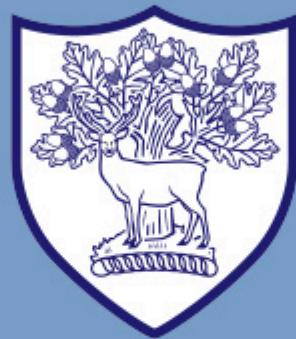


Year 9 Subject Choices 2026-2030



PARK HOUSE SCHOOL

Information Guide





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Introduction

You have reached an important stage in your education where you will begin to make choices about the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11. These choices form the **first step of a four-year journey** that, for many students, will continue through **Park House Sixth Form** in Years 12 and 13.

The decisions you make now matter because they will:

- shape what you study at Park House School over the next two years
- support progression into **A Levels, vocational courses, or other Level 3 pathways**
- influence the options available to you after Year 11, including Sixth Form, college, or apprenticeships
- help you develop the skills, interests, and habits needed for success over the next four years

While you do not need to have a fixed career plan at this stage, **GCSE choices should be made with future study in mind**. Choosing subjects that you enjoy, can succeed in, and can progress in will give you the strongest foundation for Sixth Form and beyond.

This booklet is designed to:

- explain how the Key Stage 4 curriculum at Park House School is structured
- outline what each subject involves and how it is assessed
- help students and parents make **informed, realistic choices** that support progression into post-16 study

Staff will support you throughout the process, and there will be several opportunities to ask questions before choices are submitted.

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 Food & Nutrition
- GCSE Media Studies
- GCSE Music
- GCSE Photography
- GCSE Physical Education
- GCSE Psychology
- GCSE Spanish
- GCSE Separate Sciences (Three GCSEs)
- Vocational Health and Social Care

* *Fine Art and Textile Design discount each other. You may only choose one.*



Making Your Choices

You will submit your subject choices using the **Applicaa** platform.

Key dates:

- Choices open: **Friday 27th February**
- Choices close: **Friday 13th March**
- Choices confirmed by: **June 2026**

Important information about allocations

- We **cannot guarantee** that all first-choice subjects will be allocated.
- This may be due to staffing, timetable constraints, or minimum class sizes.
- You must select a **sensible reserve choice** that you would be happy to study and potentially continue into Sixth Form.



Advice

When choosing your GCSE subjects, it is important to think beyond the next two years and consider how your choices may support **further study at Park House Sixth Form**.

Step 1: Understand the structure

Everyone studies: English, Mathematics, Science, Core PE, PSHE/RE

You must choose:

- **one EBacc subject**
- **three Open Choice subjects**, which **must be selected in preference order**

Your first choice should be the subject you most want to study, followed by your second and third choices in genuine order of preference. This preference order is taken into account if a subject is oversubscribed, explaining why it is important to rank subjects honestly.

Some subjects may also offer different routes or pathways to suit different learners.

Step 2: Think about enjoyment and success

Ask yourself:

- Which subjects do I enjoy and feel motivated by?
- Which subjects do I perform best in at present?
- Which subjects do my teachers say I am well suited to?

Students are more likely to succeed at GCSE and progress into Sixth Form subjects when they **enjoy and engage with their learning**.

Step 3: Understand assessment and workload

Different subjects place different demands on students.

Consider:

- Is the subject assessed mainly by examinations, coursework, or a combination of both?
- Does it involve long-term coursework (NEA) requiring organisation over time?
- Does it require regular independent study or practice outside lessons?

Developing strong study habits at GCSE is essential preparation for **Sixth Form expectations**.

Step 4: Think about future study and progression

You do not need a fixed career plan at this stage, but you should understand how GCSE subjects can support future pathways.

Ask yourself:

- Do these subjects allow me to progress to **A Levels or vocational courses** I may wish to study at Park House Sixth Form?
- Do they keep a broad range of options open?
- Have I checked accurate guidance rather than relying on assumptions?

Some subjects support progression by developing:

- strong academic and analytical skills
- practical and technical competence
- independence, organisation, and resilience

If you are unsure, speak to subject teachers or the careers team for **clear, accurate advice**.



Step 5: Avoid common mistakes

Avoid choosing a subject:

- because your friends are choosing it
- because it sounds easy or different without proper research
- to avoid another subject rather than because you enjoy it

Short-term thinking can limit long-term opportunities.

Step 6: Get advice

Before submitting your choices, make sure you have:

- spoken to subject teachers
- reviewed your latest school report
- attended Parents' Evening and Choices Evening
- watched subject information videos
- discussed your choices with parents or carers
- sought careers or Sixth Form advice if you are unsure

Step 7: Choose a sensible reserve

Because of timetable and staffing constraints:

- not all first-choice subjects can be guaranteed
- your reserve choice should be a subject you would be happy to study and potentially continue into Sixth Form

Final Check Before Submitting

Ask yourself:

- Would I be happy studying these subjects for **two years**?
- Do they prepare me well for **Years 12 and 13**?
- Do these choices reflect my strengths, interests, and ambitions?

