

# KEY STAGE 4 PREFERENCES 2024-2026





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# INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a guide to help you make appropriate decisions about which subjects to study in Year 10 and 11. Please read it carefully before you complete the preference form.

**The deadline for choices is 11pm on Tuesday 23 April 2024.**

The world of work is ever changing so it is important that you have a broad and balanced set of subjects to give you the knowledge and skills you need to make wider decisions later on. It is a good idea for all students to select Geography or History GCSE because they help to develop excellent communication skills and teach you how to successfully evaluate evidence. They also develop your investigating and problem-solving skills. You should also consider choosing a Modern Foreign Language as it helps you to stand out from the crowd in many career paths and employers view Modern Foreign Language as a high priority when looking for staff. In addition, scientists believe that knowledge of a second language can boost your brain power and you will also be more confident when exploring the world. Studying a more creative subject means that you will have the chance to express your originality through practical work, as well as improving your communication and research skills, which will benefit your other qualifications.

## Curriculum

All students will follow a broad and balanced curriculum with a compulsory core of subjects and three preference subjects. The core curriculum is made up of English, Maths, Science, Physical Education, and Culture and Ethics. Personal development, Financial Education, and Relationships and Sex Education are included as part of the Work. World. Wellness. curriculum.

In this progress you will choose at least one of Geography, History or a Modern Language as part of your preferred five subjects. Put these subject in order of preference, and **you will be allocated to three of them**. We will endeavour to allocate you your top 3, however so make sure that subjects 4 and 5 are things you would like to do if you do not get your first choices. Because the subjects chosen are bespoke to your year group there may be subjects that will not be sufficiently popular to run.

You will make three guided choices from our offer of GCSE and BTEC courses. Once you have made these preferences and been allocated to courses, these are the courses you will go on to complete and be successful in. Your peers across the country will all be completing eight subjects so when you are applying for places in the sixth form, at college, or later on university and apprenticeships, you need to have the best package of subjects and grades to be competitive with them for places and jobs.

## Work. World. Wellness.

Work, World and Wellness are the three central layers of our curriculum and they underpin the curriculum model at Manor School.

### Work

The Work layer of the curriculum will make sure that you leave Manor School with a knowledge and well-rounded view of the pathways that are open to you, and the ability to make the most of them.

### World

The World layer of the curriculum will make sure that when you leave Manor School you can contribute positively to society as a well-rounded global citizen and you will have had opportunities to develop your awareness of different cultures. Global citizenship and celebrating diversity will help you understand the world and your place within it.

### Wellness

Wellness is an active process of discovering and making choices that lead to a healthy and fulfilling life. The Wellness layer of the curriculum will help you to learn how to protect your physical and mental health.

# EXAMINATIONS & QUALIFICATIONS

The range of qualifications we offer are shown below. In some subjects the grade is based entirely on exams at the end of the course. Other subjects have an examination at the end along with non-examination assessment (NEA), which is a form of assessment that takes place in class and is marked by the teacher, but counts towards the final exam grade. There are also some subjects which have a mixture of examination and non-examination assessment but all subjects have an exam at the end of the course. All of this information for the subjects we run is shown in the table below.

Subject	Qualification	% exam is worth	Non-Exam Assessment?	When is the NEA?	% NEA is worth
French	GCSE	100	None		
German	GCSE	100	None		
Spanish	GCSE	100	None		
Geography	GCSE	100	None		
History	GCSE	100	None		
Fine Art	GCSE	40	Work portfolio	Ongoing	60
Art 3D	GCSE	40	Work portfolio	Ongoing	60
Business Studies	GCSE	100	None		
Computer Science	GCSE	100	None		
Dance	BTEC	40	Assignments	Yr 10 & 11	60
Design & Technology	GCSE	50	Project	Yr 11	50
Drama	GCSE	60	Performance	Yr 10	40
Food & Nutrition	GCSE	50	Cook 3 dishes	Yr 11	50
Health & Social Care	BTEC	40	Assignments	Yr 10 & 11	60
Digital IT	BTEC	40	Assignments	Yr 10 & 11	60
Music	GCSE	40	Performing/Composing	Yr 11	60
Music	TECH AWARD	40	Practical projects	Yr 10 & 11	60
Physical Education	GCSE	60	Practical	Yr 11	40
Sport	TECH AWARD	40	Assignments	Yr 10 & 11	60
'Triple' Science	GCSE	100	None		

## Tiers of entry

In maths, science and Modern Foreign Languages GCSEs you will be entered for Higher or Foundation tier. The grades you can achieve on each are shown below.

Tier	Grades you can get	The very top can get
Higher	8 - 4 (or U)	9
Foundation	4 - 1 (or U)	5

The teaching professionals will decide the tier of entry based on CAT test scores (Mean Standardised Age Score of 95 or higher are expected to do higher tier) and performance throughout the course. In a small number of cases we may change tiers as a result of trial examination results.

## Levels

The table below shows how grades in different types of qualification relate to each other.

Level	GCSE grade	BTEC/Cam Nat grade
1	1	Level 1 Pass
	2	Level 1 Merit
	3	Level 1 Distinction
2	4	Level 2 Pass
	5	Level 2 Merit
	6	
	7	Level 2 Distinction
	8	Level 2 Distinction*
	9	

A Levels are Level 3 qualifications.



## Studying after Year 11 at sixth form or college

All students are required to be in full time education, training, or employment-based training, until the age of 18 in the UK.

Your subject preferences now will have an impact on the next stage of your study and career journey after Year 11. It is important to make your preferences with that in mind.

If you want to study any subject in the sixth form:

- You need to choose them now at GCSE or BTEC
- You will need to get at least a grade 6 at GCSE or a Distinction at BTEC in order to continue with that subject in the sixth form
- You will also need to get at least five Grade 5 / Level 2 Merit qualifications, including English and mathematics, to be able to continue with that subject

If you want to win a place at college for the course you want to do:

- You will need to get at least five Grade 4 / Level 2 Pass qualifications, including English and mathematics
- Some colleges will allow you to start with lower grades but you will need to resit English and mathematics if you do not achieve a Grade 4, and the course you study will be at Level 1

You will have time with the careers team in Year 11 to help you with post-16 pathways.

