly, gaining confidence in public speaking and using problem-solving strategies. It also has many cognitive benefits. Learning French could also improve your chance of studying at a top university in the UK or studying abroad whilst at university (even if you do not choose to do a language degree). Careers which use French include: working in any business which deals with importing or exporting, the Foreign Service, travel and hospitality, the leisure industry, marketing, teacher, translator, fashion, sport and many more. A language is a great skill to have.

For further information please contact Mrs McMillan at smcmillan@parkhouseschool.org



Subject: Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- GCSE geography is an interesting and varied course that gives students a broad awareness of how our modern world works and an understanding of the changes occurring in human and physical environments in the UK and globally. We try to incorporate recent examples into our teaching and make the course relevant to our students. If students have an interest in the topics outlined and are aware of geographical events in the news it is much easier to engage with the course content. The GCSE course develops a wide range of transferable skills and enables students to talk confidently about geographical issues that affect us all.

How will I be assessed in Geography?

- The AQA GCSE consists of three exam papers.
 - Paper 1 (1 hour 30 mins) – Living with the Physical Environment focuses on physical geographical issues in our environment and we study:
 - The Challenge of Natural Hazards, Tectonic Hazards, Weather Hazards and Climate Change
 - Natural hazards
 - The Living World; including Tropical Rainforests and one of either Hot Deserts or Cold Environments
 - Physical Landscapes in the UK; Including two of the following Coastal Landscapes, River Landscapes or Glacial Landscapes
 - Paper 2 (1 hour 30 mins) - Challenges in the Human Environment focuses on Human geographical issues, we study:
 - Urban Issues and Challenges
 - The Changing Economic World
 - The Challenge of Resource Management
 - We will then study **one** of the following topics; Food Management, Water Management or Energy Management
 - Paper 3 (1 hour 15 minutes) – Geographical Applications
 - This assessment focuses on using geographical skills such as using sources of evidence effectively and interpreting data represented in map or graph form.
 - It also demands that students are able to understand what they learned from their two pieces of fieldwork that they will undertake during their course.
 - We visit an urban area and either a coastal, river or glacial area for this and the students will need to confidently collect, present, analyse and notice patterns with the data collected.



- Students will also be issued with a resource booklet 12 weeks before the exam to enable them to work through the resources and become familiar with the material. This original booklet cannot be taken into the exam - a fresh copy is given in the exam.

What can it lead to?

- Geographers can move forward and specialise in a wide range of professions including: town planning, environmental management, river management, marketing, building and engineering and a variety of social sciences.

For further information please email Miss K Bunn at KBunn@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: History

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

In GCSE History students study topics that have framed the world as we know it. Students learn skills which employers, colleges and universities value; analysis, empathy, judgement, debating and reasoning. The course is designed to provide students a substantial study of history as its structure embeds the requirement to study history across three eras, three time scales and three geographical contexts. Our passionate and talented teachers are subject specialists who have a proven track record of preparing students well for examinations.

AQA GCSE History can be broken down into four different subject components.

Paper 1 Section A: Understanding the Modern World – Period study <i>Germany, 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship</i>	This paper focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change. We study the development and collapse of Democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism.
Paper 1 Section B: Understanding the Modern World – Wider world depth study <i>Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939</i>	This paper primarily focuses on the causes of the Second World War. We study how conflict was supposed to be resolved after World War One. We then study why it proved difficult to resolve the issues of international relations across this time period.
Paper 2 Section A: Shaping the nation – Thematic study <i>Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day</i>	This paper focuses on students gaining an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. Although the focus of this topic is Britain we will draw on wider world developments.
Paper 2 Section B: Shaping the nation – British depth study <i>Elizabethan England, c1568-1603</i>	This paper focuses on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints.



How will I be assessed in AQA GCSE History?

- In GCSE History students are assessed by sitting two exams that contain two different papers. Each paper is only sixty minutes long.

Paper 1 Section A: Understanding the Modern World <i>Germany, 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship</i>	Externally assessed written paper (1 hour)
Paper 1 Section B: Understanding the Modern World <i>Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939</i>	Externally assessed written paper (1 hour)
Paper 2 Section A: Shaping the nation <i>Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day</i>	Externally assessed written paper (1 hour)
Paper 2 Section B: Shaping the nation <i>Elizabethan England, c1568-1603</i>	Externally assessed written paper (1 hour)

What can it lead to?