If the answer is yes, you are ready to submit your choices.



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>

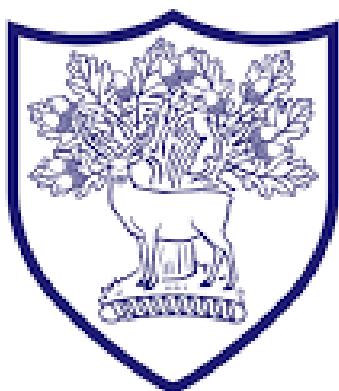
For face- to-face Careers Support and advice please come and see me in the sixth form centre or email me on mtebble@parkhouseschool.org to make an appointment.







Core Curriculum



Subject Information



Subject name: GCSE English Language

Exam board & specification: AQA 8700

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- English Language covers a wide range of texts and will focus on a combination of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries including essays, articles, speeches and reviews.
- You will be taught how writers use a range of linguistic and structural methods for effect, and use them to form your own opinion on a character or setting.
- You will be taught how writers present their attitude and viewpoint on a range of different topics and how they shape their writing depending on audience, genre and form.
- You will learn how to produce creative and transactional writing of your own.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1:	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing Section A: Reading; Section B: Writing	50%	Y11	1 hr 45mins
Paper 2:	Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives Section A: Reading; Section B: Writing	50%	Y11	1 hr 45mins
Spoken Language Endorsement	You will prepare, write, and perform, a speech on a topic of your choice. You will be assessed on the quality of your spoken communication.	NEA: Separate reported Grade.	Y10	N/A

3) Skills you will build

- Strong reading skills, including understanding fiction and non-fiction texts
- The ability to analyse language, structure and the writer's choices
- Clear and accurate writing for different purposes and audiences
- Skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Confident speaking and listening skills through presentations and discussions
- Critical thinking and the ability to form and justify opinions

4) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular reading and writing practice.

5) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** optional theatre/workshop visits

6) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Levels, vocational routes, apprenticeships
- Careers it links to: all careers
- What it shows employers: literacy and communication

7) Find out more

- Contact: L Bevan: lbevan@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE English Literature

Exam board & specification: AQA 8702

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will study a range of literature including a Shakespeare play, a 19th-century novel, modern texts and poetry
- You will explore key themes, characters and ideas in texts
- You will learn how writers use language, structure and form to create meaning
- You will develop skills in essay writing and textual analysis

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel	Section A: One essay question on Macbeth by William Shakespeare. Section B: One essay question on Jekyll and Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson.	40%	Y11	1 hr 45mins
Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry	Section A: One essay question on An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley. Section B: One essay question on the AQA Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology . Section C: Two essay questions responding to an unseen poem.	60%	Y11	2 hrs 15mins

3) Skills you will build

- Close reading and analysis of literary texts
- Essay writing skills, including planning and developing arguments
- The ability to use quotations effectively
- Critical thinking and interpretation of texts

4) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular reading and revision of set texts.

5) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** copies of set texts
- **Costs:** texts (£3–£6 each, support available)
- **Trips/visits:** optional theatre trips

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level English, humanities subjects
- Careers it links to: law, journalism, teaching, media
- What it shows employers: analysis and communication

8) Find out more

- Contact: L Bevan: lbevan@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE Mathematics
Exam board & specification: Pearson Edexcel 1MA1
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will develop skills in number, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability.
- You will apply maths to real-life problems.
- You will build confidence in reasoning and problem solving.
- You will learn how to explain mathematical thinking clearly.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Non-calculator exam	33.3%	Y11	1hr 30mins
Paper 2	Calculator exam	33.3%	Y11	1hr 30mins
Paper 3	Calculator exam	33.3%	Y11	1hr 30mins

3) Skills you will build

- Problem solving and reasoning
- Logical thinking
- Data interpretation
- Accuracy and precision
- Independent practice
- Confidence with numbers

4) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:**
 - Y10: 30–60 minutes per week
 - Y11: 60–90 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular practice and revision.

5) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** calculator, basic stationery
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** none

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: Core Maths, A Level Maths, Further Maths
- Careers it links to: most careers and further study routes
- What it shows employers: numeracy and logical thinking

6) Find out more

- Contact: Mr Thorne - dthorne@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Combined Science (Trilogy)

Exam board & specification: AQA 8464

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in greater depth.
- You will develop a strong understanding of scientific concepts and theories.
- You will complete required practicals and analyse experimental results.
- You will explore how scientific knowledge is applied in modern society.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Biology	16.7%	Year 11	1hr 15 mins
Paper 2	Biology	16.7%	Year 11	1hr 15 mins
Paper 3	Chemistry	16.7%	Year 11	1hr 15 mins
Paper 4	Chemistry	16.7%	Year 11	1hr 15 mins
Paper 5	Physics	16.7%	Year 11	1hr 15 mins
Paper 6	Physics	16.7%	Year 11	1hr 15 mins

3) Skills you will build

- Analysis and evaluation: Interpreting data from experiments and judging the validity of scientific claims.
- Problem solving: Applying mathematical formulas and logic to find solutions to complex scientific questions.
- Communication: Writing clear reports and using technical vocabulary to explain how the world works.
- Independent learning: Managing your own revision and taking responsibility for understanding core concepts.

4) Workload and independent study

- Typical homework: 60 minutes of Sparx Science homework a week on a rotation of previously taught topics.
- Independent study: regular revision of key terms, practicing retrieval questions from flash cards, reviewing required practical methods.

5) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** all provided by the department
- **Costs:** none
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory

6) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics; Level 3 Applied Science; or healthcare-related vocational courses.
- Careers it links to: Nursing, Engineering, Environmental Science, Architecture, and Veterinary Medicine.
- What it shows employers: It demonstrates that you are numerate, analytical, and capable of understanding complex systems.

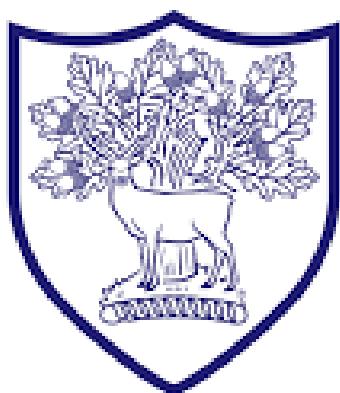
7) Find out more

- Contact: Mr Combstock: scombstock@parkhouseschool.org





Ebacc and Open Choices



Subject Information



Subject name: Art and Design (Fine Art)

Exam board & specification: AQA 8202

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will explore a range of drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed media techniques.
- You will research artists and develop your own personal ideas and style.
- You will experiment with materials and refine your work through feedback.
- You will create a portfolio and final outcome that shows your creative journey.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Component 1 Portfolio	Sustained coursework project(s) showing development and outcomes	60%	Yr 10 and Term 1 of Yr 11	Majority of Yr 10 and Term 1 of Yr 11
Component 2 Externally Set Task	AQA set task + final piece produced under timed conditions	40%	Yr 11 Term 2	Yr 11 Term 2 and start of Term 3

3) Skills you will build

- Creativity and experimentation
- Visual analysis and evaluation
- Research and idea development
- Organisation and meeting deadlines
- Practical making skills
- Independence and resilience

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy creative and practical work
- are willing to experiment and take risks
- can work independently over longer projects

Think carefully if you:

- find it difficult to manage deadlines
- do not enjoy developing and refining coursework

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 60–90 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular portfolio work outside lessons, especially near deadlines.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** most materials provided; some specialist items may be required
- **Costs:** occasional small costs depending on project
- **Trips/visits:** optional gallery/museum visits (where available)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Art/Design or creative vocational courses
- Careers it links to: design, illustration, architecture, creative industries
- What it shows employers: creativity, independence, organisation

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mrs I Taylor - jtaylor@parkhouseschool.org



Subject Name: Art and Design (Textile Design)

Exam Board & Specification: AQA 8204

Qualification Type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will explore textile techniques such as printing, dyeing, embroidery and mixed media.
- You will develop ideas through research into artists, designers and cultural influences.
- You will experiment with materials and processes to create personal outcomes.
- You will refine and present a final piece supported by a portfolio of work.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Component 1: Portfolio	A sustained project showing development and experimentation	60%	Year 10-Year 11	September Y10 – January Y11
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment	AQA set task + final outcome produced under timed conditions	40%	Year 11	January Y11 – May Y11 10-hour practical examination

3) Skills you will build

- Creativity and experimentation
- Visual research and analysis
- Design development and refinement
- Organisation and meeting deadlines
- Evaluating and improving work
- Practical making skills with textiles and materials

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy creative, practical work
- are willing to try new techniques and take risks
- can work independently over longer projects

Think carefully if you:

- find it difficult to manage deadlines over time
- do not enjoy producing and refining coursework

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 60–90 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular portfolio work at home, especially near deadlines