## Studying at university

If you are considering attending university after the sixth form, it may be useful to know that the best universities will be looking for students who:

- Have an average of Grade 7 at GCSE
- Have broad and balanced GCSE subjects including a language and history or geography
- Have wider skills and interests such as playing a musical instrument or sport outside of school
- Take an interest in the world around them
- Work on school improvement groups
- Volunteer or promote charity work

These are the GCSE courses and qualities you will need to be able to compete successfully for university places within your peer group.

## Recommendations

We will give you personalised subject recommendations.

The EBacc, or English Baccalaureate, is a range of subjects that offer broad and balanced knowledge, skills and understanding which are important to 'future proof' your employment prospects. This gives you a greater choice of courses and employment in the future. If your CAT test results and current progress indicate that you would be successful in gaining the EBacc, then we will recommend that you make that selection.

The EBacc subjects are:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (either combined or separate)
- History or geography
- A Modern Foreign Language



## How to make my preference choices

First find out about each subject. Follow the checklist below and tick off the steps as you complete them.

✓	GCSE
	Reading the list of subjects that we recommend for your success
	Asking each of the teachers about the subjects at Preferences Evening
	Watching the videos of students talking about what it is like to study the subject (using the links we sent to you)
	Reading the subject pages in this booklet
	Completing the 'My thoughts' section to bring your ideas together
	Talking to parents / carers
	Having a meeting with your preferences mentor
	Completing the online form using the webcode we sent you

## My thoughts

Use the table below to record your thoughts on the different subjects.

Subject	Is it on my recommended list?	Yes? No? Maybe?	Why I think this would be a good course for me
French			
German			
Spanish			
History			
Geography			
Fine Art			
Art 3D			
Business Studies			
Computer Science			
Dance			
Design & Technology			
Drama			
Food Prep & Nutrition			
Health & Social Care			
Digital IT			
Music GCSE			
Music BTEC			
Physical Education			
Sport			
'Triple' Science			

## My preferences are...

Use the table below to record the subjects you are going to request.

Preference	Choose from	My preference choice
Subject 1	French German Spanish History Geography	
Subject 2	French German Spanish History Geography Fine Art Art 3D Business Studies Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Food Preparation & Nutrition Health & Social Care Digital IT Music GCSE Music BTEC Physical Education Sport 'Triple' Science	
Subject 3	French German Spanish History Geography Fine Art Art 3D Business Studies Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Food Preparation & Nutrition Health & Social Care Digital IT Music GCSE Music BTEC Physical Education Sport 'Triple' Science	
Subject 4	French German Spanish History Geography Fine Art Art 3D Business Studies Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Food Preparation & Nutrition Health & Social Care Digital IT Music GCSE Music BTEC Physical Education Sport 'Triple' Science	
Subject 5	French German Spanish History Geography Fine Art Art 3D Business Studies Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Food Preparation & Nutrition Health & Social Care Digital IT Music GCSE Music BTEC Physical Education Sport 'Triple' Science	

## How to apply

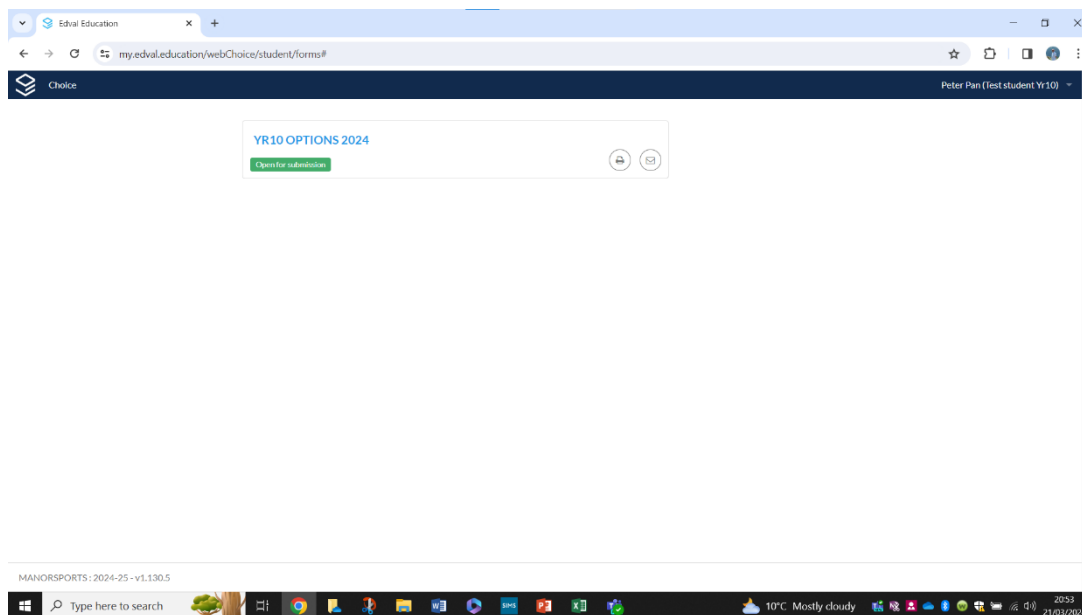
We will provide you with a letter with your individual recommendation.

The letter will also show your personal webcode.

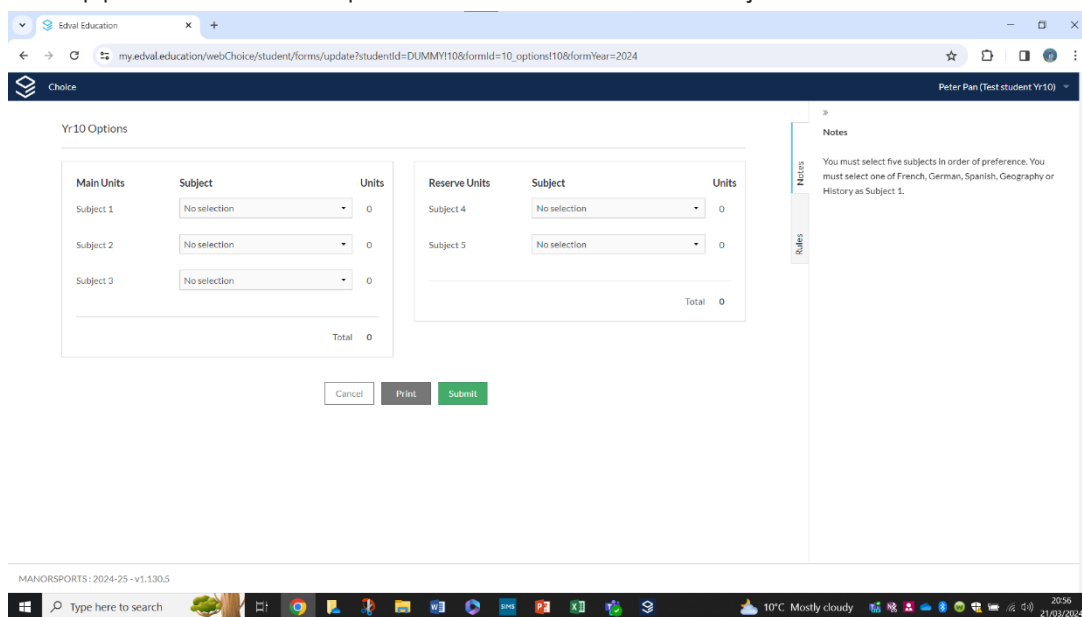
When you are ready to make your choices, go to <https://my.edval.education/login>

