



KS4

Options

INFORMATION



A message from the Headteacher

Dear Year 9 Student

This booklet is designed to help you and your family to make the right decision about your option choices as you move from Year 9 (KS3) into Year 10 (KS4).

A lot of people will help you to make the right subject choices, including your subject teachers, your Form Tutor, your Pupil Progress Leader and, of course, your family.

It is part of a programme of help which includes assemblies and an Options Evening for parents and students to attend.

There are a variety of qualifications available at KS4 – some subjects you will know and some which will be new to you. Inside this booklet, you will find information about these qualifications and about the subjects on offer. Read it carefully and discuss your ideas with as many people as possible.

We need your preference sheet returning to your Form Tutor by Thursday 16th May 2024. When we have received this we will organise a personalised interview with myself, Mr Thomas, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Swain, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Stephens, Ms Jones or Mr Moore to discuss your option choices to ensure you are completely happy.

Mrs S. Graham Headteacher

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Section 1 - Decisions

What is a GCSE?

GCSEs are available in a large number of subjects.

GCSEs are part of a single system of examinations; grades are awarded using a scale of 1 to 9.

In Maths, Science and Spanish, pupils are entered for GCSE at Foundation or Higher level, depending upon ability. Decisions about which level is appropriate are made during the course of Year 10 and 11.

What is a BTEC / Level 2?

These courses provide young people with the opportunity to develop the necessary skills and confidence for the world of work.

The courses are certified by Edexcel, OCR and Eduqas and lead to a Level 2 qualification (equivalent to a GCSE.)

Level 2 qualifications are nationally recognised.

Success at Level 2 also enables progression through further study, right up to BTEC Higher National Level, the BTEC Foundation degree and beyond.

You will be encouraged to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed in vocational areas but BTEC does not provide training for a specific job.

Section 1 - Decisions

Who can help me?

- Your Form Tutor, subject teachers and PPL (Mr. Moore) will be able to help answer questions you may have.
- It is important to discuss this booklet with your parents.
- The names of teachers to contact for the different subjects are given at the end of each subject section.

How do we allocate the options?

All the information on the options form is collected together. We then check to see how many people want to follow the courses that are offered. If a very small number of people have chosen a course, it may not be possible to run it. Sometimes a course is oversubscribed – too many people want to do it and there are not enough places available. If this happens, we check students' other choices of subject and try to offer you these choices instead.

No changes are made without talking to you about it.

Can I change my mind?

Once we have started the process, it is difficult to accommodate a change of mind.

Courses will not be changed in years 10 or 11

Section 2 - Core Subjects

English GCSE
English Literature GCSE
Mathematics GCSE
Sciences GCSE
Core Religious Studies
P.S.H.E

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

English Language & English

Literature GCSE



Specification

EDUQAS English Language and AQA English Literature

Course Outline

As a core subject, English is taught to everybody. We aim to develop and foster a love for language and literature and prepare you for success in both examinations and life beyond school. Over the course of your English Literature study you will read world renowned novels, poems and plays that explore thought provoking ideas about the human condition.

Many of the texts you will study link to other key areas of the curriculum such as History, Media and Drama. We place a lot of emphasis on the basic skills of spelling, punctuation, grammar and good presentation. We want you to be as proud of your work as much as we are and we want you to become excellent literary scholars who read well, write well and speak well.

Assessment Details

Both Language and Literature courses are assessed through final written examinations. Pupils will be helped to prepare for these via mock examinations throughout the course as well as rigorous teaching of exam skills.

For English Language you will need to complete two written examinations:
Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing
Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

For English Literature you will need to complete two written examinations:
Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry.

Why English matters

English is central to communication and unlocking knowledge. The GCSE course aims to provide you with the skills required for further study at A level, higher education and working lives. It emphasises the need for both good written and spoken communication skills to ensure that you have the necessary functional skills for the world of employment.