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** some specialist materials provided; students may need occasional extras
- **Costs:** occasional small costs (e.g. thread/materials) depending on project
- **Trips/visits:** subject trips vary (e.g. Knitting & Stitching Show)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Art/Textiles, creative vocational courses
- Careers it links to: fashion, costume, interior design, product design, marketing
- What it shows employers: creativity, independence, organisation and resilience

8) Find out more

- Contact: Miss Brooke-Mee – jbrookemee@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE Business
Exam board & specification: Pearson 1BS0
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn how businesses start, operate and grow in the real world.
- You will explore marketing, finance, operations and human resources.
- You will understand how businesses respond to customers, competitors and the economy.
- You will apply knowledge to case studies and real business scenarios.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Investigating small business	50%	Y11	1h 45m
Paper 2	Building a business	50%	Y11	1h 45m

3) Skills you will build

- Problem solving and decision making
- Interpreting data and finance
- Evaluation and justification
- Communication and literacy
- Planning and organisation
- Real-world application

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy learning about how the real world works
- like analysing information and making decisions
- are interested in enterprise, money and marketing

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy writing longer answers
- find it difficult to apply ideas to case studies

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular recap of key terms + exam questions and case studies.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** optional revision guide
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Business/Economics, vocational business courses
- Careers it links to: marketing, finance, management, HR, entrepreneurship
- What it shows employers: organisation, communication, commercial awareness

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mr S Howe - Showe@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Computer Science
Exam board & specification: Cambridge OCR J277
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn how computer systems work, including hardware, software and networks.
- You will develop programming skills using Python and learn to solve problems logically.
- You will study algorithms, data representation and cyber security concepts.
- You will explore the impact of technology on society and modern life

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Computer Systems	Hardware, networks, security, data representation	50%	Y11	1h 30m
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming	Algorithms + programming theory	50%	Y11	1h 30m

3) Skills you will build

- Programming and logical thinking
- Problem solving and resilience
- Computational thinking
- Precision and attention to detail
- Independent learning
- Communication of technical ideas

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy technology and problem solving
- are willing to work through challenges methodically
- like learning how things work behind the scenes

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy debugging and persistence
- dislike logical/mathematical thinking

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular practice of key terms and exam questions + programming tasks.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required (home access to a device is helpful)
- **Costs:** none
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Levels, Cambridge Technicals, computing-related courses
- Careers it links to: software development, cyber security, engineering, data analysis
- What it shows employers: logical problem solving and analytical thinking

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mr R. Phillips – rphillips@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Dance

Exam board and specification: AQA 8236

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will develop physical and expressive performance skills.
- You will learn how to choreograph dances and respond creatively to stimuli.
- You will study professional works and learn how to analyse dance.
- You will understand health, wellbeing and safe dance practice.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Component 1: Performance and choreography	Solo/duo-trio performance + choreography	60%	NEA: Ongoing through Year 10 & 11.	NEA: Internally marked in school then moderated by AQA at the end of Year 11.
Component 2: Dance Appreciation	Written exam on professional works	40%	June - Year 11	90 minutes

3) Skills you will build

- Performance technique and confidence
- Creativity and choreography
- Teamwork and communication
- Analysis and evaluation
- Organisation and resilience
- Working to deadlines

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy performing and being physically active
- like creative work and expressing ideas
- are happy practising skills regularly

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy performing in front of others
- struggle to commit to rehearsal and practice

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** rehearsal practice and reviewing professional works.



6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** suitable dancewear/shoes (department guidance)
- **Costs:** minimal; optional extras depending on kit
- **Trips/visits:** optional live performance visits (where available)

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Dance/Performing Arts, vocational courses
- Careers it links to: performing arts, choreography, teaching, fitness
- What it shows employers: confidence, teamwork, creativity and commitment

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mrs R. Mawazini rmawazini@parkhouseschool.org



Subject Name: Design and Technology: Product Design

Exam Board & Specification: Cambridge OCR J310

Qualification Type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn how to design and make products that solve real problems.
- You will explore materials, manufacturing processes and modern technologies.
- You will develop drawing/modelling skills and learn how to communicate design ideas.
- You will complete a substantial design project (NEA).