Use the webcode to log in and make your choices.

The screen will look like this - click on the 'YR10 OPTIONS 2024' box.



This screen will appear. Use the drop-down menus to select subjects.



When you have entered the subjects according to the requirements, click the submit button. You will know you have submitted preferences when you see the screen below.

**Yr10 Options**

Student name: Peter Pan (Test student Yr10) (DUMMY10)  
 Notes: Your choices are registered.  
 Submitted date: Fri 22 Mar 2024 07:57:24

**Main units**

Main Units	Subject	Units
10Fr	French	1
10Cs	Computer Science	1
10Bu	Business	1

Total units: 3

**Reserve units**

Reserve Units	Subject	Units
10Ar	Art	1
10Gg	Geography	1

Exit Print Send email

If you would like to receive an email confirming the subjects you have selected, click the green 'Send email' box and enter your email address into the 'Optional email' box. Shortly after you click the second 'Send email' box you should receive an email confirming the preferences you have entered.

**Update email**

- Your selection will be sent to the email you choose.
- You can choose to send email to current email address in our system, or send email to optional email you fill in.
- If you do not have any email registered in our system, you have to fill in the optional email.

☐ Current user's email  
 You do not have any registered email in our system

☒ Optional email

Cancel Send email

# ENGLISH

Director of English: Miss K Dicker

Email: [kdicker@manor.school](mailto:kdicker@manor.school)

## What is GCSE English?

GCSE specifications in English will enable students to read a range of texts fluently and with a good understanding. They will develop the ability to read critically and use knowledge gained from reading to improve their own writing, as well as using grammar, punctuation and spelling accurately. English literature specifications develop students ability to read and interpret classic literature, and evaluate their reading so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas. They will learn to criticise and analyse what they read using grammatical terminology and appropriate linguistic terms.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

GCSE English builds on the skills you have learned at Key Stage 3. You will be assessed on the same skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening so there is a continuity of learning between the two Key Stages.

## How is the course structured?

Students will study for a qualification in both English Language and English Literature.

### English Language

There are two written examinations. All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing. 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of the GCSE award).

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives. 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of the GCSE award).

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language is a separate endorsement and does not contribute to the GCSE award.

### English Literature

There are two written examinations. All assessments are closed book: any stimulus material will be provided as part of the assessment.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel. 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of the GCSE award).

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry. 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of the GCSE award).

## What about examinations?

All assessment is in the form of terminal examinations.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

## Materials required

While we supply all of the course books you will need, you may find it helpful to purchase your own copies of the set texts so you can make notes in them.

## What other skills might I develop?

In its broadest sense GCSE English is about communication in all its forms. You will learn how to read astutely, spotting inconsistencies and subtexts. You will also learn how to write and speak with precision and in a variety of situations.

## What could I do next with GCSE English?

GCSE English is a key requirement of any future study or career plans.

# MATHEMATICS

## Co-Curriculum Leads:

Mrs A Andrew-Charles and Mr C Brown

Email: aandrew@manor.school

cbrown@manor.school

## What is GCSE Mathematics?

Mathematics promotes problem solving, thinking skills and a logical mind, whilst enabling you to develop and gain the tools necessary for everyday life and work. The course allows you to consolidate and extend your knowledge from Key Stage 3 and focuses on five strands of Number, Ratio and Proportion, Algebra, Statistics and Geometry. There is an emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning with marks allocated to these specific skills.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

The mathematics course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills previously studied at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 with application of problem-solving techniques to a wide range of subjects.

## How is the course structured?

Students follow a linear course with two tiers of entry, foundation and higher. The foundation tier caters for students achieving a maximum of a grade 5 and the higher tier is aimed at students expected to attain the higher GCSE grades (6-9).

## What about examinations?

You will sit three separate examination papers. These will consist of two calculator examination papers and one non-calculator examination paper, each of which last one and a half hours, giving a total examination time of four and a half hours.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

## Materials required

We expect you to attend all lessons and examinations with basic mathematical equipment (pen, pencil, eraser, ruler, protractor, compasses and scientific calculator).

## What other skills might I develop?

As well as developing general numeracy and skills in Number, Ratio and Proportion, Algebra, Statistics and Geometry, you have access to ICT in mathematics, both in the classroom and in specialised computer suites. Mathematics develops your independence, reasoning and problem-solving skills, enabling you to tackle, analyse and solve unfamiliar problems and puzzles using familiar learned tools and concepts. Having a good mathematical understanding also helps you within other subjects and with numeracy skills that we require in everyday life.

## What could I do next with GCSE Mathematics?

Mathematics is a key requirement of any future study or career plans which you may have. It is also the key requirement for AS and A2 level mathematics which will prepare you for a degree with high mathematical content such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, finance, actuarial sciences, accounting, business management and many other areas of study. GCSE Mathematics is also an effective start to the Core Maths course which is also offered in the sixth form here at Manor School.



# SCIENCE

Director of Science: Mr G Turner

Email: gturner@manor.school

## What is GCSE Science?

The GCSE awards in science cover the three sciences, biology, chemistry and physics, with working scientifically and practical skills as a focus throughout. Students following the combined science course will be awarded two GCSE grades, whilst those following the 'separate science' route will be awarded three independent GCSE grades, one each in biology, chemistry and physics.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

The science courses build on the knowledge and understanding of the compulsory components of science followed by all students at Key Stage 3.

