

**Alderbrook School
& Sixth Form**

AMBITION | BRAVERY | KINDNESS

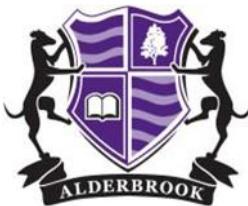
**Year 9
Key Stage 4**

OPTIONS BOOKLET

ALDERBROOK

2026 - 2028

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Introduction

Key Stage 4 Options Process 2026-2028

The choosing of option subjects to study through Key Stage 4 is an important and exciting moment in a student's secondary education. We aim to ensure that all students and parents/carers are fully informed and supported throughout this process.

All students currently in Year 9 will be following a two-year Key Stage 4 programme of study in Year 10. This enables our students to study a broad range of subjects in depth and provides plenty of opportunity to embed and apply their understanding. We believe that this gives the best chance for achieving success by the end of Year 11, whilst giving students the opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum.

The deadline for submitting final option choices is Friday 13th February at 3pm. There is no need to rush however, as there is no advantage to be gained by submitting option choices early.

Our aim is that all the information and guidance provided will support you and your child through the options process and that their choices are as well informed as possible.

We fully appreciate that a vast majority of students will be unsure of what their future career path may look like, and we have already done some work with them within subject lessons and in a recent Life Ready Day to give them the opportunity to reflect on the skills for success that each subject can provide them with. It is also important during the options process that each student reflects on their own strengths and areas for development so that they can optimise their chances of success. We recommend that during this process each student considers which courses they have the best aptitude for, as well as which subjects most interest them, as this will provide them with further guidance towards making a well-considered choice.

What will the curriculum look like?

Students will follow one of three pathways, which are explained below. Your options letter stated the specific pathways that your son/daughter will follow.

Students will all study the following compulsory subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined Science or Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- * Physical Education
- * Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Studies
- * Religious Education

* These subjects are studied as statutory core subjects but do not lead to an exam, unless they are selected as an option subject in the case of PE and RE (which is called Religious Studies at GCSE level).

Students will then select **four** optional subjects depending on their pathway.

Blue Pathway

Students on this pathway will select a language (French **or** Spanish) **AND** either History or Geography. They will then have a free choice of two further subjects.

Yellow Pathway

Students will select at least one of the following: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science. They will then select a further three options.

Green Pathway

Students will select the Asdan Award as one of their options. They will then select a further three options.

Please note that all students must also select two reserve subjects as, although we try to give all students their first-choice options, this is not always possible due to limitations, such as: class sizes, option blocking and availability of specialist equipment (such as for Photography or Food). **Please ensure the first four options and the two reserve subjects are entered in order of preference.**

Once students have submitted their options selection we will review their choices. We will contact students and parents to discuss the selections and provide advice where we feel the choices made are not possible, or in their best interest.

What happens now?

To support the students with making their choices we provide all the relevant information on the school website, as previously mentioned. We strongly advise that both parents/carers and students read this information carefully to be fully informed.

Selected options subjects will be presenting in assemblies next week to provide more information. Students are also free to speak to any teachers, or other staff in school, to get advice about their choices at any time in the process.

Please note the deadline for submitting option choices will be **Friday 13th February**.

What types of qualifications can I choose?

There are two main types of qualifications, **GCSEs** and **Technical Awards**.

The **GCSE** (General Certificate of Secondary Education) is a primarily exam-based qualification, which may include some coursework or practical work, depending on the nature of the subject. Full details can be found in the qualification information sheets which can be found in this booklet and also on the website.

Technical Awards are practical, vocational qualifications available at Key Stage 4. They can be taken alongside GCSEs. **A single Technical Award is equivalent to a GCSE**. Technical Awards will provide students with technical knowledge and skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the workplace. Full details can be found in the qualification information sheets which can be found in this booklet and on the website.

GCSEs tend to be more exam based but sometimes have a coursework element. This will depend on the qualification so please ensure you are fully aware of this. **Technical Awards** combine a variety of assessment methods including practical assessment, written coursework and external examinations. Students with a Technical Award will be able to go on to study A-Levels or vocational qualifications.

GCSE Grading:

The table below shows the comparison between the old and new grading scales.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
	8
A	7
B	6
C	5 STRONG PASS 4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

Vocational Grading:

Each vocational subject is equivalent to one GCSE. The qualification grades are listed below.

BTEC Tech Award & OCR Nationals

Pass Grades
Level 2 Distinction*
Level 2 Distinction
Level 2 Merit
Level 2 Pass
Level 1 Distinction
Level 1 Merit
Level 1 Pass

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself. It is a group of GCSE subjects that the government has identified as helping students to keep their options open for further study and future careers if they opt to take them.

It was introduced as a measure to encourage students to take subjects that demonstrate achievement across a range of academic subjects. The subjects include: English Language & English Literature, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Language, Science, Computer Science, Geography and History.

Which subjects can I choose?

The following conditions apply to what you can choose:

- 1. Students must follow the guidance for their pathway (Page 4)**
- 2. Due to the constraints of the timetable and staffing, you will only be able to choose two out of the following four subjects: Photography, Product Design and Food & Drama.**

OPTION SUBJECTS LIST

GCSE	Technical Awards
<p>1. Art GCSE*</p> <p>2. Art & Design Photography GCSE*</p> <p>3. Business GCSE</p> <p>4. Computer Science GCSE</p> <p>5. Design & Technology – Product Design GCSE</p> <p>6. Drama GCSE</p> <p>7. Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE</p> <p>8. French GCSE</p> <p>9. Geography GCSE</p> <p>10. History GCSE</p> <p>11. Media Studies GCSE</p> <p>12. Music GCSE</p> <p>13. Physical Education GCSE **</p> <p>14. Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics) GCSE</p> <p>15. Spanish GCSE</p>	<p>16. Dance BTEC</p> <p>17. Health & Social Care (Cambridge Nationals)</p> <p>18. Sport Science (Cambridge Nationals) **</p>

Subjects in bold count towards the English Baccalaureate.

***Students are not permitted to take both GCSE Art & Design & Art & Design Photography.**

**** Physical Education GCSE and Sport Studies (Cambridge Nationals) cannot be selected together.**

How to select your options

Following the Options Evening, your son/daughter will be able to select their options via a Microsoft Form. An email will be sent to parents on Wednesday 14th January with a link to the form. Options must be submitted no later than Friday 13th February.

How do I decide which subjects to choose? (advice to students)

Reflect on the following points when considering your options. These eight tips are discussed in more detail in the Headteachers Presentation. Use all the information and resources available on the website to help inform your decision. You can also speak to your family and teachers for advice.

TIP 1 : What are you good at?

TIP 2: What will you enjoy?

TIP 3: What skills can I develop?

TIP 4: What are your future aspirations?

TIP 5: How do you prefer to learn and be assessed?

TIP 6: Pick the subject NOT the teacher or trips

TIP 7: Don't follow your friends – think for yourself

TIP 8: Don't worry - whatever options you end up with, it will be your effort and engagement in your studies that will open doors for you in the future.

We wish you all the best in making your choices and we are here to help and support you throughout the whole process.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Will I definitely take all the subjects I ask for?

The majority of students will be allocated the selection of courses they have chosen. However, each year minor changes do need to be made and it may be that we will offer you one of your reserve subjects instead. This only affects a small number of students and we will do everything we can to offer you the selection you make.

If there aren't enough students opting for a subject, that subject will not run. Is this true?

Yes. Unfortunately, we cannot run a course for a small number of students. If this happens, we will liaise closely with the students to ensure that the next most suitable option is selected.

How were the pathways decided?

Students have been placed onto a pathway based on their targeted outcomes at KS4.

If I want to go on to study at Alderbrook Sixth Form, which subjects would be best?

There are no 'best' Options to prepare you for further study. Keep your options broad and balanced. If you wish to study A-Level subjects at Alderbrook, then you will need to aim for grade 5 or above in all your subjects with a grade 6 or 7 in the subjects you wish to study. The website details the entry requirements for Sixth Form.

If I cannot decide between subjects, who should I talk to?

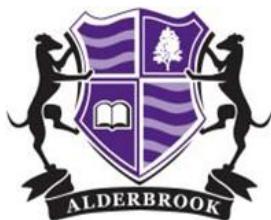
Talk to your teachers, parents, or form teachers. Remember to consider your own strengths, interests, needs and career plans in making your final choice.

What is Progress 8?

