

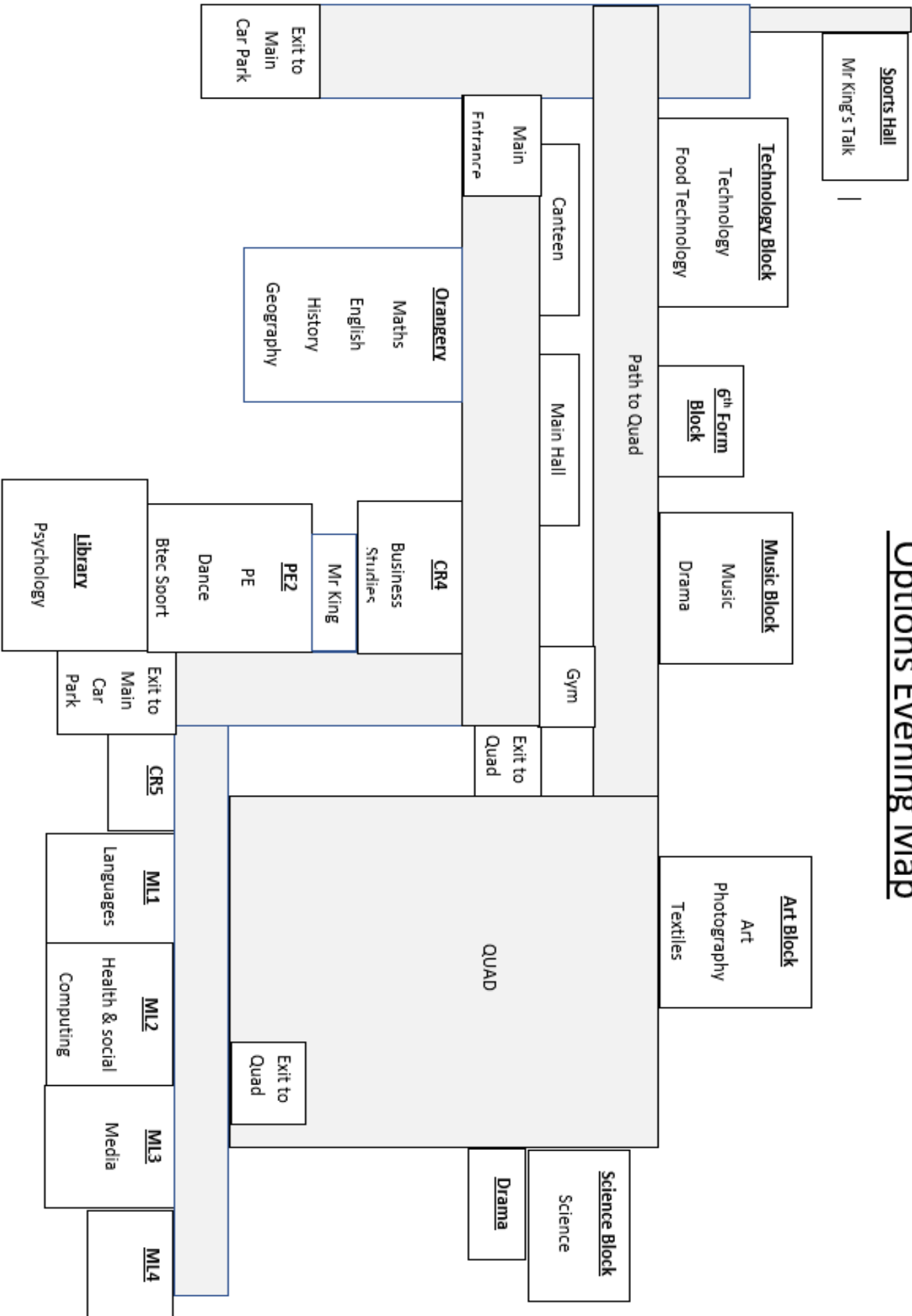
Park House School
Work hard. Be kind. Take responsibility.



Park House School
Class of 2025
Options Booklet



Options Evening Map





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GCSE 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?

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier). Students will take three 90-minute examinations at the end of year 11. Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3. Each paper has 80 marks. The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers

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 Miss Ball at hball@parkhouseschool.org?



GCSE English

Exam board: AQA

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

- Achieving a Grade 4+ in English opens doors for your future, whether that be sixth form, college, apprenticeships or other forms of workplace training. We feel that, on top of the academic side, we teach young people to become effective and impressive communicators and prepare them for this in adult life.
- English Language: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives and Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
- English Literature: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel and Modern Texts and Poetry

How will I be assessed in English Language?

Two exams- both worth 50% of your final grade. NEA: spoken language is a separate endorsement- Pass, Merit or Distinction

How will I be assessed in English Literature?