## How is the course structured?

All courses are linear and have two tiers of entry; higher and foundation. Each science is broken down into a series of topics and these are taught in sequence across Years 10 and 11. Students on a separate science route will follow an extended programme, taught by subject specialists, which will allow them sufficient time to cover the additional material required for the separate GCSE qualifications.

## What about examinations?

For both combined science and separate sciences, each subject area is assessed by two written examinations, six in total (2 each for biology, chemistry and physics). These must be completed in the summer of the year in which the award is to be claimed and make up 100% of the overall GCSE award.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award but during the course students must carry out a range of core practical activities. Understanding of the practical elements of the course is tested within the final examinations.

## Materials required

No additional materials beyond those used in mathematics. A scientific calculator is essential.

## What other skills might I develop?

You will develop skills in the areas of investigation, analysis, literacy, numeracy, communication and independent working. These are transferable skills that will be of benefit to you in any workplace or on any course you follow later.

## What could I do next with GCSE Science?

Science is a core subject so employers will always look at the grade achieved in it. Students with GCSE Science qualifications can find career opportunities in industrial laboratories (such as chemical production, food processing, engineering, defence, and telecommunications), medicine and the civil service. There are other careers and jobs that require scientific understanding alongside other skills, such as hairdressing and beauty therapy. Studying the separate sciences at GCSE will mean that you are much better equipped to cope with Level 3 courses in biology, chemistry, physics and applied science. This will open up the choice of career further and allow you to go on to further education to train for many professional scientific areas such as medicine, engineering, development / research science, teaching, meteorology and ecology.

# **FRENCH, GERMAN, SPANISH**

## **(MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES)**

**Key Stage 4 Lead:** Mr M Brooks

**Email:** mbrooks@manor.school

### **What are GCSE Modern Foreign Languages?**

Learning a language at GCSE level will enable you to understand and communicate on a wide range of topics. You will further develop your skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing and will acquire a deeper understanding of the grammar of the language to allow you to express yourself accurately. You will also gain an insight into the culture of the countries where your chosen language is spoken.

### **How does it follow on from what I have learned before?**

You will be building on the vocabulary and phrases you have learned at Key Stage 3, which form the basis for much of what you will cover at Key Stage 4.

### **How is the course structured?**

In each language you will cover a range of topic areas which are relevant to your life and the world around you. These include 'You, your friends and family', 'Social media and mobile technology', 'Music, TV, sport and the cinema', 'Eating out', 'Home town and the environment', 'Social issues', 'Travel and tourism' and 'Current and future study and employment'. Within each topic area you will practise listening, speaking, reading and writing as well as grammatical structures to help you develop the accuracy and range of your language.

### **What about examinations?**

There are four examinations, each contributing 25% to your overall grade. You will sit three written examinations, one each in Listening, Reading and Writing plus one Speaking Assessment.

### **What about non-examination assessment?**

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

### **Materials required**

You should have your own bilingual dictionary which will help you to complete homework tasks. Access to the internet will give you the opportunity to use a wide range of materials to help build your understanding of the language and the way of life in the countries where the language is spoken.

### **What other skills might I develop?**

Analysis, organisation, use of language ICT packages and written and oral communication are all skills that will be developed on this course.

### **What could I do next with a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language?**

A good grade will allow progression to Level 3 courses. There are numerous career opportunities available with a qualification in a modern foreign language including jobs in the travel industry, translation, ICT, import and export and, of course, teaching.

# GEOGRAPHY

Curriculum Lead: Mr J Andrews

Email: jandrews@manor.school

## What is GCSE Geography?

GCSE Geography examines a range of human and physical geographical issues on both a national and global scale. These contemporary issues will challenge you to think about the world around you and provide solutions to a range of problems. To be successful at GCSE Geography you must be well motivated and have a genuine interest in the world around you. You will need to meet the challenges of working away from school on field trips, where you will collect, record and study data.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

GCSE Geography follows on from work done in geography during Key Stage 3. This includes physical geography topics (tectonics, rivers, coasts, hurricanes and ecosystems) and human geography (people, development, trade and aid, population and settlement).

## How is the course structured?

Students will study for three examinations:

- Paper 1 - Global Geographical Issues
- Paper 2 - UK Geographical Issues
- Paper 3 - People and Environment Issues: Making Geographical Decisions

## What about examinations?

- Paper 1 - 90 minutes. This is worth 94 marks (37.5% of the qualification).
- Paper 2 - 90 minutes. This is worth 94 marks (37.5% of the qualification).
- Paper 3 - 90 minutes. This is worth 64 marks (25% of the qualification).

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

## Materials required

You must be prepared to undertake fieldwork in the process of studying for these examinations.

## What other skills might I develop?

During this course you will gain a range of skills including enquiry, ICT, decision making and mapping / surveying skills. You will develop an understanding of the relationships between people and land use, environmental issues and sustainability of making sense of physical environments through field studies, data management and interpretation.

## What could I do next with GCSE Geography?

Geography is one of the most versatile subjects and employers require the skills you will develop. Careers can include oceanography, volcanology, countryside management, environmental officer, international development and accountancy. Organisations, such as the Environment Agency may require geographical qualifications for employment.

# HISTORY

Curriculum Lead: Mrs C Johnson

Email: [cjohnson@manor.school](mailto:cjohnson@manor.school)

## What is GCSE History?

History is continuously changing the world around us and historic events have helped to shape our society. Studying GCSE History will help you to answer important questions such as why do wars happen, why do we have a welfare system, and how have we come to live in a multi-cultural society? Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

History builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills previously studied in the National Curriculum at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3.

## How is the course structured?

The course is spread across three examination papers.

Paper 1 - Thematic study and historic environment

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present
- Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: Crime, Policing and the Inner City

Paper 2 - Period study and British depth study

- The American West c1835-c1895
- Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 1588

Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

## What about examinations?

- Paper 1 - contributes 30% to the total mark.
- Paper 2 - contributes 40% to the total mark.
- Paper 3 - contributes 30% to the total mark.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

## Materials required

We expect you to attend all lessons and examinations with basic equipment (pen, pencil, eraser, ruler).