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Principles of Design and Technology (Paper 1)	Design, materials, processes, technical knowledge	50%	Year 11	2 hours
Iterative Design Challenge (NEA)	Designing and making a prototype + portfolio			40 hours

3) Skills you will build

- Creativity and innovation
- Designing and problem solving
- Practical making skills
- Planning and time management
- Evaluating and improving work
- Communication and presentation

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy practical, creative learning
- like designing and making things
- can work independently over time

Think carefully if you:

- struggle to meet longer deadlines
- do not enjoy iterative improvement and refinement

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular design development and NEA progress outside lessons.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** basic stationery (department will advise)
- **Costs:** occasional materials costs depending on project
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level D&T, engineering/product design routes
- Careers it links to: engineering, architecture, product design, construction
- What it shows employers: creativity, problem solving, technical thinking

8) Find out more

- Contact: Miss Brooke-Mee – jbrookemee@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE Drama
Exam board & specification: AQA 8261
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will develop performance skills through practical drama and rehearsal.
- You will explore different theatre styles and practitioners.
- You will create and perform devised work as part of a group.
- You will study a set text and learn how theatre is made and evaluated.

2) How you are assessed

Component 1: Written exam	Understanding drama, set text and live theatre evaluation	40%	Y11	1 hour 45 minutes
Component 2: Devising drama (NEA)	Create and perform a devised piece from a stimulus + written portfolio	40%	Y10/Y11	Practical + written work
Component 3: Texts in practice (NEA)	Performance of two extracts from a play	20%	Y11	Practical exam

3) Skills you will build

- Confidence and communication
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Creativity and interpretation
- Analysis and evaluation
- Resilience and organisation
- Performance technique

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy practical and creative lessons
- like working with others and performing
- are willing to rehearse and refine work

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy performing or speaking in front of others
- struggle to meet rehearsal/coursework deadlines

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** learning lines, rehearsal preparation and written reflection.



6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** theatre trips planned (usually at least 2 across the course)

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Drama/Performing Arts, vocational courses
- Careers it links to: acting, directing, teaching, media, events, public speaking roles
- What it shows employers: confidence, teamwork, creativity and communication

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mr Sutton – nsutton@parkhouseschool.org



Subject Name: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board & Specification: AQA 8585

Qualification Type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will develop practical cooking skills and confidence in the kitchen.
- You will learn about nutrition, healthy eating and food science.
- You will explore food safety, hygiene and the function of ingredients.
- You will plan, prepare and evaluate dishes for different needs and situations.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Food preparation and nutrition theory	50%	Year 11	1 hour 45 minutes
NEA 1	Food investigation task (science based)	15%	Y11	
NEA 2	Food preparation task (menu planning + cooking)	35%	Y11	

3) Skills you will build

- Practical cooking and preparation skills
- Organisation and time management
- Creativity and presentation
- Nutrition knowledge and application
- Hygiene and safety awareness
- Evaluation and reflection

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy practical work and learning by doing
- want useful life skills for independence
- are willing to plan and practise skills regularly

Think carefully if you:

- find it difficult to meet coursework deadlines
- do not enjoy practical lessons involving food

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** practising skills, researching recipes and preparing for NEA tasks.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** ingredients required for practical lessons (department guidance provided)
- **Costs:** ingredient costs across the course (varies by recipe)
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: Food/Health-related courses, catering and hospitality routes
- Careers it links to: nutrition, food science, catering, hospitality, healthcare
- What it shows employers: organisation, practical skills and independence

8) Find out more

- Contact: Miss Brooke-Mee – jbrookemee@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE French

Exam board & specification: Pearson 1FR1

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will build confidence communicating in French in a range of situations.
- You will learn vocabulary and grammar to improve accuracy and fluency.
- You will explore French-speaking culture and global issues through key themes.
- You will develop listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Speaking	25%	Year 11	7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 15 min preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + 15 min preparation time
Paper 2	Listening	25%	Year 11	45 minutes (Foundation Tier) 60 minutes (Higher Tier)
Paper 3	Reading	25%	Year 11	45 minutes (Foundation Tier) 60 minutes (Higher Tier)
Paper 4	Writing	25%	Year 11	1 hour 15 minutes (Foundation Tier) 1 hour 20 minutes (Higher Tier)

3) Skills you will build

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Independent learning
- Attention to detail
- Accurate writing
- Cultural awareness

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy learning languages
- are willing to practise vocabulary regularly
- want a subject that supports travel and future opportunities

Think carefully if you:

- find it difficult to remember vocabulary revise independently
- do not enjoy speaking

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** short, regular vocabulary practice using flashcards and online tasks.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** optional language trips (where available)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level French
- Careers it links to: business, travel, law, teaching, translation, international work
- What it shows employers: communication, resilience and attention to detail

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mrs McMillan at smcmillan@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE Geography
Exam board & specification: AQA 8035
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will study physical geography including natural hazards, ecosystems and rivers.
- You will explore human geography including cities, development and resource management.
- You will develop fieldwork skills and learn how geographers investigate the world.
- You will build knowledge of current issues such as climate change and sustainability.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1: Living with the physical environment	3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 The living world, 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.4 Geographical skills	35%	Year 11	1h 30m
Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment	3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills	35%	Year 11	1h 30m
Paper 3: Geographical applications	3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills	30%	Year 11	1h 30m