Two exams- both worth 50% of your final grade. Paper 1- 40% of your final grade, Paper 2- 60% of your final grade.

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 nhutchings@parkhouseschool.org?



GCSE Separate Sciences

Exam board:

AQA

Why is this course important?

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.

What is in the course?

Students at Parkhouse School will follow the AQA Science specification for both Combined and the Separate Sciences. The Separate Science option involves the study of extra topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, as well as studying those from the Combined Science specification in more depth.

Additional content in the Separate Science course includes: The Use of Antibodies in Medicine, Sustainable Food Production, Nanoscience, The Science of Polymers, Astronomy and The Behaviour of Infrared Radiation.

How will I be assessed in the separate sciences?

The three Science GCSEs are all assessed in Year 11.

Final grades for the Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs are gained from two 1hr 45 minute exams (six science examinations in total for the separate sciences). Students will be awarded separate qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and therefore could attain the same grade in all three or attain different grades depending on their performance. There is no coursework in GCSE Science.

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 medicine, earth science and life sciences.

For further information please contact Mr Aribigbola oaribigbola@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE 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.

<p>Paper 1 Section A: Understanding the Modern World – Period study <i>Germany, 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Paper 1 Section B: Understanding the Modern World – Wider world depth study <i>Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939</i></p>	<p>This paper focuses on the causes of the Second World War. We study how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the issues of international relations in this era.</p>
<p>Paper 2 Section A: Shaping the nation – Thematic study <i>Britain: Health and the people:c1000 to the present day</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Paper 2 Section B: Shaping the nation – British depth study <i>Elizabethan England, c1568-1603</i></p>	<p>This paper focuses on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints.</p>



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 Mr Wicks at cwicks@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Geography OCR Syllabus A

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 transferrable skills and enables students to talk confidently about geographical issues that affect us all.

How will I be assessed in Geography?

The OCR A GCSE consists of three exam papers.

Paper 1 (1 hour) – Living in the UK today focusses on geographical issues in our home environment and we study:

- How our landscape in the UK has formed and continues to develop
- How the UK population changes in time and a focus on the way we live and where we live. We also study economic change and inequality in our country
- How we are impacted by our weather in the UK; how we are having an impact on our environment and how we are trying to ensure a sustainable future with our energy sources.

Paper 2 (1 hour) - The world around us focusses on more global issues:

How different ecosystems and biomes exist in different areas of the planet and how humans are having an impact on them

- How people live in different parts of the world and why these differences exist. How we try to reduce inequality between different places.
- How climate change happens and how it will impact on our lives; how it could cause weather extremes and finally how we are attempting to reduce its impact or adapt to the changes.

Paper 3 (1 hour 30 minutes) – Skills and fieldwork

A focus 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 a coastal area for this and the students will need to confidently collect, present, analyse and notice patterns with the data collected.

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 social-sciences.

For further information please contact adavis@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE French

Exam board: AQA

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.

Course content includes the following topics:

- Family, friends and relationships
- Technology in everyday life
- Free time activities
- Healthy and unhealthy living
- Holidays and travel
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Customs and festivals
- Environment and global issues
- Social issues
- Life at school and college
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed in GCSE French?

Paper 1 – Listening	25%	1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
Paper 2 – Speaking	25%	7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
Paper 3 – Reading	25%	45 minutes (Foundation Tier) 1 hour (Higher Tier)
Paper 4 – Writing	25%	35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

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 Planas at lplanassales@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Spanish

Exam board: AQA

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:

- Family, friends and relationships
- Technology in everyday life
- Free time activities
- Healthy and unhealthy living
- Holidays and travel
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Customs and festivals
- Environment and global issues
- Social issues
- Life at school and college
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed in GCSE Spanish?

Paper 1 – Listening	25%	1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
Paper 2 – Speaking	25%	7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
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For further information please contact Mrs Planas at lplanassales@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Separate Sciences

Exam board:

AQA

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Achieving suitable grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics subjects is very useful for the majority of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers medicine, earth science and life sciences.

For further information please contact: Mr Aribigbola at oaribigbola@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Business

Exam board: Edexcel

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

GCSE Business 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?

With a business studies GCSE you could go on to do a business administration apprenticeship, or you could decide to do a business studies A level and continue on to university.

For further information please contact Mrs Edwards at jedwards@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art)

Exam board: AQA

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

Practicing 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 broad range of disciplines through hands-on workshops, covering drawing, painting, photography, working in the darkroom, 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 in GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art)

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 skill-based workshops 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 traditional or written 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 organizations 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 vast number of industries.

For further information please contact Mr R Suchanova at rsuchanova@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE 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 is a great steppingstone to further education courses such as A Levels and Level 3 BTECs and will complement any young person's CV.

Topic Areas Covered will be:

- 1 Applied anatomy and physiology
- 2 Movement analysis
- 3 Physical training
- 4 Use of data
- 5 Sports psychology
- 6 Socio-cultural influences
- 7 Health, fitness, and well-being

How will I be assessed in GCSE Physical Education?