Progress 8 captures the progress a student makes from the end of primary school (KS2) to the end of KS4. Progress 8 is a type of value-added measure; it will show how the students have performed and the average of all students' progress will create the school's result. This result will be published by all schools in a standard format.

Can I change my mind later?

The subjects you choose are for the next two years. Therefore, it is very important that a well-informed choice is made at the outset. It is only in exceptional circumstances that students are permitted to change their courses once they have begun in September. Please bear this in mind.



ART & DESIGN

GCSE

Art. & Design



Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Exam 40%

Is a set task with preparation time followed by 10 hours working in exam conditions.

Coursework 60%

Is a Portfolio which includes Art projects studied from Year 10 which requires students to include the following:

Record A01 - e.g. drawings and paintings, secondary and primary observations (25 marks)

Development A02 - e.g. how your ideas progress, style of artists and influences, scale, using a variety of media. (25 marks)

Refine A03 – e.g. how you make changes, modify and conclude your ideas, a culmination or conclusion to the project, skilfulness, accuracy attention to detail. (25 marks)

Present A04 - e.g. presentation and annotation in sketchbooks and conclusion of 2D or 3D work. (25 marks)

What Will You Learn?

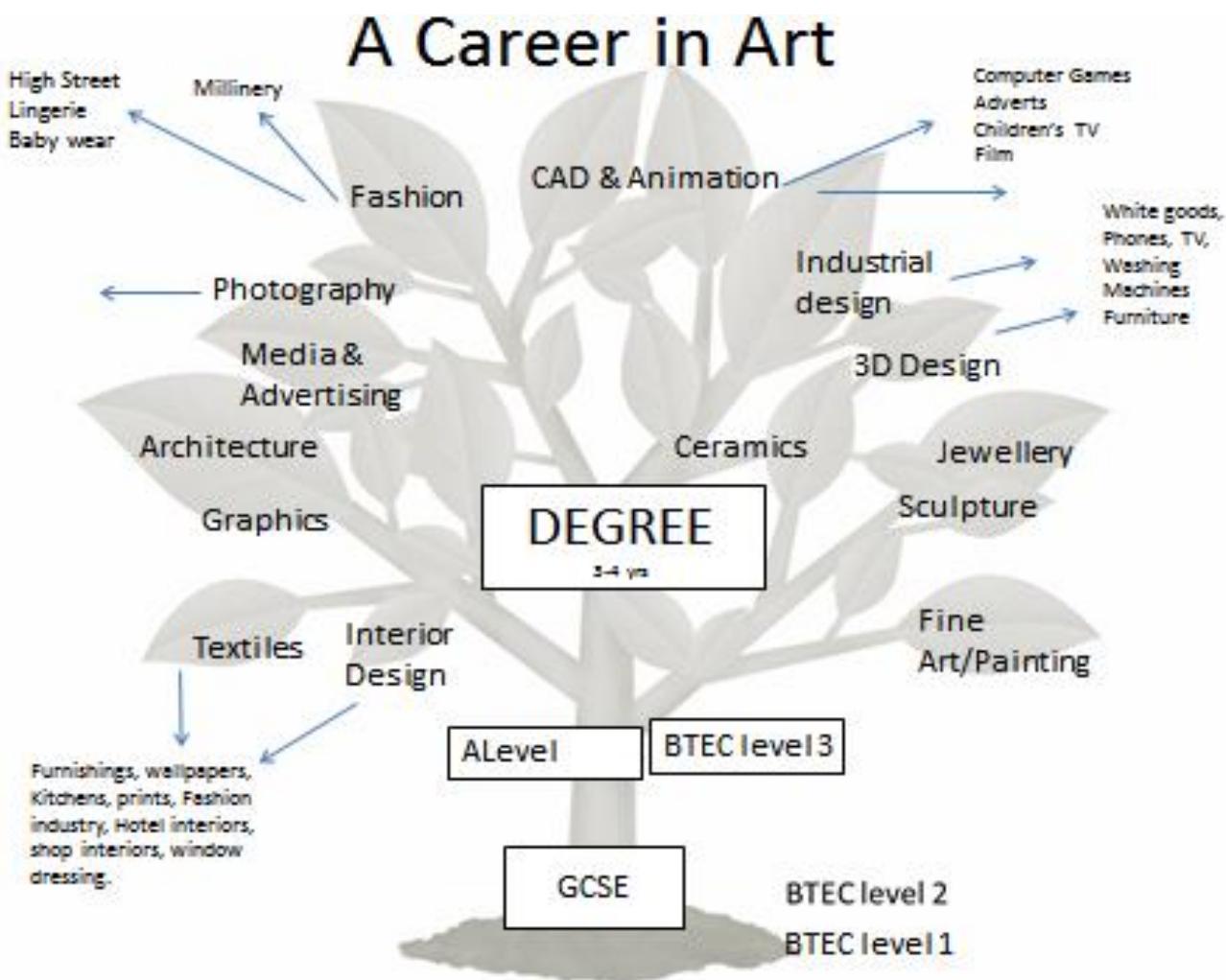
Essentially ‘formal elements of art’, painting and drawing, 2D and 3D experiences, Art History and contemporary art practice. However, you may also experience printmaking and sculpture, photography and jewellery, model making and computer image manipulation, surface pattern design and textiles, graphic novels. In fact, almost anything that can be thought of as ‘creative’ even Photography. However, Photography is now a separate subject at GCSE. You will relate to themes and starting points to generate a body of work.

Who Is This Course For? (This Will Suit You If...)

This course is for 2 types of people **firstly and importantly** anyone wanting to have a career in a creative capacity. It is important to note that Art at GCSE level is the Foundation to bigger and more focused art forms. If you think you want to work with fashion, fine art, concept art, interiors, illustration, Sculpture, jewellery, Photography, architecture or Graphics, to name a few, the expectation for further study is to have Art and Design at GCSE level. Further study from A level and BTEC is then required before a degree, which focuses on an area of study.

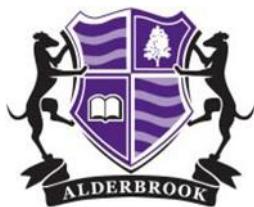
The course is also for students who have interest and genuinely enjoy being creative. Drawing is a key skill for top grades. It is an intense world out there and creative open-minded people are highly desired in all careers and industries. Being creative is a lifelong skill and can be

used in everyday situations. Creativity can impact on emotional intelligence, ability to become a risk taker, improve your hand-eye coordination as well as awakening your senses.



What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Some will do an A-Level in Art and normally will undertake a one-year Foundation course before commencing an Art Degree. Others will study Art in more depth at a college on a BTEC course before a degree. Creative industries as highlighted above.



ART & DESIGN

PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE



Examination Board

OCR

Assessment

Exam 40%

Is a set task with preparation time followed by 10 hours working in exam conditions.

Coursework 60%

Is a Portfolio which includes photography projects studied from Year 10 which requires students to include the following evidence of:

- **Recording A01**- eg; photographs from sources, secondary and primary observations
- **Development A02** - eg; how your ideas progress, your originality, style and influence of artists, scale and manipulation of photos using digital means
- **Refine A03** - eg; How you make changes, modify and conclude your ideas, accumulation or conclusion to the project, skillfulness, accuracy, attention to technical detail and explanation
- **Present A04**- eg; Presentation of an outcome and your evidence, annotation on Powerpoint slides explaining ideas and the Photoshop modifications using CS5

What Will You Learn

Photography is art and design but using Cameras and digital manipulation. Students opting for photography gain all the benefits of studying art and design through a creative process but it is important to note they wont develop some of the skills; drawing, 3D work and craft process's required for some of the careers listed in Art. You will learn all about how to control and manipulate photographic images for effect. This will include how to take effective photographs using camera settings, studio lighting and image processing, including Industry standard software, Adobe Photoshop. Photography is all about 'learning by doing'. You will be given a number of tasks and expected to keep a digital portfolio (powerpoint) of work produced over the course. You may get the chance to work with art photographers and will visit galleries and museums to see exhibitions.

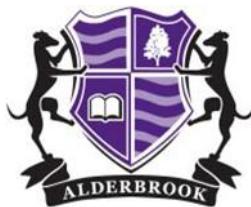
Who Is This Course For?

Anyone who is interested in the subject. Although photography is extremely interesting and engaging, it is not an easy option. Students need a high level of self-discipline, some technical ability, a creative outlook and excellent planning skills. A willingness to experiment and try things out helps, as does the ability to work both independently and in groups. Most of the course is computer based and there is also the practical learning.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

These are similar to mainstream art and design but obviously with an emphasis on the 'lens based Creative Industries': Advertising, media, digital animation, digital graphics, film are but a few. SODA – School of Digital Media Manchester, offers a broad range of creative digital courses where Photography is key.