Typical Activities

English Literature:

- Study Shakespeare's famous play of ambition and murder, 'Macbeth'.
- Study one of the greatest allegoric pieces of writing from the 19th Century, Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.
- Study J B Priestley's modern text 'Inspector Calls'.
- Read and explore the ideas within poems from across centuries and cultures, examining the central theme of Power & Conflict.

English Language:

- Study and discuss fiction and non-fiction texts, and produce creative and discursive written pieces.

Partake in spoken English activities as groups, pairs and individually, including presentations to the class.

Homework

Homework is set weekly to prepare for examinations and to consolidate knowledge and practise skills. Homework will be a variety of guided tasks, independent tasks or group work. Pupils will be expected to revise regularly as an additional homework using platforms such as Satchel One and GCSEPod.

How can parents help?

Both Language and Literature courses are assessed through final written examinations. As such, parents can expect to see their child completing practice pieces, together with a number of preparatory activities. Proof reading of such work by another adult is extremely useful. In addition, there are a number of textbooks and revision guides available for the EDUQAS course for English Language and the AQA course for English Literature. We stock a range of revision guides for your son to use. The GCSE English Bitesize website is also useful for such skills as writing and Literacy skills. At West Derby School, we promote 'Reading for Pleasure' and we would ask that you encourage your child to read as much as possible outside school, covering a variety of both fiction and non-fiction. Again, many popular and GCSE texts have been purchased by the school and can be accessed via Satchel One and downloaded. We also promote, 'Writing for Pleasure' and celebrate the successes of creative, inspiring and imaginative writing.



Teachers to contact for further information: Mrs Cosgrove, Mr Farnan-Stone.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Mathematics

GCSE



Specification

EDEXCEL GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics (1MA1)

Course Outline

A GCSE in Mathematics is valued not only by institutions of further education and Sixth Form Colleges, but by a wide variety of employers and providers of vocational training. A grasp of mathematical concepts and an ability to solve problems and think logically are vital to everyday life, as well as improving your employability. The Mathematics GCSE course consists of five basic strands:

- Number, e.g. fractions, decimals and percentages
- Algebra, e.g. forming and solving equations
- Statistics, e.g. data handling and probability
- Geometry and Measure, e.g. circles and angles
- Using and applying these skills to solve problems

There is now a greater emphasis on problem-solving skills, which will require a level of skill in each of these areas and will test your ability to apply these skills in a variety of situations.

Assessment Details

GCSE Maths is assessed by three written papers; paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator may be used for papers 2 and 3. Each exam will contribute to your overall grade. There are two tiers of entry, Foundation (grades 1 to 5) and higher tier (grades 4 to 9), and assessment is by written examination only.

Why Maths matters

Any business, no matter how small, will benefit from having employees with some level of mathematical training. Potential employees with GCSE or A Level Maths will be numerate, will possess the ability to think rationally and to process data clearly and accurately, and will be confident when it comes to dealing with any of the numerous situations which can arise and which require a mathematical solution—whether dealing with finances, stocktaking, or simply drawing up work rotas.

Careers which rely on mathematical ability include: finance and banking, engineering, insurance and risk, IT and computers, medicine and health, teaching and the education sector, defence and the military, space and astronomy.

Typical Activities

Work in lessons can be individual, paired, group work or whole-class discussion. You may be completing an exercise to practise a skill, or discussing a new concept to address misconceptions and alternative methods.

To do this, you will be taught how and when to use appropriate mathematical software and calculators. You will learn written methods and formulae required to solve problems and be given exam practice questions and shown how to work independently and revise for your exams.

Homework

Homework is set once a week and can be a written piece or set online using MathsWatch website. This site provides support and immediate feedback on the work you have done and keeps a record of your progress. Approaching mock examinations you may be given practice exam questions and a revision schedule for homework, to help your revision.

How can parents help?

Parents can follow the link on the school website to check Satchel One to see when homework is set. Encourage your son to log on to the MathsWatch websites to ensure that work has been completed.