## What other skills might I develop?

Analysis, organisation, interpretation of evidence, use of ICT packages and effective communication of an argument, both written and oral, are all transferable skills developed by the study of this course.

## What could I do next with GCSE History?

Law, business, accountancy, media, education, curator, research posts and the police are examples of professions that value history.

# ART AND DESIGN - FINE ART

Curriculum Lead: Mr B Cousins

Email: bcousins@manor.school

## What is GCSE Art and Design?

It is about having an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design and developing the skills to express it. You should have a commitment to, and love of, the subject and feel motivated to explore a range of ideas by working through projects and assignments. If your passion is for drawing and painting then Fine Art is the course for you.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students will follow on from the work they have been doing at Key Stage 3. The emphasis is on the process of developing both ideas and work.

## How is the course structured?

Students will complete a personal portfolio of work with practical outcomes. During Year 11 they will complete an externally set assignment.

## What about examinations?

Students will complete the externally set assignment. This will take the form of a broad theme, for example it could be something like 'Journeys' or 'Time'. You will have a preparatory period; at the end of this period, you will sit a timed examination, during which you will produce your final piece or pieces of work.

## What about non-examination assessment?

This is the Personal Portfolio. You will initially work on skills-based projects which will introduce you to the assessment objectives as well as building your visual language skills. As the course progresses there will be more emphasis on you developing your work along more personal lines. You will need to spend at least two hours per week on homework.

## Materials required

The development of homework is important and you will need basic art materials such as a good range of coloured pencils, paints, fine liners and sketching pencils.

## What other skills might I develop?

In this course you will cover the study of Fine Art and acquire the ability to investigate, analyse and experiment. You will develop practical skills to express ideas and use visual language. This course will therefore enable you to develop skills that will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards.

## What could I do next with GCSE Art and Design?

You could go on to take a Level 3 design course or an A Level in art and design or other related subject. The study of art can help you develop transferable skills that you can take into any career or job.

# ART AND DESIGN - ART 3D

Curriculum Lead: Mr B Cousins

Email: bcousins@manor.school

## What is GCSE Art and Design?

It is about having an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design and developing the skills to express it. You should have a commitment to, and love of, the subject and feel motivated to explore a range of ideas by working through projects and assignments. If your passion is for sculpture and three-dimensional art projects then Art 3D is the course for you.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students will follow on from the work they have been doing at Key Stage 3. The emphasis is on the process of developing both ideas and work.

## How is the course structured?

Students will complete a personal portfolio of work with practical outcomes. During Year 11 they will complete an externally set assignment.

## What about examinations?

Students will complete the externally set assignment. This will take the form of a broad theme, for example it could be something like 'Journeys' or 'Time'. You will have a preparatory period; at the end of this period, you will sit a timed examination, during which you will produce your final piece or pieces of work.

## What about non-examination assessment?

This is the Personal Portfolio. You will initially work on skills-based projects which will introduce you to the assessment objectives as well as building your visual language skills. As the course progresses there will be more emphasis on you developing your work along more personal lines. Homework is an important part of the course as it helps to develop drawing skills and confidence with independence.

## Materials required

The development of work is important and you will need basic materials such as pens, pencils and ruler. Any other specialized equipment needed will be provided. Students work is presented in an A3 folder which students will need to be responsible for when taking it home to work on projects.

## What other skills might I develop?

In this course you will acquire the ability to investigate, analyse and experiment. You will develop practical skills to express ideas and use visual language. This course will therefore enable you to develop skills that will be essential to you whatever you go on to do afterwards.

## What could I do next with GCSE Art and Design?

You could go on to take a Level 3 design course or an A Level in art and design or other related subject. The study of art can help you develop transferable skills that you can take into any career or job.

# BUSINESS STUDIES

Curriculum Lead: Mr D Skeggs

Email: dskeggs@manor.school

## What is GCSE Business Studies?

The course is designed to provide an insight into how businesses operate and the influences that can impact on their operation. It offers a theoretical look at the decisions businesses make and uses modern examples to help students understand. It is a qualification that focuses on all aspects of business requiring a mixture of knowledge, understanding and application in order to be successful.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Learners may have taken part in some enterprise related activities through their Work. lessons, looking at some aspects of finance, as well as using ICT skills in a business context. This course is unique in its content and students will be expected to use interpersonal and intrapersonal skills such as organisation and teamwork to complement their studies.

## How is the course structured?

Students follow the AQA programme of study that is split into six units over the two-year course. Delivery of the course will involve group tasks, discussions, debates and regular examination questions. Throughout the course there will be designated points where students will be expected to complete independent revision on their current unit of work.

## What about examinations?

The course is assessed by two examinations at the end of the course. The first examination is 1 hour 45 minutes and covers the two core units and two units which cover other parts of the course. It is worth 90 marks. The second examination is 1 hour 45 minutes and covers the two core units and the remaining two units. It is worth 90 marks. Each examination makes up 50% of a student's overall GCSE grade.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

## Materials required

We expect you to attend all lessons and examinations with basic equipment (pen, pencil, eraser, ruler and calculator).

## What other skills might I develop?

Learners can expect to gain vital interpersonal skills as well as the ability listen to the viewpoints of others. Lessons carry a cross over with other subjects including geography, Work. World. Wellness. and mathematics.

## What could I do next with GCSE Business Studies?

GCSE Business Studies can lead on to Level 3 qualifications such as BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business and A level Business Studies. It will also equip you with essential skills and knowledge for a move into entry level roles, such as assistants in business administration, marketing, finance, human resources, sales and customer service.



# COMPUTER SCIENCE

Curriculum Lead: Mr D Skeggs

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## What is GCSE Computer Science?

Students will follow the GCSE OCR specification which is designed to teach students how computers function from the inside out. This includes exploring how hardware components and software languages speak to each other to make up the systems and hardware we use in our daily lives. Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that information is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. Students must have a passion for learning and developing programming skills as they will have the opportunity to design, write, test and refine one or more high-level programming languages in a programming project.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students will already have a basic knowledge of programming with Python from Key Stage 3. The GCSE course builds on the skills already learned.

## How is the course structured?

Component 1 (Computer systems) introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

In Component 2 (Computational thinking, algorithms and programming) students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

## What about examinations?

The above two components are externally assessed in the form of written examinations.