3) Skills you will build

- Data interpretation and analysis
- Map skills and geographical enquiry
- Extended writing and evaluation
- Decision making using evidence
- Fieldwork and investigation skills
- Understanding of real-world issues

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy learning about the world and current events
- like a subject that combines science and humanities skills
- are interested in environmental and social issues

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy longer written answers
- dislike using data, graphs and maps

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular review of key case studies and exam practice.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** compulsory UK fieldwork trips (approx. £40) + optional Iceland trip (approx. £1500)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Geography and related subjects
- Careers it links to: environmental work, planning, engineering, travel, business
- What it shows employers: analytical thinking and awareness of global issues

8) Find out more

- Subject video: [location]
- Contact: Miss Bunn (kbunn@parkhouseschool.org)



Subject name: GCSE History
Exam board & specification: AQA 8145
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will study key historical periods and events that shaped the modern world.
- You will learn how to analyse sources and interpretations.
- You will develop strong essay writing and argument skills.
- You will explore different perspectives and evaluate evidence.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Understanding the modern world	50%	Year 11	2h
Paper 2	Shaping the nation	50%	Year 11	2h

3) Skills you will build

- Source analysis and evaluation
- Essay writing and structured argument
- Critical thinking and judgement
- Research and reading skills
- Communication and debate
- Understanding of context and change

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy reading, discussion and debate
- like building arguments using evidence
- are interested in how the past shapes today

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy extended writing
- find it difficult to revise detailed content

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular knowledge recall + exam question practice.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** optional subject trips (where available)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level History and humanities subjects
- Careers it links to: law, journalism, politics, teaching, business, civil service
- What it shows employers: analysis, communication and independent thinking

8) Find out more

- Contact: Miss Lewis - mjlewis@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Media Studies
Exam board & specification: AQA 8572
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn about how The Media creates meaning through Media Language, Representation, Audiences and Industries.
- You will study 19 Close Study Products which are examined in both written papers and link to your coursework: Newspapers, Magazines, Radio, Music Videos, Television, Film, Video Games, Social Media and Adverts.
- You will develop media specific terminology, exam skills and practical production techniques.
- You will explore different media products, platforms and industries and how they work in the real world.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Media language and representation	35%	Y11	1h 30m
Paper 2	Media industries and audiences	35%	Y11	1h 30m
NEA	Creating media products	30%	Y10/Y11	N/A

3) Skills you will build

- Analysis and evaluation
- Creativity and planning
- Understanding media influence
- Communication and written responses
- Independent working
- Practical production skills

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy media, film, music, social media or advertising
- like discussing ideas and analysing meaning
- are creative and enjoy producing work

Think carefully if you:

- Find it difficult to work independently on longer projects.
- Do not enjoy using computers to make creative products.

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular review of key terminology + exam practice.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** optional visits linked to media/creative industries



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Media, Film, English, creative vocational routes
- Careers it links to: marketing, journalism, design, production, PR, digital media
- What it shows employers: analysis, creativity and communication

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mr Marshall HMarshall@ParkHouseSchool.org



Subject name: GCSE Music
Exam board & specification: Pearson 1MU0
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will develop performance skills on an instrument or voice.
- You will learn how to compose music in different styles and respond creatively to briefs.
- You will study a range of musical styles and develop listening/appraising skills.
- You will understand how music is constructed through elements such as rhythm, melody and harmony.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Component 1 Performing	Solo performing Ensemble performing	30%	Y10 / Y11	4 minutes for both performances
Component 2 Composing	2 compositions (free + set brief)	30%	Y10 / Y11	3 minutes for both compositions
Component 1 Listening and Appraising	Written listening exam	40%	Y11	1 hour 45 minutes listening and appraising exam

3) Skills you will build

- Performing and confidence
- Creativity and composition
- Listening and analysis
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Independence and resilience
- Organisation and practice habits

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy playing an instrument or singing
- are willing to practise regularly
- like creative work and exploring different styles

Think carefully if you:

- are not willing to practise independently
- do not enjoy performing in front of others

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular practice on instrument/voice + composition development.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** access to an instrument is helpful (school support where possible)
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** optional concerts/performances (where available)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Music/Music Tech, performing arts routes
- Careers it links to: performance, teaching, production, media, events
- What it shows employers: discipline, creativity and confidence

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mrs Cooper – Kcooper@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Art and Design (Photography)