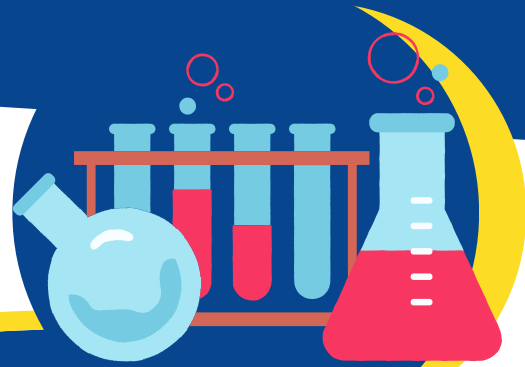


Teachers to contact for further information: Mr Handhill, Mr Donga, Mrs Gavin.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Combined Science & Separate

Science GCSE



Specification

AQA Trilogy and AQA Separate Sciences

Course Outline

The majority of students in Years 10 and Year 11 study GCSE Combined Science, a course which covers aspects of all three sciences and is equivalent to two full GCSEs. Some students can choose as an option to study GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics separately. These students would usually be those aiming to study a Science based subject at 6th form or university level.

The exam board used is AQA and students follow the “Trilogy” specification.

Assessment Details

For Combined Science you will need to complete six written examinations each of 1h 15m. There are two exams in each of the subject areas, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For Separate Sciences you will need to complete six written examinations each of 1h 45m. There are two exams in each of the subject areas, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Why Science matters

The GCSE Combined Science course provides you with the opportunity to gain two full GCSE grades, develop scientific literacy and can allow them to study Science subjects at Level 3 (such as an Applied Science L3 BTEC).

The GCSE Separate Science course aims to provide you with the skills required for further study of the three Sciences at A level. A Levels in Science are key qualifications to have for many science-related degree courses including Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Chemistry, Biology, Biochemical Sciences, Physics and Astrophysics.

Typical Activities

Students will regularly participate in practical work with the aim of passing their Practical Skills Verification section of the GCSE. Students are required to complete 21 experiments for their course, with extra experiments required for the Separate Science students

Throughout all units students will be encouraged to develop their skills in areas such as drawing graphs, data interpretation, use of the scientific method and the impact Science can have on human society.

Homework

Homework is set at least once every two weeks, and may be set up to one per week. All homework is set via Satchel One and usually takes the form of multiple choice quizzes to reinforce learning outside the classroom. Additionally, homework will be set to review notes and revision materials before assessemnt weeks. As students are studying for their GCSE examinations, homework will often be in the form of a past paper to be taken home and completed. All homework is available to view via Satchel One.

How can parents help?

Both Combined Science and Separate Science courses are assessed through final written examinations. As such, parents can expect to see their child completing practice pieces, together with a number of preparatory activities. Proof reading of such work by another adult is extremely useful. In addition, there are a number of textbooks and revision guides available for both courses and we stock a range of these for your son to use. The GCSE Science Bitesize website is also useful for revising key topics for topic tests.



Teachers to contact for further information: Mr Clark, Mrs Kitts.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

P.H.S.E.

CORE



Specification

PSHE Association Guidelines

Course Outline

The PSHE learning journey of West Derby School students begins in Year 7 and continues right up until the end of Year 13. Over the seven year programme, which is delivered every Thursday and Friday morning, students engage in lessons that are organised into three specific categories: Living in the Wider World, Relationships and Sex, and Health and Well-Being. Our PSHE curriculum is taught by form tutors and (subject teachers when it arises) in their specific subject. We also work with a number of outside agencies such as The Brook to deliver more sensitive topics such as sex education. Learning support assistants work closely with pupils with SEND to ensure that the needs of individual pupils with SEND are met when delivering PSHE content.