BUSINESS GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Exam 100%

What Will You Learn?

There are a variety of different units which include:

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Business operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance



Who Is This Course For?

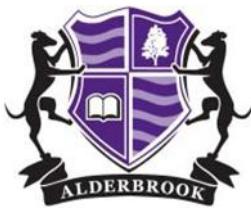
The course is, by its very nature, highly academic. It will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of how businesses operate. It will be an interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course will make an excellent preparation for learners who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied. Due to its academic nature, it is only suitable for those students with a real enthusiasm for the Business environment. It is recommended for those students in Maths set three or above.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

It is the perfect grounding for further study of both A-Level Economics and A- level Business as well as other related A-Levels such as Law and Accountancy.

It is useful if you are interested in careers such as accountancy, banking, marketing, retail management, human resources and market research.

Apart from the obvious increased employability you will gain from having the qualification on your CV, the course aims to equip students with the skills they need to compete in a tough economic climate. It is important today that we show young people what it takes to be an entrepreneur, building students' confidence, initiative and team working skills (all highly valued by employers).



Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

(was CoPE – Now Kings' Trust Awards)



Examination Board:

King's Trust

Assessment:

This course is 100% coursework. Students create a portfolio of skills-based work to demonstrate their achievements. To complete a module, a student will work with their teacher to complete all elements required for submission. Each module/unit will achieve a separate certificate and award through the King's Trust

What Will You Learn?

The course focuses on the following key skills:

- Developing myself and my performance
- Working with others
- Problem solving
- Delivering a Project



Tasks undertaken relate to a range of topic areas, which are:

- Digital communications
- Citizenship and Community
- Sport and Leisure
- Independent Living
- The Environment
- Vocational Preparation
- Health and Wellbeing
- Enterprise
- International Links
- Beliefs and Values
- Science and Technology
- Expressive arts

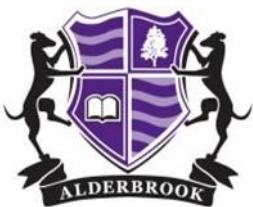


Who Is This Course For?

This course is usually by invitation only and is for students who wish to increase their knowledge on a range of topics, to broaden their horizons and to develop a range of skills which will be of great benefit to them in college, in the workplace and in adult life in general.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

The learning skills which are developed through the PSE award prepare students for further learning in a variety of subject areas. Students who have completed this qualification often go to college to study a course inspired by something they have learned about on the PSE course.



COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Examination Board:
OCR (J277)

Assessment:
Examination 100%



What Will You Learn?

The course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works, providing insight as to what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming or coding as it is also known.

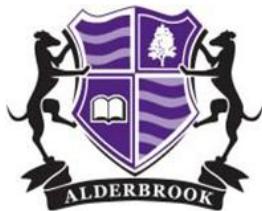
Who Is This Course For? (This Will Suit You If...)

By its nature, this course is highly academic and will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computational thinking and algorithms. It is a stimulating way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and can even be applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course will make excellent preparation for learners who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills. This is a rigorous GCSE and suitable for those students with a real enthusiasm for Computer Science and technology. Due to the logical nature of the subject, Computer Science is recommended for students who are in **Maths set three or above**.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the fields of Computer Science and software development, just to name a few. The increasing importance of information technologies on a global scale means there is still a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Learners who have taken a GCSE in Computer Science and who then progress to study the subject at A-Level or at university will become some of the most eligible candidates in the current and evolving job market.





DANCE



Pearson Qualification BTEC Tech Award: Dance

Examination Board:

Pearson Edexcel

Assessment:

Component 1: Internal assessment – externally moderated

Component 2: Internal assessment – externally moderated

Component 3: External assessment



BTEC

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Students will:

- Develop their understanding of dance by examining the work of dance professionals and the processes used to create performance.
- Examine live and/or recorded dance performances in at least three different styles in order to develop their understanding of professional dance with reference to influences, outcomes and purpose.
- Participate as a dancer in at least three styles.
- Explore and participate in dance workshops and classes to develop their knowledge and understanding of the interrelationships between processes, techniques and approaches that contribute to performance repertoire.

Component 2 Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

Students will:

- Develop their dance skills and techniques through the reproduction of repertoire as performers.
- Participate in dance rehearsals, continuing the development of skills and techniques with reference to existing performance types, styles and repertoire.
- Apply interpretative skills and techniques appropriate to dance in a performance.
- Track their progress, reflecting on their development of skills and working practices in workshops, through to rehearsals and performances.

Component 3 Responding to a Brief

Students will:

- Work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as a dancer in response to a brief and stimulus.
- Understand how to respond to a brief.
- Select and develop skills and techniques in response to a brief.
- Apply skills and techniques in a workshop performance in response to a brief.
- Evaluate the development process and outcome in response to a brief.

What Will You Learn?

- Performance and choreography skills
- To critically engage with dance through examination of creative intentions/purpose and choreographic approaches
- Must be able to critically analyse, interpret and evaluate your own work in performance and choreography

Who Is This Course For?

Dance BTEC Tech Award is for the students who enjoy training their dance skills and technique, being creative, exploring ideas and transposing those ideas into movement. If you have an ability to notice nuances between different dance styles and genres, and you are able to communicate your interpretation of dance in discussion and through written analysis. If you want to be able to show that you can express movement and can remain focused, committed and prepared to undergo the rigorous physical training, this is the course for you.

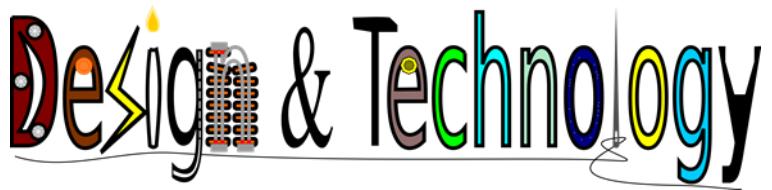
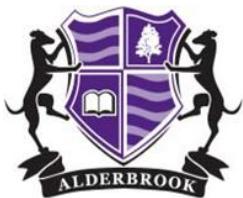
Attendance in Dance Clubs at Alderbrook is a benefit. However, some students pursue this course with no previous experience but a love for dance.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Completing this course will prepare you for a KS5 Course in Dance

What kind of job can I get if I study this Dance course?

Choreographer, Community Dance Practitioner, Dance Performer, Dance Teacher, Dance Education Specialist, Dance Journalist, Dance Lecturer or Academic Researcher, Dance Project Coordinator or Administrator, Somatic Practice Instructor



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE*

GCSE Design and Technology (AQA) is an exciting and creative course that encourages students to explore the world of design, innovation, and problem-solving. Through a combination of practical skills and theoretical knowledge, students learn how to design and create products that respond to real-world needs. The course develops critical thinking, creativity, and technical understanding while introducing modern materials, emerging technologies, and sustainable design practices. By the end of the course, students gain the confidence to design, prototype, and evaluate their own ideas, preparing them for further study or careers in engineering, design, and other related fields.

Textile Design – Dependent on numbers, there may be the opportunity to also offer a textile route (fashion and interiors).

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

Exam 50%, Controlled Assessment Task 50%



What Will You Learn?

On this course you will:

- Understand how to design and construct exciting and useful products
- Solve problems in a creative way using a variety of materials and techniques
- Design and make prototypes that meet a set design brief
- Learn to use appropriate equipment with skill

Who is This Course For? (This will suit you if....)

- You enjoy being creative and like designing/drawing
- You have an imaginative way of solving problems
- You are good at visualising 3D concepts
- You are skilled in practical work and like being precise
- You enjoy using machinery and tools

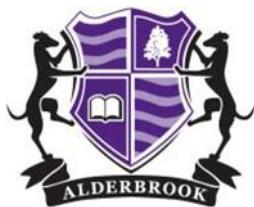
What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

A-Level - Product Design, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design and 3D Design

Degree - Product Design, Architecture, Textile Design, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Jewellery Design, Civil engineering, Automotive engineering, Industrial Design, Illustration, Animation, Game Design, Packaging Design

Possible Careers – Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Jewellery Designer, Automotive Designer, Architect, Engineer manufacturing, Textile designer, Fashion designer, Embroidery designer, Costume designer, Colour technologist, Clothing/textile technologist, Retail buyer, Interior and spatial designer and many more.