60% Theory – 2 exams at the end of year 11

40% Practical - 3 practical sport assessments and 1 piece of written or spoken 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 Mr Tree at dtree@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Art and Design: Textile Design

Exam board: AQA

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

Textiles gives all students the opportunity to develop their 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 enquiring minds.
- Develop creative, imaginative, and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts, and products. become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials, and techniques.
- 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.
- Demonstrate safe working practices in Art and Textiles.

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

- art textiles
- fashion design and illustration
- costume design
- constructed textiles.
- printed and dyed textiles
- surface pattern
- stitched and/or embellished textiles.
- soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors
- digital textiles
- 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



GCSE 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 components that make up modern computers, how they work and interact with each other.
- € Networks – Modern life revolves around the internet. Understanding 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 – Python is our main programming language, building 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?

2 Units

Computer Systems	Externally assessed written paper
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming	Externally assessed written paper

Two hand-written papers are weighted 50% each and are externally marked.

What can it lead to?

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

For further information please contact Mr Phillips at rphillips@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE 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 look at day to day objects to develop design ideas to improve lives and solve problems. You will also improve your practical ability, working in, and combining, a range of material areas. D&T applies learning from many other subjects and develops 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 different careers.

- In Year 10 you will work in and combine a range of material areas, gaining both theory knowledge and investigative, design, development and practical skill.
- 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 the 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?

2 Units

J310/01 - Non-Examined Assessment/NEA/Coursework based on contexts issued by the exam board in June of Year 10	Approx 30 slide digital portfolio documenting the design journey. Internally assessed coursework, externally moderated.
J310/02 Principles of Design & Technology 2-hour exam	Externally Assessed Examination

J310/01 - The NEA is internally marked and a selected sample externally moderated.

J310/02 – The exam is externally marked

What can it lead to?

- Further study – A level D&T 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 Mrs W Hayes – whayes@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE 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. After this, students will embark on a skills journey learning about digital editing with Adobe Photoshop and Video Editing with Adobe Premiere Pro.

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, further 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?

3 Units

MEDIA ONE	Externally assessed written paper. 1.5 hrs 84 marks (35%)
MEDIA TWO	Externally assessed written paper. 1.5 hrs 84 marks (35%)
NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT	Internally assessed coursework: creating a practical media product with a 300 word write up. (30%)

This course is marked by levels 1 -9.

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



GCSE Art and Design (Photography)

Exam board: AQA

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

Practicing 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 begins with the basic technique of capturing light on light-sensitive paper to create Photograms, giving you a foundational understanding of darkroom processing and image manipulation as well as provide 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.

This will then be followed by series of technical workshops initially focusing on producing good quality photographic image, through number of workshops on darkroom printing and basic digital manipulation. More advanced and alternative processes and complex image manipulation inspired by a vast number of artists and photographers will be covered after to increase your awareness of different styles and creative possibilities.

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 in GCSE Art and Design (Photography)

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 skill-based workshops 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 traditional or written exam involved.

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:

- Photographer, Photojournalist, Advertising Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Wildlife Photographer, Portrait Photographer, Landscape Photographer, Sports Photographer, Wedding Photographer, Fine Art Photographer, Aerial Photographer, Product Photographer, Food Photographer, Photo Editor, Photo Researcher, Photo Archivist, Digital Imaging Technician, Multimedia Specialist, Image Restoration Artist, Photo Studio Manager, Photo Technician, Sales Representative (photography equipment), Photographic Equipment Repair Technician, Photography Teacher/Instructor, Picture Researcher, Photo Sales Agent, Stock Photographer, Event Photographer, Magazine Photographer, Camera Operator, Photoblogger, Photographer's Assistant, Post-Production Specialist, Photography Consultant, Freelance Photographer, Exhibition Curator, Photography Book Editor, Printing Technician, Picture Library Manager, Photo Restoration Specialist and many others

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 Ms R Suchanova at rsuchanova@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE 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 Mawazini at rmawazini@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE Drama

Exam board: ASA

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 give 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?

3 Units

Understanding Drama	Written exam
Devising Drama	Internally assessed coursework – Performance and Written
Texts in Practice	Externally assessed Performance

This course is marked 1-9 on the standard GCSE framework; assessments are marked both internally and externally.

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 Stanier at Pstanier@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE 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?

3 Components

Performing To develop as a performer. To be able to perform as a soloist and in an ensemble.	Internally assessed, moderated coursework
Composing To develop different styles of compositions.	Internally assessed, moderated coursework
Listening and Appraising To develop listening skills across different genres and styles.	Externally assessed written paper

This course is marked by the 9-1 GCSE grades.