Exam board & specification: AQA 8206

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will explore different photography styles, genres and techniques.
- You will develop ideas through research into photographers and visual culture.
- You will plan and carry out photoshoots and refine your outcomes.
- You will produce a portfolio and a final project outcome.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Component 1 Portfolio	Coursework portfolio showing development and outcomes	60%	Yr 10 and Term 1 of Yr 11	Majority of Yr 10 and Term 1 of Yr 11
Component 2 Externally Set Task	AQA set task + final outcome under timed conditions	40%	Yr 11 Term 2	Yr 11 Term 2 and start of Term 3

3) Skills you will build

- Creativity and experimentation
- Planning and organisation
- Editing and refinement
- Visual analysis and evaluation
- Independent working
- Communication through imagery

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy creative and practical work
- are willing to experiment and take risks
- can manage deadlines independently

Think carefully if you:

- struggle to manage longer coursework projects
- do not enjoy developing and writing about your own work

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular photoshoots and portfolio development outside lessons.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** mostly provided; students can use phone cameras at home
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** trips vary (e.g. galleries/museums)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Art/Photography or creative vocational courses
- Careers it links to: photography, media, advertising, journalism, design
- What it shows employers: creativity, independence, organisation

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mrs I Taylor - jtaylor@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE PE
Exam board & specification: AQA 8582
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn how the body works and how movement and training improve performance.
- You will study psychology, socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in sport.
- You will develop practical performance in a range of physical activities.
- You will learn how to analyse performance and plan improvements.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	30%	Y11	1h 15m
Paper 2	Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport	30%	Y11	1h 15m
NEA: Practical performance	3 sports/activities assessed	30%	Y10 & Y11	
NEA: Analysis & evaluation	Improving performance in one activity	10%	Y10 & Y11	

3) Skills you will build

- Teamwork and leadership
- Practical performance and technique
- Applying theory to sporting examples
- Data analysis and evaluation
- Communication and resilience
- Organisation and time management

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy sport and physical activity
- are motivated to participate inside and outside of school
- can apply theory to real sporting situations

Think carefully if you:

- do not enjoy practical sport
- find extended analysis/evaluation difficult

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** revision of theory + regular practice to improve performance.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** GCSE PE top (optional), PE kit for practical lessons
- **Costs:** optional revision guide
- **Trips/visits:** optional Europe Sports Tour (optional)



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level PE, Level 3 BTEC courses, apprenticeships
- Careers it links to: sport science, physiotherapy, coaching, teaching, fitness
- What it shows employers: commitment, teamwork, communication, organisation

8) Find out more

- Contact: Miss Tregear rtrregear@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE Psychology
Exam board & specification: AQA 8182
Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will explore why people behave the way they do and how psychologists explain behaviour.
- You will study key topics including memory, development, social influence and the brain.
- You will learn how psychological research is planned, carried out and evaluated.
- You will develop your ability to apply ideas to real-life situations and case studies.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Memory, perception, development, research methods	50%	Learn in Y10 and sit exam at the end of Y11	1hr 45mins
Paper 2	Social influence, language/thought, brain/neuropsychology, psychological problems	50%	Learn in Y11 and sit exam at the end of Yr11	1hr 45mins

3) Skills you will build

- Critical thinking and evaluation
- Research and data handling
- Essay writing and extended responses
- Applying knowledge to scenarios
- Analytical thinking
- Communication and debate

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy discussing why people behave in different ways
- like debating ideas and using evidence
- are curious about real-world behaviour and case studies

Think carefully if you:

- find extended writing and evaluation difficult
- do not enjoy analysing evidence or research

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular review of key studies and terminology + exam practice.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** online textbook access provided
- **Costs:** optional revision guide/textbook if students want a hard copy
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory



7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Psychology (and links well with Biology, PE, Business)
- Careers it links to: HR, marketing, nursing, teaching, clinical/forensic psychology
- What it shows employers: analysis, communication, open-mindedness and reasoning

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mr P Holland- pholland@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: GCSE Spanish

Exam board & specification: Pearson 1SP1

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn Spanish language skills and develop cultural understanding.
- You will study themes such as identity, lifestyle, local area, technology, study and travel.
- You will build vocabulary and grammar knowledge to improve accuracy and confidence.
- You will practise listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation skills.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Speaking	25%	Year 11	7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 15 min preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + 15 min preparation time
Paper 2	Listening	25%	Year 11	45 minutes (Foundation Tier) 60 minutes (Higher Tier)
Paper 3	Reading	25%	Year 11	45 minutes (Foundation Tier) 60 minutes (Higher Tier)
Paper 4	Writing	25%	Year 11	1 hour 15 minutes (Foundation Tier) 1 hour 20 minutes (Higher Tier)