**If you choose this course, you will be asked to make a £10 donation towards the cost of materials. Please note that this does not cover the cost of each student's revision guide and workbook.*



DRAMA GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

The course is a blend of practical exams, written creative coursework and a written exam.

Exam

COMPONENT 1: Understanding Drama (40%)

This is a written paper held in the summer term of Year 11. The paper consists of three parts;

- **SECTION A:** Knowledge and understanding multiple choice on your knowledge and understanding of theatre (4 marks)
- **SECTION B:** Four questions on a given extract from the set text 'Things I Know to Be True' (44 marks)
- **SECTION C:** Analysis and Evaluation of a live theatre performance (32 marks)

Controlled Assessment

COMPONENT 2: Making Theatre (Devising Drama) (40%)

Students will work as a group to devise, perform and evaluate their own play. They will complete a devising log worth 60 marks, to evidence their contribution to the process and evaluate their work in addition to the performance worth 20 marks. Internally assessed and externally moderated.

COMPONENT 3: Texts in Practice (Scripted Performance) (20%)

Performance of two contrasting script extracts, each worth 20 marks (40 total). Here you will have an opportunity to apply the works of drama practitioners and evidence your understanding of drama techniques practically.

What Will You Learn?

Studies will include the following:

- Learning how to work with others creatively and constructively (life skill)
- Learning how to present ideas to an audience (life skill)
- Developing techniques & performance skills
- Analysing and interpreting play texts
- Learning various approaches to creating performance material
- Creating your own short plays
- Writing a Devising Log, detailing your reflection on the rehearsal process
- Visits to various theatres for workshops or performances

Who Is This Course For?

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

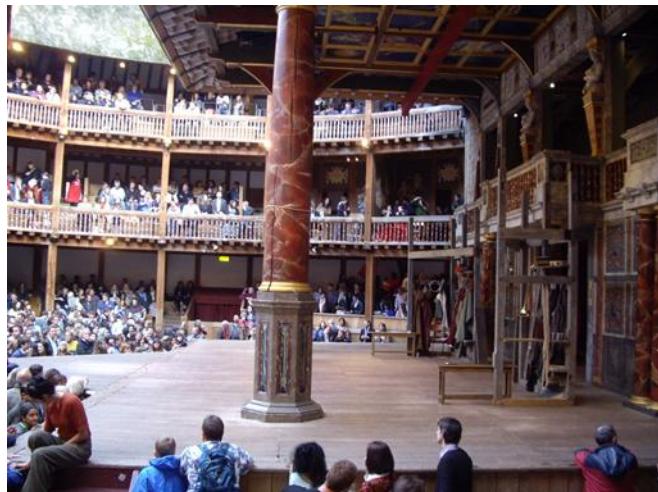
- Teaches you practical skills such as presentation, verbal communication and team work
- Reflects your genuine interest in theatre
- Enables you to work closely with other students
- Allows you opportunities to see live theatre
- Develops your analytical, communication and creative skills
- Drives you to have pride in your work
- Can be fun, infuriating but intensely rewarding!

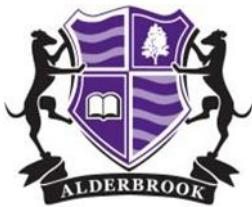


What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Whatever your future plans, this course can help you to:

- Go on to study A-Level Drama & Theatre Studies or BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts
- Have a head start in other post-16 subjects such as English or Sociology
- Develop your understanding about the world you live in
- Develop confidence in yourself, in public speaking and in interview situations
- Develop organisation skills, self-discipline and meet deadlines





ENGLISH LANGUAGE, ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

GCSE English Language:

Paper 1 = 50% of the overall GCSE – 80 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Students will answer 4 questions on a Literature Fiction Text. These questions will increase in difficulty and length

Section B: Students will answer one extended writing question in which they will be asked to DESCRIBE or NARRATE. 40% of this mark will be awarded for “technical accuracy”.

Paper 2 = 50% of the overall GCSE – 80 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Students will answer 4 questions (increased in difficulty) on a Non-Fiction Text (pre-1900) AND pre-1900 Non-Fiction Text.

Section B: Students will answer one extended writing question in which they will be asked to write PRESENTING A VIEWPOINT. Again 40% of this mark will be awarded for “technical accuracy”.

GCSE English Literature:

Paper 1 = 40% of the overall GCSE – 64 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Students will answer a question on **Macbeth** by William Shakespeare. One part of the question will be from an extract and the other on the play as a whole.

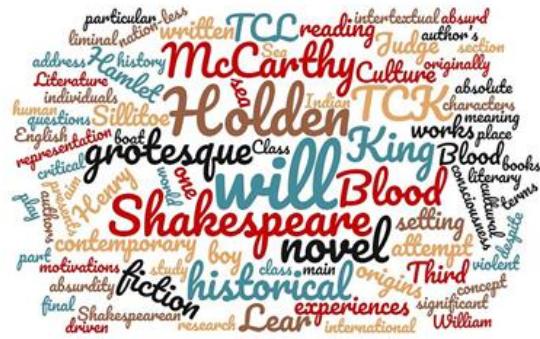
Section B: Students will answer a question on **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens. One part of the question will be from an extract and the other on the play as a whole.

Paper 2 = 60% of the overall GCSE – 96 marks – 2 hours 15 minutes

Section A: Students will answer one essay question on **An Inspector Calls** by J.B. Priestley

Section B Students will answer a comparative question on one named poem (printed on paper) and one other poem of their choice taken from the **Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology** (will not be printed).

Section C: Students will answer one question on an Unseen Poem and then one question comparing this poem to a second unseen poem.



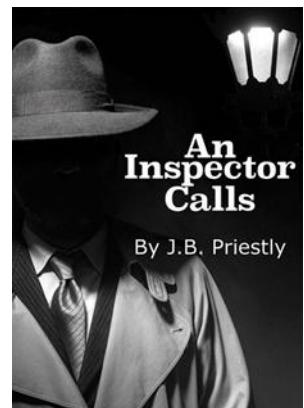
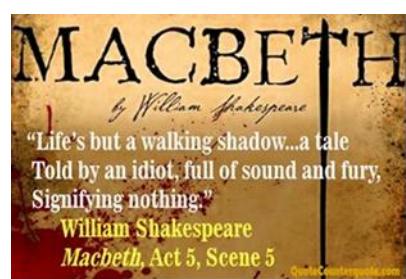
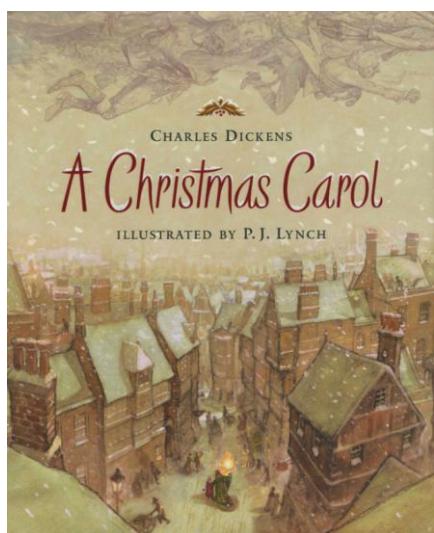
What Will You Learn?

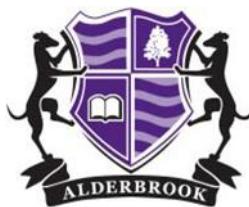
English Language and English Literature will provide you with a wide range of experiences to improve your communication skills and your ability to read for meaning. Through the active study and analysis of fiction and non-fiction texts, you will learn how to decode messages from the writer and understand how language influences us as readers. You will study a variety of texts which include a modern play or novel, a wealth of literature from different times and cultures and a range of poems.

The GCSE specifications have changed quite dramatically in English over the last couple of years. Since September 2015, we have followed the new AQA course for both Language and Literature. Both English qualifications are comprised of 100% Examination assessment.

The Value of English Language and English Literature (Career Pathways)

A new grade 5 (old grade B/C) in English is often the minimum requirement for many employers and college courses.





FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

GCSE*



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

COMPONENT 1: Principles of food preparation and nutrition

Written examination (1 hour 45 minutes) 50% of qualification

COMPONENT 2: Food preparation and nutrition in action

Non-examination assessment (NEA) 50% of qualification

NEA 1: Investigative task 10 hours (AQA recommendation as optimal time needed)

Evidence: No more than 1,500 to 2,000 words (plus any charts, graphs and photographs).

NEA 2: Practical task 20 hours (AQA recommendation as optimal time needed)

Evidence: Concise portfolio to include all charts, graphs and photographs and a 3-hour practical examination.