Assessment Details

As we have adopted a spiral curriculum approach to the planning and delivery of PSHE lessons over our students' secondary education, this means that they will return to the same topic and learn about it in more detail and depth as they mature. Therefore at the start of each unit of work students complete a mind map that demonstrates what they know already about the topic. They will then return to the mind map and add in details of what they have learned. Form teachers will monitor their students' progress and plan to address and reteach any gaps in learning or misconceptions.

Why P.S.H.E. matters

PSHE education isn't just another school subject. It's a chance to give every child and young person an equal opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to thrive now and in the future. This includes helping them to deal with critical issues they face every day such as friendships, emotional wellbeing and change and giving them a solid foundation for whatever challenging opportunities lie ahead, so they can face a world full of uncertainty with hope. From making informed decisions about alcohol to succeeding in their first job, PSHE education helps pupils prepare for all the opportunities, challenges, life decisions and responsibilities they'll face. This in turn achieves a 'virtuous circle', whereby pupils with better health and wellbeing can achieve better academically, and enjoy greater success.



Typical Activities

The teaching of PSHE will:

- Involve pupils in discussion, investigation and problem-solving activities
- Drama and role-play
- Include a variety of media to present issues
- Involve outside agencies
- Include individual, group and whole class teaching and activities
- Include an agreed set of ground rules for involvement and participation in discussion and debate
- Involve pupils in opportunities to reflect on their learning through evaluation.

Personal Growth Days

West Derby hosts three personal growth days every year for our students. During each of these days students engage with a wide and eclectic range of outside contributors delivering sessions on:

- First Aid
- Self-Esteem and Confidence
- Sexual Health and Relationships
- County Lines
- Tackling Racism and Hate Crime
- Financial Planning

Pupils will also have the opportunity to spend an hour at our Careers Carousel where they will meet and talk to over 35 different employers, apprenticeship advisors and further and higher education providers.

How can parents help?

Allowing your child to talk about PSHE topics at home can be a really good way for them to explore and contextualise some of the content. See the school website so you know what topics are coming up in your child's PSHE programme, and anticipate any awkward questions. Also, be honest if you can't answer a question, we can't be expected to know everything from first aid, to online safety but you can listen to your child and explore these areas further together. There is support for you to feel equipped about answering questions that your child might ask you following a PSHE lesson through Brook's free online learning platform, Brook Learn.

Teacher to contact for further information: Ms Jones

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Religious Studies

CORE



Specification

AQA GCSE Religious Studies

Course Outline

A study of two religions:

- Christianity – beliefs and practices
- Islam – beliefs and practices

A study of two themes:

- Theme A – Religion and life
- Theme B – Religion, Peace and Conflict

Typical Activities

There is no presumption made about faith or commitment and so the course is accessible to all pupils regardless of whether they hold any religious belief or not. Activities will enable pupils to:

- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.
- Explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, and engage with them intellectually and respond personally.
- Enhance personal, social and cultural development, to understand different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world.
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in light of their learning.

Homework

Homework supports the work undertaken in the classroom and will enhance understanding and ability in the subject, so must be completed to a high standard. At the beginning of each topic students will be provided with a list of key terms and will be expected to systematically learn both the term and its definition. This is necessary to allow students to develop the specialised vocabulary required to be successful in this subject.

Pupils will be encouraged to develop their research skills and use of I.C.T.

How can parents help?

Please take an active interest in the themes being studied in Religious Studies. If possible, take time to discuss any homework that has been set and help if necessary (it is particularly useful to support the learning of key terms by testing students at home. Pupils should be encouraged to use the internet to investigate topics.

Website addresses that will be relevant for the topics studied are:

www.reonline.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebiteize/rs/

Assessment Details

GCSE Religious Studies is awarded based on a final exam lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes which accounts for 100% of the mark awarded.

In line with the school assessment calendar, students will also sit extended, hour long assessments through the school year which will test their knowledge on all units studied.