3) Skills you will build

- Communication and confidence
- Memory and vocabulary recall
- Accurate writing and grammar
- Listening and reading comprehension
- Independent learning habits
- Cultural awareness

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy learning languages
- are willing to practise vocabulary regularly
- want a subject that supports travel and future opportunities

Think carefully if you:

- find it difficult to revise vocabulary independently
- do not enjoy speaking in class

5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular vocabulary/grammar practice using flashcards and short daily revision.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** no additional cost



- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Level Spanish
- Careers it links to: business, travel, hospitality, law, teaching, translation
- What it shows employers: communication, resilience, attention to detail

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mrs Planas at iplanassales@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Separate Sciences (Triple): Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Exam board & specification: AQA 8461 / 8462 / 8463

Qualification type: GCSE

1) What you will learn

- You will learn about the fundamental building blocks of life, the properties of chemical elements, and the laws of physics that govern the universe.
- You will study a broad range of topics including cell biology, atomic structure, energy, and ecology.
- You will develop a deep understanding of the "Required Practicals," which involve hands-on laboratory experiments and data collection.
- You will explore how scientific discoveries impact our daily lives and the ethical considerations of modern technology.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Paper 1	Biology	50% of GCSE Biology	Year 11	1hr 45 mins
Paper 2	Biology	50% of GCSE Biology	Year 11	1hr 45 mins
Paper 1	Chemistry	50% of GCSE Chemistry	Year 11	1hr 45 mins
Paper 2	Chemistry	50% of GCSE Chemistry	Year 11	1hr 45 mins
Paper 1	Physics	50% of GCSE Physics	Year 11	1hr 45 mins
Paper 2	Physics	50% of GCSE Physics	Year 11	1hr 45 mins

3) Skills you will build

- Analysis and evaluation: Interpreting data from experiments and judging the validity of scientific claims.
- Problem solving: Applying mathematical formulas and logic to find solutions to complex scientific questions.
- Communication: Writing clear reports and using technical vocabulary to explain how the world works.
- Independent learning: Managing your own revision and taking responsibility for understanding core concepts.

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- enjoy science and want to study it in depth
- are considering science-related A Levels
- are confident managing a higher workload

Think carefully if you:

- find science challenging already
- struggle to balance revision across subjects



5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 90 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** regular revision and exam practice across all three sciences.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** all provided
- **Costs:** none
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics; Level 3 Applied Science; or healthcare-related vocational courses.
- Careers it links to: Nursing, Engineering, Environmental Science, Architecture, and Veterinary Medicine.
- What it shows employers: It demonstrates that you are numerate, analytical, and capable of understanding complex systems.

8) Find out more

- Contact: Mr Combstock: scombstock@parkhouseschool.org



Subject name: Health and Social Care
Exam board & specification: Pearson 603/7047/6
Qualification type: Vocational

1) What you will learn

- You will learn about health, wellbeing and human development.
- You will explore how people are supported across health and social care settings.
- You will develop knowledge of real-life care roles and services.
- You will apply learning to practical and written assignments.

2) How you are assessed

Component	What it is	Weighting	When	Length
Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development: Pearson Set Assignment (NEA)	Non-exam internal assessment, marked by teacher and moderated by Pearson. It is a supervised assessment. It consists of 5 tasks.	30%	Year 10	N/A
Component 2 - Health & Social Care Services and Values: Pearson Set Assignment (NEA)	Non-exam internal assessment, marked by teacher and moderated by Pearson. It is a supervised assessment. It consists of 5 tasks.	30%	Year 11	N/A
Component 3 - Health & Wellbeing: Examination	This examination builds on knowledge and understanding acquired and developed in components 1 and 2, with additional new content. The exam consists of questions ranging from 1 mark to 10 marks.	40%	Year 11	2 hours

3) Skills you will build

- Analysis and evaluation
- Different types of communication and team-work
- Independent learning
- Research techniques
- Empathy
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Time management

4) Who this subject suits

This subject suits you if you:

- Enjoy helping others and interested in working in Health or Social Care
- Want practical, real-world skills
- Prefer non-examination based learning

Think carefully if you:

- Find it difficult to apply theory to practical situations
- Do not enjoy writing extended pieces of work



5) Workload and independent study

- **Typical homework:** 30–60 minutes per week
- **Independent study:** research and preparation for coursework and assessments.

6) Equipment, costs and trips

- **Equipment/kit:** none required
- **Costs:** none compulsory
- **Trips/visits:** none mandatory

7) Where it can take you

- Post-16 pathways: Health & Social Care Level 3, related vocational courses
- Careers it links to: nursing, social work, childcare, healthcare
- What it shows employers: responsibility, communication and empathy

8) Find out more

- Contact: Miss Luckett - mluckett@parkhouseschool.org