Three options will be released annually by AQA for each assessment to ensure learners are able to complete assessments based on their preference or what is most suitable to their needs and that of the centre. Teachers will select the most appropriate question.

What Will You Learn?

- Learn in detail about nutrients and their functions **through practical activities and experimental work**
- Learn about healthy eating and related health issues
- Learn about the functions of the ingredients in a food product so that you can **modify recipes and create new food products**
- Learn how a new food product is **designed**, manufactured and packaged
- Learn about the environmental issues related to food and about why people choose certain foods.

Who Is This Course For?

- You enjoy being creative
- You enjoy using practical skills and learn by doing
- You want to make a wide range of food products
- You want to learn more about diet and health
- You want to learn where food is grown and what affects people's food choices

- You want to learn about the science behind food

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

A-Level - Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition

Degree – Food Technology, Food and Nutrition, Food Marketing Management, Food Safety and Quality Management and Dietetics

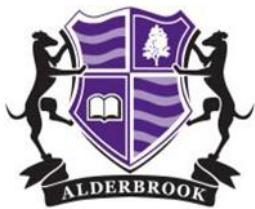


Apprenticeships – Food Manufacturing, Hospitality and Catering

Possible Careers – Catering, Chef, Product Development, Food Production, Marketing, Nursing, Teaching, Social Work, Dietician, Paediatrician, Environmental Health Officer and Social Media



**If you choose this course, you will be asked to make a £10 donation towards the cost of keeping up-to-date equipment and machinery available to all students. This also covers use of the AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition online Book and the Ridgewell Nutrition Programme.*



FRENCH GCSE



New GCSE French Qualification

Our new GCSE French/Spanish Qualification is focused on the important ways that languages foster communication and broaden perspectives, introducing new cultures and developing students into global citizens

Examination Board:

We have chosen the Pearson Edexcel exam board because of their student-centred, inclusive and compassionate approach to assessment design.

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts which are relevant to their current and future needs.

What Will the Students Study?

Students will study six themes in total:

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



How will the students be examined?

The qualification consists of three externally-examined papers assessing listening, reading and writing and one speaking assessment set by Pearson and conducted by a teacher.

All four language skills are assessed separately and given equal weighting in the overall GCSE grade.

The examination remains tiered. Teachers will decide whether the student sits the Foundation or Higher Tier in Year 11.

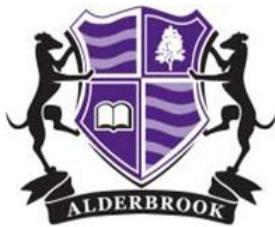
The vocabulary list comprises 1200 words to be used at both Foundation and Higher Tier and an additional 500 words to be used at Higher Tier only.

Why Study a Language and Where can it take you?

The course prepares students for further study at A-Level. In addition, the highly transferable language learning skills can be applied in any job. There is a large number of careers and further education courses where it would be highly desirable to have a language qualification including:

- business services
- journalism
- broadcasting
- charity work
- engineering
- media
- museums and libraries
- public administration
- teaching
- tourism
- transport and logistics

你好 HALLO 안녕
CIAO HOLA নমস্তে
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BONJOUR مرحباً
こんにちは プリベト
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GEOGRAPHY

GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Geographical Skills (including pre-release resources) (30% of GCSE)

What Will You Learn?

Geography is both current and relevant. It is a subject that helps us to make sense of the world around us. Many of the world's current major issues, such as climate change and how we are going to manage it, Urban environments and how to tackle them, all have a significant geographical element to them, and we need the geographers of the future to help us understand and solve them.

Geography is a stepping-stone to the skills and understanding that will help you succeed in a whole variety of careers. It will also provide you with an insight into a wide variety of important and topical issues that affect us, our local area and our planet, and give you the opportunity to see our world in a different way

The course is structured as follows:

Living with the Physical Environment

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK

Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

Geographical Skills

- Issue Evaluation

Fieldwork

- Physical Geographical Enquiry (We visit Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire and investigate the river there by getting into it)
- Human Geographical Enquiry (We visit Birmingham city centre to investigate if the changes there are sustainable into the future)

Who Is This Course For?

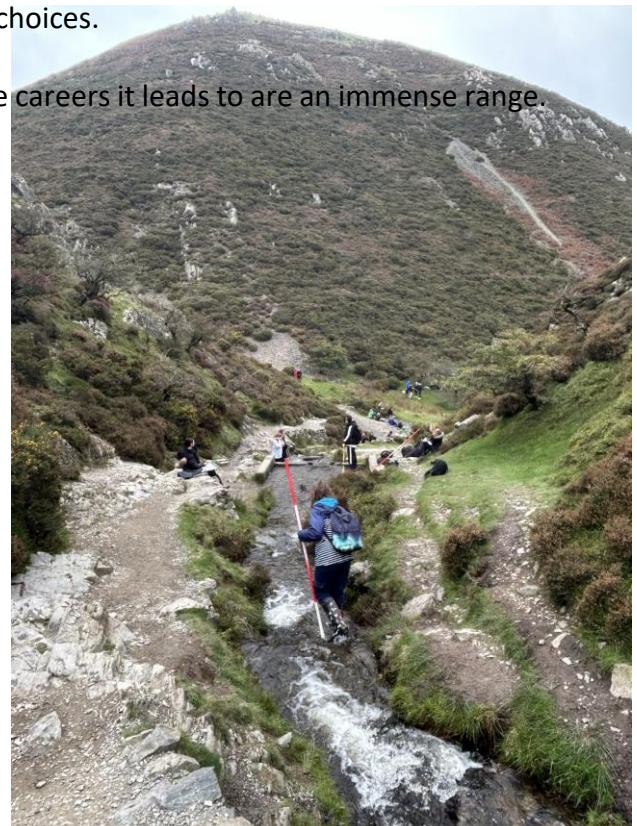
- Students who have enjoyed elements of geography so far in KS3
- Students who enjoy learning about both local and global issues
- Students who wish to develop the following skills:
 1. Problem solving
 2. Communication and report writing
 3. Team working and decision making
 4. Independent learning
 5. Research and presentation
 6. Debating topical issues
 7. Problem solving and independent thinking
 8. Statistical and numerical skills
 9. Map reading and interpretation

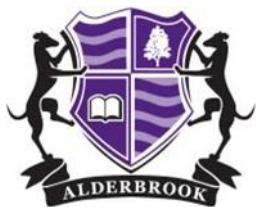
What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Geography is the most employable discipline as it allows you to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge and it is highly regarded by employers and educational establishments. It is also an excellent choice at this stage of your education as it ties together elements of many other subjects (including science, maths, history and English) which will help keep your options open for any future educational or career choices.

GEOGRAPHY IS AN OPEN SUBJECT which means the careers it leads to are an immense range. Here's some examples but the list is endless:

- Urban planner
- Environmental or coastal engineer
- Volcanologist and seismologist
- Conservation officer
- National Park officer/ranger
- Architect
- Environmental health
- Teacher
- Civil engineer
- Estate agent
- Census data analyst
- Travel Agent
- Meteorologist / weather forecaster
- The list is endless





HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Level 2 Certificate

Cambridge Nationals



Examination Board:

OCR (J835)

Assessment:

Examination 40%

Coursework 60%

What Will You Be Studying?

For this qualification, students must achieve three units: one externally assessed and two non-Examined Assessment (NEA) units.

Mandatory Units

Unit R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings – (Exam)

Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events – (Coursework)

Optional Units

Unit R034: Creative and therapeutic activities (coursework)

Unit R035: Health promotion campaigns (coursework)

Who Is This Course For?

Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social Care are targeted at 14–16-year-olds in a school environment. This course will help develop students to be independent and effective learners. Learners are also encouraged to understand the physical, intellectual, emotional and social well-being of people who use services. Learners will also cover a range of units, which help broaden their knowledge when working people of all ages.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FINISH? (Career Pathway)

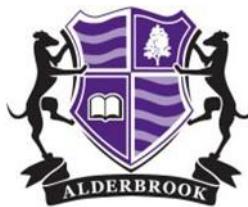
Students can either progress on to an A-level programme or continue onto the Cambridge Technical. Learners can embark on careers within the NHS such as the following:

1. Paramedic
2. Nursing/ Midwifery/Mental Health nursing
3. Medicine
4. Dentistry
5. Occupational therapy
6. Speech therapy
7. Art therapy
8. Domestic violence worker

Outside the NHS this qualification can lead to:

1. Social work
2. Primary school teacher
3. Nursery nurse/ room leader





HISTORY

GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

What Will You Learn?