Students are given the opportunity to undertake programming tasks during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using the Python programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 2.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessments do not contribute to the GCSE award.

## Materials required

Access to a computer outside of lessons is essential.

## What other skills might I develop?

An enjoyment of maths and problem solving is required. In addition, an interest in coding, learning different programming languages and a keen interest in how computers work.

## What could I do next with GCSE Computer Science?

The knowledge and skills learned in this course will provide excellent progression to A Level computer science, vocational courses and on to degree level courses in the areas of computing, engineering, science and maths. In addition, the course provides the knowledge, skills and understanding that a growing number of employers are demanding.

# DANCE

## (TECH AWARD)

Curriculum Lead: Miss T Hustwait

Email: [thustwait@manor.school](mailto:thustwait@manor.school)

### What is the Technical Award in Dance?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. This course gives you the opportunity to develop key skills to prepare you for the future. You learn through a wide range of practical and theoretical activities developing your knowledge and understanding of dance.

### How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

You will develop your technical, performance and choreographic skills in different dance styles and apply these to performances of professional repertoire as well as creating your own performance pieces following a set brief. Furthermore, you will learn how to analyse and evaluate a variety of professional works and the part various performance and creative roles within the performing arts industry have in creating these.

### How is the course structured?

The course is unit based and contains three main components.

- Component 1: Students will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.
- Component 2: Students will develop their performing arts skills and techniques, completing a journal documenting their improvement and progression throughout the rehearsal process.
- Component 3: Students will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as either a performer or designer in response to a given brief and stimulus.

### What about examinations?

Component one and two are completed through teacher assessment of written and practical work. Component three is externally assessed by examination.

### What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessment consists of practical work with written and video evidence to illustrate understanding. Students will be set assignments throughout the year and are expected to complete all work by the deadline set.

### Materials required

Dance kit is required for all practical lessons (navy t-shirt with navy sports leggings / jogging bottoms). Alongside these, students will need a black leotard, footless black tights, black character shoes and jazz shoes.

### What other skills might I develop?

You will develop many vital transferable life skills - communication, teamwork, independence, self-management, problem solving, negotiation, confidence, creativity and organisation. You will also have the opportunity to develop your performance skills in front of an audience.

### What could I do next with a Technical Award in Dance?

Progression route to Level 3 study such as BTEC Dance, as well as demonstrating to potential employers or colleges that you are a creative, self-disciplined individual, who can work effectively with others.

# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Curriculum Lead: Mr B Cousins

Email: bcousins@manor.school

## What is GCSE Design and Technology?

The course looks at:

- Characteristics and uses of different materials including metals, polymers, timbers, paper & boards and textiles
- Manufacturing methods and equipment and how these are used in industry
- Analysis and evaluation of products and processes
- Industrial, consumer and environmental issues

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students will build on the work done at Key Stage 3 producing design work of greater depth and clarity along with 3D products which use a range of materials and processes. This course is ideal for students who are creative, willing to develop independent learning and forward thinking.

## How is the course structured?

Students will produce design folders and practical outcomes for projects within a given context. There will be projects during the course which allow students to individually select materials suitable for their solutions and projects may incorporate CAD/CAM. Students will also cover a range of theoretical information, developing written skills for the final examination. The final decision regarding the choice of material area will be made at the beginning of Year 10.

## What about examinations?

The course is assessed through a combination of examinations and portfolio.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Design portfolios are completed to meet a given brief. This will involve a thorough analysis of the given context with all the information being presented logically, effectively and with clear justifications. The portfolio must be completed in school, within a given page limit and specified time period. Design contexts and briefs are released by the exam board in June of Year 10.

## Materials required

You will require an A3 portfolio to enable the non examination assessment to be stored safely and basic drawing equipment (compass, ruler, rubber, pencil, selection of fine liners and coloured pencils). You may also be required to financially supplement your final coursework project up to a maximum of £10. Students must provide and wear a technology apron during any practical work.

## What other skills might I develop?

Communication and industrial / commercial / marketing / costing and maths skills will be developed. Students will develop and apply design skills that will help to prepare them for modern contexts in the world today. New and emerging technologies will be explored to support expertise now and in the future. Innovation and creativity are encouraged, adding the confidence to take design risks.

## What could I do next with GCSE Design and Technology?

Progression to a Level 3 design course or other further education design based course can lead to careers in carpentry, furniture design, furniture restoration, mechanics, engineering, electronics, construction, building, architecture, product design, printing, advertising and software design.

# DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (TECH AWARD)

Curriculum Lead: Mr D Skeggs

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## What is the Technical Award in Digital Information Technology?

This technical award is ideal for learners who might be interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the digital sector. This option is an alternative to studying computer science and it does not involve coding. The qualification has the following learning aims:

- To engage and enthuse young people with an interest in digital computing, for example, exploring user interface design principles and project planning techniques.
- To explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use, for example, how high street stores design their user interface, the impact of social media or how data is collected, stored and processed.
- To give students the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to support future learning and employment opportunities in areas such as IT project management, technical support and cyber security.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

The course builds on the practical design and software skills already learned during the study of Key Stage 3 computing and incorporates additional theory that is necessary when taking a higher qualification.

## How is the course structured?

The course is organised into 3 different components of assessed work across Year 10 and Year 11 to explore, develop and apply subject knowledge through theoretical concepts and practical work.

## What about examinations?

Component 3 is an externally set, scenario-based 90-minute written examination. Students demonstrate their knowledge to propose digital solutions to realistic situations. This is worth 40% of the final award and students will first attempt this in January of Year 11.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed assignments which are each worth 30% of the final award. One component will be assessed each year alongside studying the theory required for the component 3 written, external examination.

## Materials required

Access to a computer outside of lessons is essential but this does not necessarily need to be outside of school as there are opportunities to use in-school facilities. There will also be resources available to purchase for revision purposes.

## What other skills might I develop?

This course focuses on IT as a powerful tool for real life and work. It helps students use a range of software packages and encourages them to consider how IT can be used to solve practical problems. This course aims to ensure that young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need for the emerging information society and to prepare them for jobs that don't exist yet.

## What could I do next with a Technical Award in Digital Information Technology?

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop their IT knowledge and skills to prepare them for future employment in the digital computing industries and the career areas mentioned above. The course also leads to the future study of the BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology.