Why Core Religious Studies matters

Religious Studies is highly regarded by prospective employers because it encourages pupils to reflect upon social and moral issues, encouraging social interaction and understanding with all members of society and helps students enhance their analytical and independent thinking skills. The range of university courses on offer to students who achieve well in Religious Studies is endless. Future careers include lawyer, social worker, academic researcher, journalist, civil servant, and, of course, teacher!



Teacher to contact for further information: Mr McLaren.

Section 3 - Option Subjects

Art, Craft and Design GCSE
Computer Science GCSE
Design and Technology GCSE
Engineering Level 2
Enterprise Level 2
Geography GCSE
Graphic Communication GCSE
History GCSE
Hospitality & Catering Level 2
Music Performance Level 2
Performing Arts Level 2
Photography GCSE
Spanish GCSE
Sports Science Level 2

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Art, Craft & Design

GCSE



Specification

AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design

Course Outline

GCSE Art, Craft and Design is a 2 year course. AQA Art, Craft and Design Coursework accounts for 60% of the GCSE grade awarded. Coursework is produced over the 2 year course.

The exam is taken in the April- May of Year 11 and accounts for 40% of the GCSE grade awarded. There is an initial preparation time followed by a timed examination.

Assessment Details

Unit 1 - portfolio of work will be assessed throughout the two years and pupils will receive informal and formal assessment reviews as well as regular tutorials and progress reviews.

Unit 2 - is an externally set task with unlimited preparation time, followed by 10 hours of sustained, focused study under exam conditions. Pupils respond to their chosen starting point.

Reasons for choosing this subject

Offering a diverse creative experience for learners, the course aims to encourage an understanding of Art and Design. Our goal is to familiarise students with a range of materials, techniques and experiences as well as to introduce students to the rich and varied aspects of the contextual history of art practice.

Typical Activities

You will:

- be introduced to a range of two and three dimensional art and design areas, such as; drawing, painting, printmaking, batik, ceramics and photo shop;
 - explore and learn about different art and design techniques and processes;
 - be shown how your ideas can be expressed through art and design;
 - discover how other artists and designers work and how they have made a career in art and design;
- create a portfolio of work and gain qualifications that will enable you to progress onto higher level courses or employment.

Homework

Homework will be a very important part of the course. Your commitment to working on your portfolio and sketchbook in your own time will provide you with opportunity to make your work interesting and very personal. All homework will contribute towards your final grade.

How can parents help?

- Monitoring homework and giving help and advice to students to develop and improve assignments.
- Encourage pupils to visit galleries, exhibitions and cultural events.
- Encourage students to attend extra- curricular support sessions available.

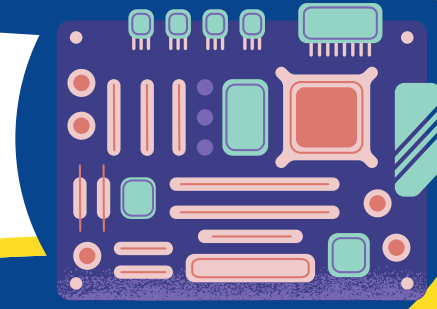


Teacher to contact for further information: Ms Lunt.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Computer Science

GCSE



Specification

OCR GCSE Computer Science

Course Outline

Two Areas:

J277/01: Computer systems

This component will assess:

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

This component will assess:

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Assessment Details

Assessment is divided into two exams:

Paper 1: Computer Systems

Written exam

50% of the qualification

Paper 2: Computational Thinking

Written exam

50% of the qualification

Typical Activities

Classes are a mixture of both theory and practical coding. Over the course, the pupils create a website for all of their lesson notes.

The main programming language used is Python, however, HTML and Java are also taught.

Homework

Homework will be given out at least once a week and may be in the form of revision, research or completion of online quizzes and tests.

How can parents help?

Ensure that homework tasks are completed by the deadline set.

Encourage pupils attend afternoon or after school coding sessions.

Reasons for choosing this subject

If you wish to carry on studying computing post-16 or a career in ICT/programming/computing/networking or electronics.