Your GCSE will include the study of the following topics:

Britain Health and the People (examined in Y11)

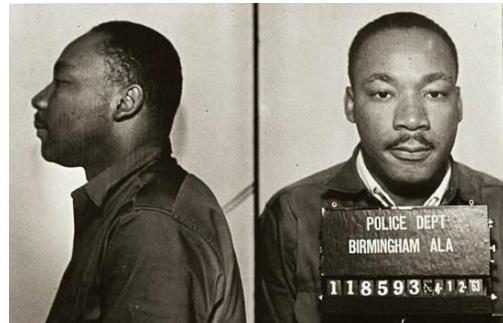
From the superstitions of Medieval England to the modern wonders of medicine. How has medicine changed, and what factors and individuals made this possible? It will make you glad you were not a patient 100 years ago or before. You do not need to be a scientist to enjoy this course!



America 1920 – 1973 (examined in Y11)

Students explore the dramatic change in 20th century America. Key focus questions include:

- Why did the USA's economy boom in the 1920s?
- What was the impact of the Great Depression?
- How did black people and women challenge inequality?



Conflict and Tension (examined in Y11)



This depth study allows students to understand the causes of conflict in the 20th Century as well as the impact this has on nations. Particular focus is on foreign policy between World War One and Two.

Elizabethan England (examined in Y11)

This topic allows students to gain an understanding of the major events of the late 16th Century. This includes key moments such as The Spanish Armada, the execution of Mary Queen of Scots and Catholic plots.

British history will form a minimum of 40% of the assessed content over the full course.



Who Is This Course For?

Students who choose History are often inquisitive people. They like asking questions and want to understand why events happened, what effects people or events had and why our world looks the way it does today.

Students also enjoy lively debates and are able to offer opinions on the significance of events or people.

Students who choose History also often enjoy literacy and like the challenge of putting together well-balanced arguments in extended pieces of writing.

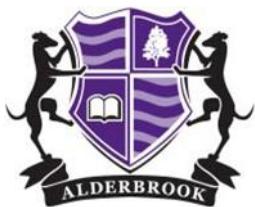
What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

History is a well-regarded subject by colleges, universities and employers. It is acknowledged as a challenging GCSE and as such, is one of the subjects that the top universities in the UK recommend student's study.

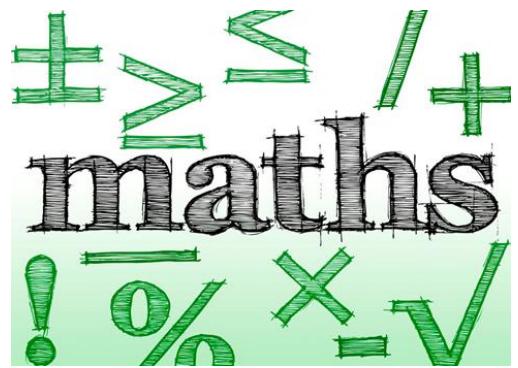
Apart from being very interesting, History is also very useful. Employers who see you have a GCSE in History know certain things about you. They will know that you have taken on certain key skills that enable you to:

- Gather, read and understand different kinds of information
- Produce balanced arguments; weigh up the pros and cons of situations
- Communicate clearly and have learned how to express yourself verbally on paper
- Understand how people tick, and what motivates them, what they think and feel

Apart from being very interesting, History is also very useful. Employers who see you have a GCSE in History know certain things about you.



MATHEMATICS GCSE



Examination Board

Edexcel (Higher)
OCR (Foundation)

Assessment

100% Examination

What Will You Learn?

You will build on what you already know and can do. The course follows the specification of the new 9-1 Maths GCSE. It emphasises sound understanding of concepts, fluency in procedural skill, competency to apply mathematical skills in a range of contexts and confidence in mathematical problem solving.

The Assessment objectives are as follows:

Apply standard techniques (40% – 50%)

Reasoning, interpreting and communicating mathematically (25% – 30%)

Solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts. (25% – 30%)

The Course You Will Follow

For Higher Tier candidates, you will follow the Edexcel linear GCSE course. For Foundation Tier candidates, you will follow the OCR Foundation linear specification.

Exams will be taken in the Summer of Year 11.

Paper 1-Non-Calculator	33.3%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 2-Calculator	33.3%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes
Paper 3-Calculator	33.3%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes

NB: The weightings and timings for Foundation Tier are the same as above, except the SECOND paper is non-calculator.

Students on track for a grade 9 (effectively an “A* with distinction”) by January of Year 11 usually will be presented with the opportunity to take the AQA Level 2 certificate in Further Mathematics in June.

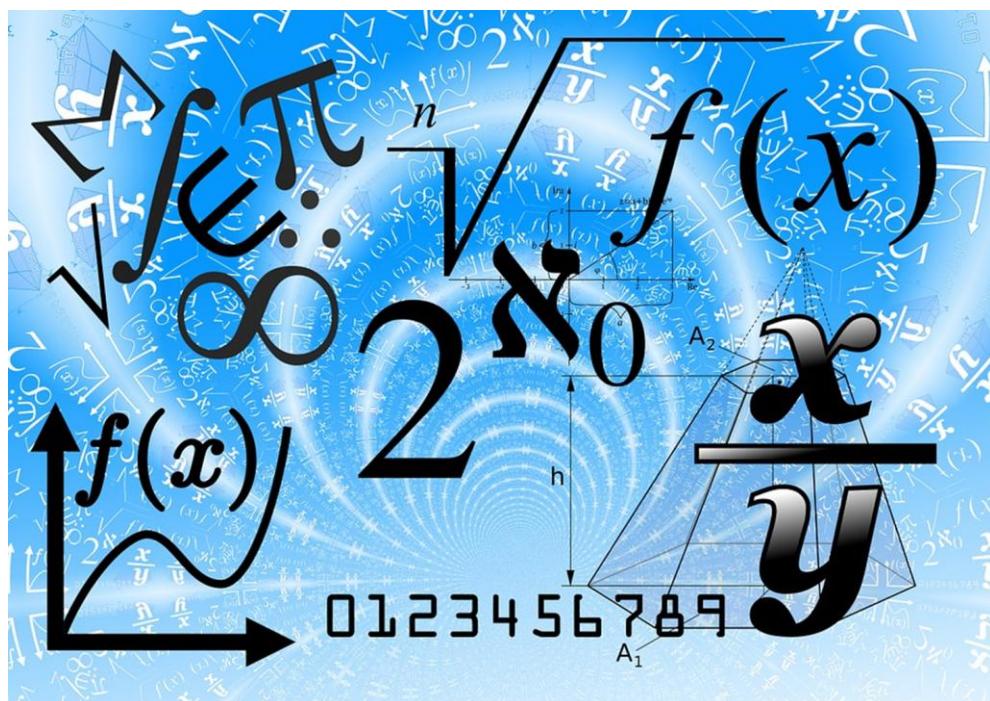
Non-Calculator Paper	40%	Written Exam	1 hour 30 minutes
Calculator Paper	60%	Written Exam	2 hours

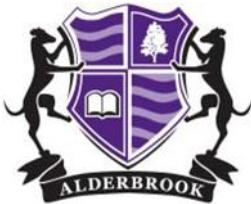
The Assessment objectives are as follows:

- Recall and use knowledge of the prescribed content (45% – 55%)
- Select and apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts (25% – 35%)
- Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them (15% – 25%)

The Value of Mathematics **(Career Pathways)**

Grade 5 (an old grade C/B) is considered a “Good Pass” in Maths and may be the minimum requirement for many employers and college courses. Please check individual colleges entry requirements





MEDIA STUDIES GCSE



Examination Board:

EDUQAS

Assessment:

Component 1 Exploring the Media

Written exam: 1.5 hours (40%)

Component 2 Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written exam: 1.5 hours (30%)

Component 3 Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment (30%)

A range of briefs in four media forms will be set annually.

What Will You Learn?

Within Media Studies, students will learn how to analyse a variety of media platforms and texts in terms of their historical, social and industrial contexts. Key aspects include recall, selection and communication of knowledge and understanding of the visual, written and technical codes used to construct media products; the contexts in which the media is produced and consumed; the demonstration of research, planning and presentational skills.

The Course You Will Follow

At Key Stage 4, students are taught the EDUQAS Media Studies GCSE. The WJEC EDUQAS Specification is designed to introduce learners to the key areas of the theoretical framework - media language, representation, media industries and audiences. This is taught in relation to diverse examples from a wide range of media forms: advertising and marketing, film, magazines, music video, newspapers, online media, radio, television and video games.