- The skills you develop in History are universally applicable to a very wide range of careers. To have the ability to analyse information effectively and make impartial judgements is a key skill in History that can be applied in business, finance and various other job sectors.
- Traditionally, History lends itself more easily to a career in research and writing such as Law or Journalism but there is no reason why history shouldn't fit with any career ambition.
- History at GCSE will support a student's development as they look to study A Levels in English Language or Literature, Law, Politics, Sociology, Business and Psychology.
- A student with a GCSE in History is able to formulate intelligent answers to complex questions that will benefit them when considering a career or further academic study at A Level or University.
- History is an academic subject and one of the subjects that comprises the new English Baccalaureate, as such it is highly respected by employers, colleges and universities alike.

For further information please contact Miss Lewis at JLewis@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Media Studies

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Starting with “An Introduction to the Media”, students will explore a variety of media products, platforms and industries whilst beginning to learn the basics of media analysis.
- Students will cover the theoretical framework which is made up of four “Key Concepts”: Media Language, Media Audiences, Media Industries and Media Representation.
- Throughout each of these topics, students will learn about academic theory, media specific terminology, exam related content and develop their practical skills.
- Students will apply their academic knowledge of the theoretical framework to the Close Study Products: a series of 18 pieces of media pre-selected by the exam board. These CSP’s will form the basis of questions on the exams and provide context for the N.E.A (coursework).

How will I be assessed in Media Studies?

- Paper 1 - 35% Externally Assessed Written Paper
- Paper 2 - 35% Externally Assessed Written Paper
- Non Examined Assessment - 30% Coursework on creating a practical media product with a 300 word write up.

What can it lead to?

- Further study, including a Media Studies A-Level.
- There are literally thousands of jobs in the media sector. At university, students can start to specialise in these areas, or in many cases they can go straight into the world of work.

Some of the most popular roles include:

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| ✓ Marketing | ✓ Vlogging/Online | ✓ Film editors |
| ✓ Branding | media creation | ✓ Web designers |
| ✓ Journalism | ✓ Games designers | |

For further information please contact Mr Marshall at HMarshall@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Music

Exam board: Edexcel

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- The Edexcel GCSE music gives students the opportunity to build on knowledge and skills learnt in theory lessons whilst developing their performance skills.
- Engage actively in the process of music study.
- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control.
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources.
- To develop an awareness of a variety of instruments, styles, and approaches to performing and composing.
- Recognise contrasting styles and tradition of music and develop some awareness of chronology.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own and others' music.

How will I be assessed in Music?

Component 1: Performing (30% of GCSE)

- To perform as a soloist for at least 2 minutes
 - To perform as part of an ensemble for 2 minutes
- This is internally marked within school and externally moderated by Edexcel

Component 2: Composing (30% of GCSE)

- To develop different styles of compositions
 - To compose a free composition
 - To compose a composition set to a brief by the board.
- This is internally marked within school and externally moderated by Edexcel

Component 3: Listening and Appraising (40% of GCSE)

- To develop listening skills across different genres and styles.
- AOS 1: Instrumental Music
- AOS 2: Vocal Music
- AOS 3: Music for stage and Screen
- AOS 4: Fusions

A written examination 1 hour 45 minutes



What can it lead to?

- Further study, A Levels or other vocational Level 3 courses
- University degrees in Music or music technology on successful completion of Post 16 study.
- Employment opportunities in music such as Producer, teacher, booking agent, recording engineer, sound technician and music publicist

For further information please contact Mrs Cooper at KCooper@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Art and Design (Photography)

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Practising and studying any creative subject, such as Photography, can equip you with transferable skills such as creativity, critical thinking, attention to detail, problem-solving, effective communication, and time management.
- GCSE Photography is entirely based on coursework, and the initial stages of the course aim to develop technical and creative skills by offering hands-on workshops in both analogue as well as digital photography.
- The course covers a wide range of skills from understanding of darkroom processing to digital image manipulation as well as providing historical context. Moving forward you will learn about different types of cameras and how to capture a visually interesting image on film and using digital cameras.
- All along the way, you will be encouraged to experiment and take risks to help you develop your own unique artistic voice. This will help you identify your strengths and weaknesses, which will benefit you to successfully complete self-directed projects during later stages of the course.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE photography is a completely coursework-based subject. There are two components that will form the base of your final GCSE grade:

- **Component 1: Portfolio (60%)** - a selection of best work produced during lessons over the course and at least one complete project.
- **Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%) or the exam unit.** - This component starts in January of your second year, with AQA providing you with a selection of starting points to choose from. You will research the topic, experiment and generate ideas and plans during the preparation period. Your final piece will be then produced under exam conditions over the space of two days shortly after Easter. There is no written exam involved but instead you get assessed on the work that you produce over the course.
- **Each component will be marked out of 96 marks equally divided across four assessment objectives.**
 - AO1- focuses on your ability to source inspiration and learn from other artists
 - AO2- focuses on your ability to experiment with and control different media
 - AO3 - focuses on your ability to record observations and your design process
 - AO4 - focuses on your ability to consolidate knowledge and understanding into a successful final piece.