# DRAMA

Curriculum Lead: Miss M Barron

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## What is GCSE Drama?

The GCSE Drama course follows the AQA specification. This GCSE develops both the practical and theoretical understanding of drama. You will:

- Work practically in groups
- Develop creative ideas in writing (devising)
- Contribute your ideas and take on board those of others
- Explore plays written by a range of practitioners and authors

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students have already gained many of the core skills needed for this course in Drama lessons at Key Stage 3. Therefore, GCSE Drama will allow students to further their understanding and skill in acting, devising, improvisation and the analysis of scripts and live theatre.

## How is the course structured?

Component One: Understanding Drama

This is a written exam in which students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed, which will include a live theatre review.

Component Two: Devising Drama

This is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for performance.

Component Three: Texts in Practice

Students will perform two extracts from one play (it must contrast the set play for component 1).

## What about examinations?

For component one, students will be required to complete a written exam which comprises of three sections. Part A (multiple choice questions), Part B (questions regarding a given extract from the set play chosen) and Part C (question on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production).

For component three, students will be required to perform two extracts of a play, or contribute to the production as the role of a designer, such as costume, lighting or sound. The final production will be performed to a visiting examiner.

## What about non-examination assessment?

For component two, students are required to complete a devising log of 2500 words to accompany their practical exploration journey, which leads to a performance of the created work.

## Materials required

A willingness to work collaboratively and an enthusiasm for drama, which involves dedicating time for rehearsals.

## What other skills might I develop?

Drama instils key skills that are invaluable in the workplace, especially team work, confidence and presentation skills, which are essential in further careers.

## What could I do next with GCSE Drama?

Drama allows progression to higher levels of study including A Level Drama and Theatre Studies, as well as BTEC Performing Arts at Level 3.

# FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Curriculum Lead: Mr B Cousins

Email: bcousins@manor.school

## What is GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This GCSE course enables students to combine their knowledge and understanding of the properties of food with practical experience of food processing and safety. They will investigate properties of food and nutrition and develop their own products. Students will acquire knowledge of the complex nature of ingredients as a material and how their combinations create a range of flavours, textures, properties and functions. They will learn about the social, moral and ethical factors related to food, ingredients and the industry.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

The course builds on the skills and processes learned at Key Stage 3.

## How is the course structured?

The course combines practical and theory elements. Students will produce two portfolios of evidence in Year 11 supported by appropriate ICT evidence. These tasks contribute 50% to the final award (see NEA below).

## What about examinations?

A 1 hour 45 minutes written examination (contributing 50% to the final award) testing knowledge and understanding of nutrition, materials, components, techniques and industrial practice.

## What about non-examination assessment?

The Non Examination Assessment (NEA) unit includes two activities from a range of tasks set by the examination board. The first task will be an investigative task, of approximately 2000 words, finding a solution to an ingredients and nutritional problem. The second task is a making task of three hours duration where a three course healthy meal must be prepared. Students will be required to produce photographic evidence at each stage.

## Materials required

Equipment is provided but if students require specialist equipment they may have to source this independently. Parents / carers should be aware of the potential cost implications as students will be required to supply ingredients for the practical tasks, but all products will be able to be taken home. Students will require a suitable clean apron and all long hair must be tied up during lessons. An A4 folder and basic drawing equipment will also be required.

## What other skills might I develop?

Students will develop practical skills and apply numeracy, ICT and communication skills. They will also learn a range of skills and processes that are related to industrial practice.

## What could I do next with GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a starting point for many career options and a good foundation for further education courses concerned with nutrition and diet, food safety, product development, food science and catering.



# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (TECH AWARD)

**Subject Lead:** Miss R Ireland

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## What is BTEC Health and Social Care?

Health and Social care is one of the biggest and fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for workers continuing to rise. This course offers an introduction to life and work in the sector, exploring how Health and Social carers work with individuals helping them to improve their quality of life.

You will understand how people grow and develop throughout the different life stages and how a range of factors and life events can impact a persons physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.

You will study the effects of a range of health conditions on the body, and learn how services work together to meet individual needs, developing an understanding of the skills, values and attributes required to work in care.

You will then expand your knowledge and skills, analyse the effects of lifestyle factors, learn how to interpret health data and develop an understanding of how to improve a person's health and wellbeing, taking into consideration the obstacles they may face when trying to implement changes.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

This subject is not studied at Key Stage 3 and no prior knowledge is required.

## How is the course structured?

The course is based around three components:

- Human lifespan development
- Health and social care services and values
- Health & well-being

Learning will take place through a range of activities including practical activities, class and teacher led discussion, visits, question and answer sessions, investigative work, and research tasks.

## What about examinations?

Component 3 (Health and well-being) is an externally assessed 2-hour exam accounting for 40% of the award.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed through timed tasks know as PSA's (Pearson Set Assignments), each contributing 30%, totalling 60% of your overall grade.

## Materials required

No additional materials are required.

## What other skills might I develop?

You will develop skills in the areas of teamwork, problem solving, literacy, numeracy, communication and independent working. You will also understand the qualities and skills required to work in this sector and learn to empathise with others. These are transferable skills that will be of benefit to you in any workplace or on any course you later follow.

## What could I do next with a BTEC in Health and Social Care?

Health and social care can open the door to many varied and different career opportunities in education (teaching, learning support), childcare (nursery nurse, play worker), healthcare (nursing, mental health) or social care (working with elderly or disabilities). There are many other careers that require an understanding of supporting others such as counselling, youth work or law enforcement. Progressing to a Level 3 course or apprenticeship in health and social care would also be an option.



# MUSIC (GCSE)

Curriculum Lead: Miss M Barron

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## What is GCSE Music?

The GCSE Music course follows the Eduqas specification. This course will provide students with the opportunity to:

- compose and perform music
- advance solo instrumental or vocal skills
- compose music for an instrument and a small group
- learn about all types of music including classical, popular and film
- analyse musical styles theoretically through listening and research

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students have already gained many of the skills needed for this course in music lessons at Key Stage 3. Therefore, GCSE Music will allow students to further their understanding and skill in composing, performing, listening and analysing, in a variety of musical styles and genres. To take this course, students must be able to perform confidently as a vocalist or instrumentalist.