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



GCSE: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam board: AQA

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

This GCSE is designed to equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and in later life. This course is not simply about cooking though. Students will need to acquire an in-depth understanding of the physical changes that occur when food is cooked, the impact that this has upon the nutritional profile of different foods to apply this knowledge to a range of different situations. To develop this knowledge, we use a combination of written tasks, as well as practical and experimental work. As with the practical work at KS3, there is a financial consideration with regards to the purchasing of ingredients and we endeavour to minimise this where possible.

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

- Be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing, and cooking a range of food commodities, using different techniques and equipment as well as microbiological food safety considerations.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition, and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet, and health choices.
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.
- In addition to the curriculum content, students will also develop a wide range of other skills: Teamwork; Time management; Organisation; Problem solving; Independence.



How will I be assessed in Food Preparation and Nutrition?

There are 3 components:

Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition including which covers all 5 sections of the specification: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Food, nutrition, and health2. Food science3. Food safety4. Food choice5. Food provenance	Externally assessed written paper 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 20 multiple choice questions- 5 questions each with sub questions.
Food investigation – students investigate and demonstrate their understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.	Non-exam assessment (NEA) 15% Students produce a 1500 – 2000 word written report including photographic evidence of practical investigation.
Food Preparation Assessment – Students’ knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition based on a choice of three tasks.	Non-exam assessment (NEA) 35% Written portfolio including photographic evidence from 4 technical practical as well as evidence of the three final dishes.

What can it lead to?

The UK’s food and drink industries are the country’s largest manufacturing sector and has wide ranging and diverse links. The most obvious are within the hospitality and catering sector however this is only the tip of the iceberg. No matter where student interests lie, there are a vast array of careers across agriculture, food development and research, food production, logistics, sales, marketing, finance as well as a multitude of opportunities within the wider food industry and supply chains. There are also valuable links to careers within medicine, education, the armed forces.

And above all else students will learn how to make informed decisions about their own diet and wellbeing, which we hope will enable them to thrive no matter where life takes them.

For further information please contact smorgan@parkhouseschool.org



GCSE: Psychology
Awarding Body: AQA

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

Students will follow a structured programme of work based that allows them to design & conduct informal classroom research using a variety of different methods. They will be given the opportunity to analyse data collected in investigations & draw conclusions based on their findings.

Paper 1 – Cognition and behaviour

This involves studying the following topics: Memory, Perception, Development, Research methods

Paper 2 – Social context and behaviour

This involves studying the following topics: Social influence, Language, thought and communication, Brain and neuropsychology, psychological problems.

How will I be assessed in Psychology

Written Examination 100%

Two 1 hour 45 minute external examinations take place in the summer of Year 11, both contributing 50% to the GCSE.

Students are assessed on a regular basis throughout the course. Homework is directly linked to classwork in order to consolidate that what has been learnt in the lesson. This may take a variety of forms, including past paper questions, note-taking & preparatory work for the next lesson.

What can it lead to?

Psychology can be defined as, ‘...the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour’. The subject involves studying both human & non-human behaviour to understand how we think, act, react & interact. It is concerned with all aspects of behaviour & the thoughts, feelings & motivations behind such behaviour. In a sense, you are already a psychologist: we all are. We are all interested in what makes people tick and how they think, and how this understanding can help us solve major problems in society. This course is therefore intended for anyone curious about themselves & others around them. By studying psychology, you will have a better understanding of the mental processes that govern our behaviour. The course could lead onto A Level Psychology which is recognised for university entrance along with other A levels.

For further information please contact awhatt@parkhouseschool.org



Tech Award Level 1/2 in SPORT

Exam board: Pearson

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

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is for students who want to build upon previous knowledge and skills learnt in practical lessons. It also gives students the opportunity to develop further enhanced knowledge and understanding whilst applying this to realistic situations in the following areas:

- investigating provisions for sport including equipment and facilities to enhance sport.
- planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.

How will I be assessed in BTEC Sport

There are 3 components which learners will need to complete and achieve for this qualification.

Component	Title	Marks	How Assessed
1	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	60	Internal Assessment Internally/Externally Moderated (5 hours)
2	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance	60	Internal Assessment Internally/Externally Moderated (4 hours)
3	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	60	External Exam (1 ½ hours)

Final grades that can be awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction at either Level 1 or Level 2 or Level 2 Distinction*.

What can it lead to?

- Further study, including A Level in Sport or other vocational Level 3 BTEC National Sport with courses like the Extended Certificate or Extended Diploma.
- Enter of employment or apprenticeships.
- University degree in sport upon successful completion of post-16 study.
- Employment opportunities in sport such as sports coach, teacher, lecturer, nutritionist, physiotherapist, sport scientist and sports analyst.

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



Tech Award Level 1/2 in 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 BTEC Health and Social Care
3 Components

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 @ mlockett@parkhouseschool.org