It will require a sound knowledge of Maths, logical thinking and problem solving.



Teachers to contact for further information: Mr Roberts, Mr Rymill, Mr Demspey.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Design Technology

GCSE



Specification

AQA GCSE Design & Technology

Course Outline

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness of and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

This GCSE allows students to study a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. Design technology helps students develop their ability to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. It also helps them to develop their knowledge of woods, metals, plastics and composite materials and the use of new technologies to manufacture products is also encouraged. Coursework is delivered through a variety of projects which are designed to develop the skills necessary for completing both the course and final examination. Two minor projects are taught in Year 10 and a single, major project in Year 11.

Assessment Details

Examination: 50%

Coursework: 50% (non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx.)

Controlled assessment tasks now form the basis of all coursework, with all work produced during lesson time done under the supervision of subject teachers.

NEA design and make task assessment objectives include:

- Assessment criteria:
- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

'Contextual challenges' are released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA. Students produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence. Work is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

Typical Activities

The GCSE Design Technology course will appeal to pupils who:

- Have an interest in how products are designed and how they work
- Enjoy using machinery and hand tools to work with materials
- Want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through both theory and practical work
- Like to work independently on their own designs
- Are able to organise themselves, manage their time effectively and keep to deadlines

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course. Some tasks are coursework-related and the others take the form of practice questions from past exam papers.

How can parents help?

Pupils who achieve a good grade at GCSE will have an excellent foundation for studying product design at A level. Further education, apprenticeships and career opportunities exist in a wide range of areas, including: electronic and mechanical engineering, product design, architecture, interior and graphic design, joinery and carpentry and CAD.

Reasons for choosing this subject

Ensure that homework tasks are completed by the deadline set. Encourage pupils to attend weekly coursework catch-up sessions.



Teacher to contact for further information: Mr Laidlow, Ms Carney.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Engineering

LEVEL 2



Specification

WJEC Level 2 Engineering

Course Outline

The UK is regarded as a world leader in engineering, which covers a wide range of exciting and rapidly developing areas such as renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, automotive, agri-food and bioscience. People with engineering skills are always in demand. Between 2010 and 2020, engineering companies are projected to have 2.74 million job openings.

Assessment Details

You will carry out mini-tasks as part of a larger project or projects throughout the course. Your teacher will mark these, which will give you guidance as to how you are getting on. Towards the end of the course, you will carry out a larger task to meet an engineering brief. All of the work that you do throughout the course and the mini-projects will prepare you for the final project, which is sent away to be marked.

Homework

Homework tasks are ongoing, as students need to seize the initiative and work at home independently on their unit work. This is to encourage commitment, intelligent responses and individual study. Enthusiasm for the subject is essential.

Typical Activities

This qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who would like to find out more about engineering by undertaking their own projects. On this course, you will:

- learn about the key engineering sectors – mechanics, electrical/electronic and engineering design and how they contribute to industry
- develop key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, planning, making, using CAD and disassembly
- develop key skills for employment in engineering sectors, such as problem solving, design, creativity, communication and collaboration.

How can parents help?

While all materials and equipment are provided, it would be beneficial if your son had the use of his own computer to complete coursework. However, this is not a necessity. Tasks are set on Satchel One so you need to log in on a regular basis to check on homework, progress, feedback and to encourage your son to amend work to gain a higher grade.

Reasons for choosing this subject

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of engineering skills. Because you will be acquiring knowledge and building useful skills which are not generally covered in GCSE courses, you will have a better idea of whether the engineering sector is for you and which part of it you might want to study further. After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A Levels, L3 qualifications or a mixture of both. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the engineering sector as an apprentice or a trainee.



Teacher to contact for further information: Mr Laidlow, Mr Lunt.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Enterprise & Marketing

LEVEL 2



Specification

OCR Cambridge Nationals in Enterprise and Marketing

Course Outline

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Carrying out market research
- Planning a new product and pitching it to a panel of experts
- Reviewing whether a business proposal is financially viable.