What can it lead to?

- Studying GCSE Photography will allow you to pursue vast number of careers including: Photography teacher, Photo Editor, Photo Researcher, Photo Archivist, Digital Imaging Technician, Multimedia Specialist, Image Restoration Artist, Photo Studio Manager, Photographer, Photojournalist, Advertising Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Wildlife Photographer, Portrait Photographer, Landscape Photographer, Sports Photographer or Wedding Photographer and many more.
- Besides traditional photography careers, there are many industries that value photography as a complementary skill. These might include: Criminology (Forensic Photographers), Radiography (Radiologic Technologists), Architecture (Architectural Photographers), Wildlife Conservation (Wildlife Photographers), Archaeology (Archaeological Photographers), Science (Scientific Photographers), Medical and Health Services (Medical Photographers), Environmental Science (Environmental Photographers), Geology (Geological Photographers), Anthropology (Anthropological Photographers), Engineering (Engineering Photographers), Film and Video Production (Cinematographers), Real Estate (Real Estate Photographers), News and Journalism (News Photographers), Advertising (Advertising Photographers), Travel and Tourism (Travel Photographers), Sports Journalism (Sports Photographers), Fashion (Fashion Photographers), Graphic Design (Graphic Designers), Industrial Design (Industrial Photographers).

For further information please contact Mrs I Taylor at ITaylor@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Physical Education

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- AQA GCSE Physical Education is an excellent, broad GCSE that helps students to develop a well rounded skill set that prepares them for progression to further studies such as A Level PE, Level 3 BTECs and then beyond in higher education.
- Topic Areas Covered will be:
 - Applied anatomy and physiology
 - Movement analysis
 - Physical training
 - Use of data
 - Sports psychology
 - Socio-cultural influences
 - Health, fitness and well-being

How will I be assessed in GCSE Physical Education?

- 60% Theory – 2 exams both 1 hour and 15 minutes at the end of year 11
- 30% Practical - 3 practical sport assessments
- 10% Coursework - 1 piece of written coursework

What can it lead to?

- Many that study PE at GCSE do so because they wish to study a course that interests them and their careers end up being outside of the world of sport.
- However, for those wishing to pursue a career in physical activity or sport, some future careers include:
 - Sports science
 - PE teacher
 - Physiotherapist
 - Professional sportsperson
 - Sports coach/consultant
 - Sports policy at local and national level
 - Diet and fitness instructor
 - Personal trainer

For further information please contact Miss Tregear at rtregear@parkhouseschool.org



Subject: Psychology

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- GCSE Psychology is a course that looks at how we behave in a variety of topics. This understanding helps students to understand how people think and also passes on relationship building skills to last a lifetime. You'll also develop your communication, research and critical thinking skills and apply this to a range of scenarios in the Psychology world.
- The 8 chapters that are involved in the course are:
 - Chapter 1: Memory
 - Chapter 2: Perception
 - Chapter 3: Development
 - Chapter 4: Research Methods
 - Chapter 5: Social Influence
 - Chapter 6: Language, Thought and Communication
 - Chapter 7: Brain and Neuropsychology
 - Chapter 8: Psychological Problems

How will I be assessed in GCSE Psychology?

- 100% exam based- 2 question papers
 - Paper 1- 50%: Chapters 1-4
 - Paper 2- 50%: Chapters 5-8
- Both papers take the same format with 25 marks available for each section with multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

What can it lead to?

- GCSE Psychology provides a foundation for further studying of Psychology at A Level and beyond. It works very well with a number of other subjects as well including Sociology, PE, Business, Law and English.
- It is a fantastic course that applies to yourself in many ways and the constant theoretical understanding can help shape your behaviour and examine others too.

For further information please contact Mr Holland at PHolland@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Spanish

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- Spanish is the second-most widely spoken language in the world and it is the official language in 21 countries. Learning Spanish will open your mind to a world of opportunities both professionally and personally, allowing you to access the language as well as Hispanic music, food, film, dance and art. You will be able to learn this through developing your skills in reading, listening, writing and speaking.

Course content includes the following topics:

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

How will I be assessed in GCSE Spanish?