Set texts for GCSE Media Specification:

Advertising and Marketing: Quality Street and NHS111

Film Posters: The Man with the Golden Gun and No Time to Die

Newspapers: The Guardian and The Sun

Magazines: GQ and Vogue

Crime Drama: Trigger Point and The Sweeney

Music Videos: Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber and TLC

Video Games: Fortnite

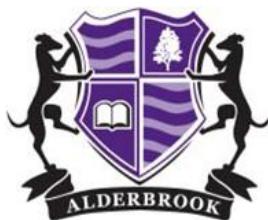
Radio: Desert Island Discs



What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

Media studies will equip you with skills that will render you suitable for a wide range of jobs, e.g. in journalism, advertising, social media management, PR consultancy, TV and film production, presenting or web design.





MUSIC GCSE



Examination Board

OCR

Assessment

Exam 40%- Exam paper in Listening and Appraising Music.

Non-exam assessment

30% Composition (1 own composition and 1 composition to a set brief)
and

30% Performance (1 solo performance and 1 ensemble performance).

What Will You Learn?

Learners are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding with different styles of music within the prescribed Areas of Study which are-

- **Concerto's Through Time-** Students will look at music from the different periods of music and learn this through a focus on Concerto's
- **Rhythms of the World-** Students will study music from around the world such as Samba Music, Mediterranean Music, African drumming and Punjabi Bhangra.
- **Film Music-** Students will look at music within film from throughout the years such as Avatar, James Bond, Pirates of the Caribbean, Star Wars and many more. Students will also look at films composers and consider how music is written to reflect certain moods within films. Students will also study music that has been composed for a soundtrack for video games.
- **Conventions of Pop-** Students will study music from Rock 'n' Roll artists such as The Beatles, Elvis Presley and Beach Boys right through to looking at Rock Anthems from Bon Jovi, Queen, Guns and Roses, Pop Ballads from Elton John and Bob Dylan to Solo Artists such as Adele and Kylie Minogue.



This course will enable learners to explore performance and composition with a focus on their instrument as well as focus on enhancing their overall musicianship. Through studying various genres, styles and eras contained in the Areas of Study, students will explore musical context and musical language.

Who Is This Course For? (This will suit you if...)

GCSE Music is designed and catered for students who are keen to develop their musical skills and knowledge as a performer and composer. Within GCSE Music, your performance skills may be supported through instrumental lessons, this is something that can be arranged within school with support of the Solihull Music Service. *

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

On completion of this course, you will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and understanding to progress onto an A-Level Music course or Level 3 equivalent.

Having music on your subjects list when you leave school will tell your employer/college many things about you. It will show you have developed the following skills.

- Teamwork
- Dedication
- Perseverance
- Communication
- Leadership
- Confidence
- Creativity
- Self-discipline



Students on the music course will also have the opportunity to attend and potentially perform at the many trips that are run as a Music Department.

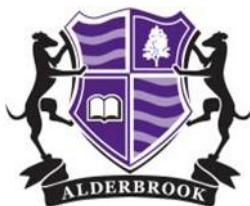
In the past students have performed at the following venues

- The Cavern Club in Liverpool
- Abbey Road in London
- Paris Bandstands (extra-curricular and KS4 Music students travelled to Paris for 4 days in May 2023)
- Belgium February 2025

We have also run trips abroad in the past to London and ensemble trips to Royal Albert Hall, Wembley Arena, Symphony Hall in Birmingham.



*Instrumental lessons maybe school funded for Pupil Premium students. Please see Miss Rafferty for more details.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

Examination Board

AQA

Assessment

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks) – Each paper has a combination of multiple choice, short answer and two long answer questions.

30% of GCSE

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (78 marks)

30% of GCSE

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

Practical performance in 3 different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third either in a team or in an individual activity. (75 marks)

30% of GCSE



Analysis and Evaluation

A written piece of coursework based on strengths and weaknesses of a practical performance in one of the chosen activity areas. Highlighting how the performance could be improved. (25marks)

10% of GCSE

What Will You Learn?

Subject content

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



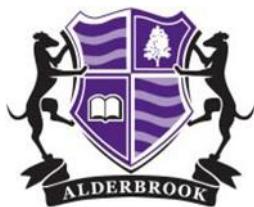
Who Is This Course For?

This course is suitable for students aiming to develop mastery in a number of different physical activities, and so it is essential that students are already competing regularly and competitively in a number of activities prior to starting the course. It is also essential that students have a firm interest in the physiological and psychological factors that impact, sport as well as, the socio-cultural influences that affect people's involvement in physical activity.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathways)

This course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for students to progress to academic qualifications, such as GCE in Physical Education, Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, and employment within the sports and active leisure industry, such as junior roles working in the health and fitness industry, for example, physiotherapy or sports nutrition.





PSHE

Personal Social, Health and Economic Education



"Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way." Damian Hinds

Whilst we believe that aspects of PSHE are an integral part of school life, the explicit teaching of this curriculum aims to provide students with the information and understanding they need to be prepared for their teenage years and for their lives beyond school. At the heart of this curriculum are the school values: Ambition, Bravery and Kindness – which have been selected to provide the core principle and foundation for each area of PSHE:

Living in the Wider World – Ambition

Health and Well-Being – Bravery

Relationships - Kindness



These values and PSHE curriculum aim to support students to develop the knowledge and awareness to be safe, happy and engaged within society. Integral to this is a developing understanding of positive relationships and the celebration of differences both in school and the wider world. Students will understand where to go for support on key issues to keep themselves safe and well.

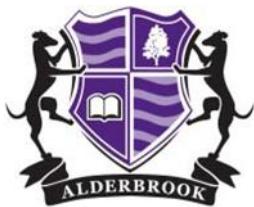
PSHE will be delivered to all students via fortnightly lessons and three Life Ready Days. These sessions will complement the assembly and tutor-time programme.

*Stay Safe
and
Healthy*

Overview of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

	10	11
<u>Autumn Term 1</u>	ABK Learner Anxiety & sleep Personal hygiene Positive relationships	ABK Learner Mental health conditions Coping strategies Healthy relationships
<u>Autumn Term 2</u>	Change & delay Teenage pregnancy Forced marriage	Consent Contraception Victim blaming
<u>Spring Term 1</u>	Targets & goals Scams	Personal branding Post 18 Job opportunities Self-examination
<u>Spring Term 2</u>	NHS Decision making Body image	Fertility Pregnancy & miscarriage
<u>Summer Term 1</u>	Toxic relationships Domestic abuse Parenting skills	County Lines Resilience Revision Wellbeing at exam time
<u>Summer Term 2</u>	Budgeting Gambling Post 16 Post 18	





RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS) GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

BELIEF



Assessment:

One hour and 45 minutes written paper: Beliefs & Practices: Christianity and Islam. (50%)
One hour and 45 minutes written paper: Thematic Studies. (50%)

What will you learn?

Students are required to study two major world religions. The focus of study for each religion is on '**Beliefs and teachings**' and '**Practices**'. The two religions we will study are Christianity and Islam.

Thematic Studies covers:

Theme one: **relationships and families**; religious teachings about the nature and purpose of families in the 21st century, sex, marriage, cohabitation and divorce. Issues related to the nature and purpose of families; roles of men and women; equality; gender prejudice and discrimination.

Theme two: **religion and life**; the origins of the universe, the value of the world, the use and abuse of the environment, pollution, the use and abuse of animals, the origins of human life, abortion, euthanasia, death and the afterlife.

Theme three: **religion, peace and conflict**; violence, war, pacifism, terrorism, just war theory, holy war; the role of religion and belief in 21st century conflict and peace making; the concepts of justice, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Theme four: **religion, human rights and social justice**; social justice and human rights, prejudice and discrimination, religious freedom, prejudice and discrimination; disability and race, Christian and Muslim teachings about wealth, poverty and its causes, exploitation of the poor and giving money to the poor.

Students who study Religious Education GCSE will learn to:

1. Develop knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying.

2. Develop the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject.
3. Engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life.
4. Reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two religions.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key sources of wisdom and authority including scripture and/or sacred texts, where appropriate, which support contemporary religious faith.
7. Understand the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies.
8. Understand significant common and divergent views within religions and beliefs.
9. Apply knowledge and understanding in order to analyse questions related to religious beliefs and values.
10. Construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious beliefs and values.