## How is the course structured?

Performing accounts for 30% of the final award. Students will play one solo piece and one ensemble piece. Composing accounts for 30% of the final award, and students will create two compositions. The listening and appraising section accounts for 40% of the final award.

## What about examinations?

There is one 75-minute examination at the end of the course with questions based on the four listening areas of study:

- Musical Forms and Devices
- Music for Ensemble
- Film Music
- Popular Music

## What about non-examination assessment?

Performing and composing is internally assessed during the course. Final compositions and performances will be sent for moderation to the examination board.

## Materials required

Musical performance resources and study guides are available. It is advisable that students are actively involved in a music ensemble, as well as receiving professional instrumental or vocal lessons on a weekly basis to support practical development.

## What other skills might I develop?

Students' listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Performing skills will give confidence in playing and presenting to an audience and composing will develop creative skills.

## What could I do next with GCSE Music?

GCSE Music would provide students with a clear pathway to A Level Music or a Level 3 Music qualification. The course would also enable students to develop a wide variety of key transferable skills, which are vital in all work places.

# MUSIC (BTEC)

Curriculum Lead: Miss M Barron

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## What is the Technical Award in Music?

The Music Technical Award follows the Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts (Music). Students learn by completing projects and assignments, which will put them in the best position to meet the demands of the creative industries.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Gives you the opportunity to play music on your own or with others
- Involves listening to all kinds of music
- Develops your knowledge of issues relating to music style, audience and the music industry
- Allows you to rehearse and display musicianship skills
- Allows you to perform effectively and develop repertoire
- Involves composing music using ICT or your instrument
- Combines music, dance and drama through the optional unit choice

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

All students will improve and develop their skills in performing on an instrument of their choice. Further to this, depending on the optional unit chosen, students will develop their understanding and application of individual practice schedules, composing for different types of music and/or using sound recording equipment effectively.

## How is the course structured?

The course is unit based, including some theory and some practical. The units are Performing, Creating and Performing Arts in Practice. The main strand to complete these units is through music, however, there is the option of including the following disciplines: drama, music technology or musical theatre (which can include dance).

## What about examinations?

One unit is externally assessed, and all other units are completed through teacher assessment of written and practical work.

## What about non-examination assessment?

Non-examination assessment consists of practical projects with written work and videos to evidence your understanding. You will be set assignments throughout the year and are expected to complete all work by the deadline set.

## Materials required

It is advisable that you are receiving professional instrumental or vocal lessons on a weekly basis to support your practical development.

## What other skills might I develop?

This qualification offers opportunities to develop wider key skills in working with others, communication, resilience, and all-round character building.

## What could I do next with a Technical Award in Music?

The course prepares students for future employment and provides a good grounding for more advanced courses. This would offer a route into performance, composing, production and more.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Curriculum Lead: Miss T Hustwait

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## What is GCSE Physical Education?

Studying GCSE Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in several sports, you will also develop knowledge of the how and why of physical activity and sport. You can perform, and then through academic study, learn how to improve your performance through application of the theory. You will learn the reasons why we do things and why some people outperform others, both mentally and physically. You will also investigate the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students have been taught a variety of different activities in Key Stage 3 PE lessons and this course will help build upon these basic skills.

## How is the course structured?

The course time is divided between 60% theory (classroom) and 40% practical, in line with the weightings of each component for the qualification. In theory lessons students will be working towards completing two examination papers (2 x 1 hour) taken at the end of the two-year course. In practical lessons students will be assessed via two Non-Exam Assessments (NEA). One is completed via three practical performances and the second being completed through one performance analysis task.

## What about examinations?

The examination (60% of the final award) involves a wide range of question types including multiple choice, single mark, short answer and extended response questions.

## What about non-examination assessment?

The non-examination assessments will involve being assessed practically on three activities. The course is designed to develop the ability to observe and analyse different performances. In the final assessment students will analyse performance in one of their three practical activities.

## Materials required

Practical PE kit is required for all practical lessons. Basic stationery will be required for theory lessons.

## What other skills might I develop?

Decision making, psychological understanding, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills, as well as thinking, acting and reacting under pressure.

## What could I do next with GCSE Physical Education?

Physical Education is not just an excellent base for the A level in Physical Education; for those fascinated by the human mind, why not consider Psychology? This is also an excellent additional qualification for those studying the sciences with the intention of moving into medicine or physiotherapy. Beyond A level, the study of Physical Education can lead on to university degrees in sports science, sports management, healthcare, or exercise and health. Physical Education can also complement further study in biology, human biology, physics, psychology, nutrition, sociology, teacher training and more.

# SPORT

Curriculum Lead: Miss T Hustwait

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## What is the Level 2 Cambridge National Certification in Sports Studies?

This course provides students who may have an interest in the theoretical aspects of sport and physical activity, but don't necessarily feel they are able to be practically assessed in their performance of skills, techniques and tactics across 3 sports, which is a requirement for GCSE Physical Education. This course consists of both theory and practical based units.

## How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

Students have already been taught a variety of different activities in PE lessons. This course will help build upon these basic skills. Students will develop the analytical skills necessary to look at and improve their own performance.

## How is the course structured?

The course consists of 3 topics where the units will be taught across Year 10 and 11, but the examination unit will be taken as part of the summer examinations in Year 11. The topics covered will be:

- Contemporary issues in sport
- Performance and leadership in sport activities
- Sport and media

## What about examinations?

The mandatory topic for contemporary issues is assessed via one external examination. This examination is a 1-hour paper and will be taken in the summer of Year 11. This topic must be passed in order to complete the full qualification requirements.

## What about non-examination assessment?

The remaining two units are internally assessed through the completion of non-examination assessments. All assignments and topics must be passed to gain a final grade.

## Materials required

You will need practical PE kit for indoor and outdoor activities. Basic stationery is required for all theory lessons.

## What other skills might I develop?

You will develop skills in leadership and coaching, ICT, presentation and communication, personal and group organisation, report writing and analysis.

## What could I do next with Level 2 Cambridge National in Sports Studies?

You can move onto A level PE or Level 3 BTEC Sport. This is a good route into teaching PE, coaching, working in sport, the leisure industry, the police or the armed forces.

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# MANOR SCHOOL

## SIXTH FORM

Wide range of subjects • Small class sizes  
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University guidance • Scholars programme  
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