- 100% Examination - either Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grade 4-9)
 - o Paper 1 - 25% Speaking
 - Foundation 7-9 minutes plus 15 min preparation time
 - Higher 10-12 minutes plus 15 min preparation time
 - o Paper 2 - 25% Listening and understanding in Spanish
 - o Paper 3 - 25% Reading and understanding in Spanish
 - o Paper 4 - 25% Writing in Spanish

What can it lead to?

- Studying a language at GCSE will open more doors in the future. Learning Spanish will develop many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, as well as essential life skills, such as: the ability to communicate clearly, gaining confidence in public speaking and using problem-solving strategies. It also has many cognitive benefits. Learning Spanish could also improve your chance of studying at a top university in the UK or studying abroad whilst at university (even if you do not choose to do a language degree). Careers which use Spanish include: working in any business which deals with importing or exporting, the Foreign Service, travel and hospitality, the leisure industry, marketing, teacher, translator, fashion, sport and many more. A language is a great skill to have.

For further information please contact Mrs Planas at lplanassales@parkhouseschool.org



Subject: Separate Sciences

Exam board: AQA

Why is this course important and what is in the course

- Studying the separate sciences results in students gaining three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These separate Sciences are suitable for those who enjoy the hard work and practical activities involved in the study of Science. Studying separate Sciences at GCSE allows students to unpick how the world around them works and consider how advances in Science have led to some incredible breakthroughs. The implications and impact on our world of scientific advances will also be studied. Three Science GCSEs can open the door to many career opportunities.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Subject Content		
Cell Biology Organisation Infection & Response Bioenergetics Homeostasis & Response Inheritance, Variation & Evolution Ecology	Atomic Structure & The Periodic Table Bonding, Structure and The Properties of Matter Qualitative Chemistry Chemical Changes Energy Changes The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change Organic Chemistry Chemical Analysis Chemistry of the Atmosphere Using Resources	Energy Electricity Particle Model of Matter Atomic Structure Forces Waves Magnetism and Electromagnetism Space Physics
Required Practicals		
Microscopy Microbiology Osmosis Enzymes Food Tests Photosynthesis Reaction Time Plant Responses Field Investigations	Making Salts Neutralisation Electrolysis Temperature Change Rates of Reaction Chromatography Identifying Ions Water Purification	Specific Heat Capacity Thermal Insulation Resistance I-V Characteristics Density Force and Extension Acceleration Waves Light Radiation and Absorption

How will I be assessed in the separate sciences?



- 100% Examination leading to three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
 - either Foundation Tier (Grade 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grade 4-9)
 - Biology Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 and Paper 2 covers topics 5-7
 - Chemistry Paper 1 covers topics 1-5 and Paper 2 covers topics 6-10
 - Physics Paper 1 covers topics 1-4 and Paper 2 covers topic 5-8

What can it lead to?

- The separate science course is an excellent platform to prepare students to study A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It brings a lot of scientific theory and thinking together and a good set of GCSE grades demonstrates that a student can apply themselves in problem solving, practical skills and scientific writing; these qualities are highly prized by universities and in today's competitive job market.
- Achieving suitable grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics subjects is very useful for the majority of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers in medicine, earth science and life sciences.

For further information please contact Mr S Combstock at
SCombstock@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject: Vocational - Health and Social Care

Exam board: Edexcel

Why is this course important and what is in the course?

- This course is an introduction to vocational learning. Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK, employing approximately 3 million people. This qualification gives learners the opportunity to build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely. In this subject, students will explore:
 - An understanding of human growth and development across life stages and the factors that affect it
 - An understanding of how individuals deal with life events
 - An understanding of the different types of health and social care services and barriers to accessing them
 - An understanding of the skills, attributes and values required to give care
 - An understanding of factors that affect health and wellbeing
 - How to interpret health indicators
 - The use of the person-centred approach in health and social care settings

How will I be assessed in Health and Social Care?

Component 1	Human Lifespan Development	Internal set tasks	Worth 30% of the overall qualification
Component 2	Health and Social Care and Values	Internal set tasks	Worth 30% of the overall qualification
Component 3	Health and Wellbeing	External examination paper	Worth 40% of the overall qualification

The qualification is graded over seven grades, ranging from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*

What can it lead to?

- Further study , including Level 3 National in Health and Social Care
- Apprenticeships in the Health and Social Care sectors
- Employment in the Health and Social Care sectors
- Higher education by studying a degree in the health and social care sectors leading to careers in nursing, midwifery, social work, physiotherapy, probation services etc.

For further information please contact Miss M Lockett at MLockett@ParkHouseSchool.org