Who Is This Course For?

This course will appeal to:

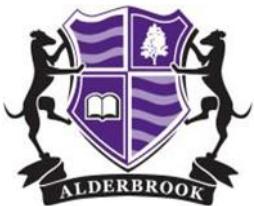
1. Anyone who has enjoyed studying Religious Studies in years 7, 8 and 9.
2. Anyone who is interested in exploring the BIG questions about life.
3. Anyone who likes to think deeply and engage in discussion about their own views and the views of others.
4. Anyone who is interested in understanding the multi-cultural society in which we live.



What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

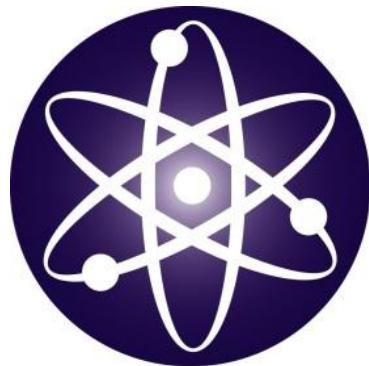
The Religious Studies GCSE helps students develop many skills. These include; understanding, empathy, evaluation, analysis, reflection, expression, interpretation and investigation.

In terms of vocational pathways, the course is seen as a good introduction to issues which affect all human beings and human thought processes. Past students have gone on to Oxbridge, the Russell Group and have gone on to such careers as doctors, dentists, solicitors, barristers, teachers and even rock musicians. Careers which have specifically identified religious education as being a desirable subject, and into which past students have progressed, include: the police, the armed forces, the civil service, banking, social services, local government and retail management.



SCIENCE

GCSE



Examination Board:

AQA

Assessment:

100% Examination

What Will You Learn?

In your Key Stage 4 Science course, you will build on the knowledge and skills you have developed in Key Stage 3. The material you study in Key Stage 4 allows you to explore how Science is important in your everyday life.

Key scientific ideas from Biology, Chemistry and Physics run through the course and lead you to develop a deep understanding of science, and an ability to apply and communicate this effectively. During your lessons, you will use your knowledge and understanding to learn about and explain every day and technological applications of science. You will have opportunities to evaluate the personal, social, economic and environmental implications of scientific developments in the real world, to think critically about the many Science reports we see in the media, and make decisions based on the evaluation of evidence and arguments. The GCSE courses encourage you to develop your knowledge and understanding through practical work and you will also practise talking, reading and writing about science, as well as representing scientific concepts both mathematically and visually through scientific modelling.

Science topics studied at GCSE include:

- **Biology:** cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology
- **Chemistry:** atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere
- **Physics:** energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism



$$E = mc^2$$

Diagram illustrating the components of the equation:

- Energy** (yellow arrow)
- equals** (green arrow)
- mass** (blue arrow)
- squared** (blue arrow)
- speed of light (constant)** (red arrow)

The Course You Will Follow

There are currently two routes towards GCSE Science qualifications:

- Combined Science GCSE leading to 2 GCSEs covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics equally

Or

- Triple Science GCSE leading to 3 GCSEs – in Biology, Chemistry and Physics -

Students that will be picked for this course will be carefully chosen by the teachers based on attainment in Year 9 and excellent attitude to learning

The assessment objectives for GCSE Sciences indicate how the exams will measure students' achievements in science:

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, scientific techniques and procedures. (40% of marks)

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, scientific enquiry, techniques and procedures. (40% of marks)

AO3: Analyse information and ideas to interpret and evaluate, make judgments and draw conclusions and develop and improve experimental procedures. (20% of marks)

Success in Science examinations require students to be able to communicate their understanding effectively using scientific terminology accurately. The new GCSE courses also have an increased Maths content, with students required to apply and use scientific equations and analyse numerical data. This means that strong English and Maths skills will benefit students' progress in science.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathways)

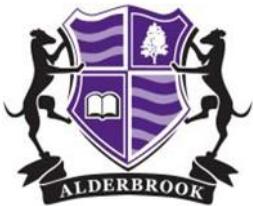
Both GCSE Science routes prepare students for a range of post-16 Science courses, including Science A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. The broad and balanced GCSE content provides the knowledge and skills required by real scientists in their work.

Studying Science beyond GCSE gives you access to a wide variety of career opportunities, both in science industries and in scientific research in areas including Medicine, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Chemical Engineering, Forensics, Environmental Science, Food and Textiles Sciences, Genetics, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Engineering, Biomedicine, Astronomy, Electronics, Environmental Health, Meteorology, Nursing and Education.

Science graduates are also extremely attractive to employers in non-science fields because of their high levels of analytical skill, excellent problem solving and decision-making.

If you do not intend studying Science beyond GCSE, you will still find that college entry requirements for most A-Level courses include a good qualification in a Combined Science. Other non-science college and training courses usually expect you to have a science qualification along with English and Maths.

So, whatever your career plans – or if you are still undecided where your future lies – your Key Stage 4 Science qualifications are important in securing your next steps after GCSE.



SPANISH GCSE



New GCSE Spanish Qualification

SPANISH

Our new GCSE French/Spanish Qualification is focused on the important ways that languages foster communication and broaden perspectives, introducing new cultures and developing students into global citizens.

Examination Board:

We have chosen the Pearson Edexcel exam board because of their student-centred, inclusive and compassionate approach to assessment design.

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts which are relevant to their current and future needs.

What Will the Students Study?

Students will study six themes in total:

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



How will the students be examined?

The qualification consists of three externally-examined papers assessing listening, reading and writing and one speaking assessment set by Pearson and conducted by a teacher.

All four language skills are assessed separately and given equal weighting in the overall GCSE grade.

The examination remains tiered. Teachers will decide whether the student sits the Foundation or Higher Tier in Year 11.

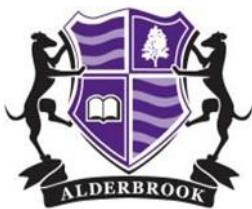
The vocabulary list comprises 1200 words to be used at both Foundation and Higher Tier and an additional 500 words to be used at Higher Tier only.

Why Study a Language and Where can it take you?

The course prepares students for further study at A-Level. In addition, the highly transferable language learning skills can be applied in any job. There is a large number of careers and further education courses where it would be highly desirable to have a language qualification including:

- business services
- journalism
- broadcasting
- charity work
- engineering
- media
- museums and libraries
- public administration
- teaching
- tourism
- transport and logistics





SPORT SCIENCE

Level 1/2 Certificate

Cambridge Nationals



Examination Board:

OCR

Assessment:

Cambridge Nationals in Sport is targeted at 13–16-year-olds in a school environment. It is available as an Award(L1) and a Certificate(L2), with the Certificate being the same size as a GCSE. They use both internal (teacher assessed) and external (exam board assessed) assessments.

What Will You Learn?

The course unit are:

1. Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions – written paper 1 hour 15 minutes, externally assessed (40%)
2. Applying principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance – internally assessed and OCR moderated (40%)
3. Nutrition and sports performance – internally assessed and OCR moderated (20%)

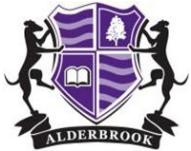
Who is This Course For?

This course is for students who have strong interest in PE and might be considering a career in the sports and active leisure sector, rather than just to participate in sport as recreation. It will give students the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of, and develop skills in, the sport sector, e.g. the health and fitness industry or sports leadership.

What Happens When You Finish? (Career Pathway)

This course provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for students to progress to: other level 2 vocational qualifications, level 3 vocational qualifications, such as Cambridge Technical of BTEC Nationals, academic qualifications, such as A-Level in Physical Education and employment within the sports and active leisure industry such as junior roles working in the health and fitness industry.





USEFUL WEBSITES



<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

This is the National Careers Service website. It has information on planning for your career and includes lots of useful information on different jobs - have a look at the 'Job Profiles'.

<http://icould.com/>

This careers website includes a whole section on how GCSE choices can affect your future. See the section on 'Focus on Choices at 14'.

<http://careersbox.co.uk>

Careersbox is a free online library of careers related film, news and information.

<https://www.startprofile.com/Login.aspx>

A careers website which can help you find out about a range of different careers. This section on "Choosing Your Career" is a good starting point. We are registered as a school and our code is 84588.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>

The government apprenticeship website. Here you will be able to look at apprenticeships available after leaving school and the qualifications/subjects that they require.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

An excellent resource that link subjects to careers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p>

A different section of the bitesize website that helps with choosing GCSE options.