The aims and learning outcomes are:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Enterprise and Marketing including characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, market research, financial viability, the marketing mix and factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the business and enterprise sector.

Provides progression for students wishing to continue their studies to A-level

Reasons for choosing this subject

If you wish to carry on studying Business or ICT post 16, entering training or a job which involves ICT, this would be a preferred choice. This would develop your skills into careers such as game developer, computer analyst or network engineer. The opportunities are wide and varied.

Assessment Details

RO68- Design a Business Proposal (controlled assessment 30%)

This unit will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to design a product proposal to meet a business challenge scenario. Learners will be able to identify a customer profile for their own product design, develop market research tools and use these to complete market research for their product. Learners will use their research outcomes to generate product design ideas, assess their strengths and weaknesses and work collaboratively with peers to gain feedback to inform final design decisions. Learners will complete financial calculations to select a pricing strategy and determine whether their proposal is viable. On completion of this unit, learners will have gained some of the essential skills and knowledge required when considering starting a business, but also the transferable skills of self-assessment, providing and receiving feedback, research and evaluation. The skills and knowledge developed by completing this unit will also be transferable to further learning in related areas and will be required by learners when completing Unit R066 to market and pitch a business proposal.

Typical Activities

Collaborative working as well as individual tasks exploring the current business climate as well as range of current successful enterprises and entrepreneurs. This course will help you to develop your entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, which are key to the business and enterprise sector, sole trader skills and knowledge in areas such as e-marketing, creativity, pitching and cost modelling. On top of this you will develop a whole range of transferable skills to help in your other subjects and working life including verbal

Communication, presentation, research, problem solving, analytical skills, digital presentation planning and creative thinking.

How can parents help?

The department considers parents as a valuable resource in helping to monitor their children's progress by ensuring they have a good attendance record so that they do not fall behind in controlled assessments.

Homework

Homework is set on a weekly basis and recorded via Moodle. The homework set will relate to the topic being taught and may include;

- Written responses to questions, data or worksheets.
- Investigative research.
- Interactive quizzes.
- Projects including coursework.
- Revision of subject content in preparation for unit tests.

RO69- Market and pitch a business proposal (controlled assessment 30%)

This unit will provide learners with the skills and knowledge to create a brand identity and promotional plan for their product proposal, developed in Unit R065. They will be able to pitch their product proposal to an external audience after completing a practice pitch, and complete a review of both their pitching skills and product proposal, using their learning from this qualification, self-assessment and feedback generated.

By completing this unit, learners will know how to use a combination of branding and promotional methods that complement each other and appeal to a specific customer profile. They will gain the crucial skills of professionally pitching to an unknown audience. This will help to prepare them both for employment situations such as interviews and for starting up a business in the future, while also developing the transferable skill of presenting information to others in a clear and persuasive manner.



Teacher to contact for further information: Mr Keegan.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Geography

GCSE



Specification

AQA GCSE Geography

Course Outline

The course builds upon work you have already completed at Key Stage 3. This involves a straightforward structure with three components:

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment –

Topics: The challenge of natural hazards, The living world and Physical landscapes in the UK (Rivers and Coasts).

- Paper 2:

Topics: Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world and The challenge of resource management (Water).

- Paper 3:

Topics: Issue evaluation (pre released booklet on one of the paper 1 and 2 topics) and Fieldwork questions.

Assessment Details

The course is linear. This means you will be examined at the end of Year 11. You will take 3 exams at the end of your studies. The marks will be added together from each unit to make your final grade.

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment - The challenge of natural hazards, The living world and Physical landscapes in the UK, Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes - 35% of the qualification (88 marks)
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment - Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world and The challenge of resource management

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes - 35% of the qualification (88 marks)

- Paper 3: Geographical applications - Issue evaluation and Fieldwork

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes - 30% of the qualification (76 marks)

Typical Activities

There are so many ways of learning in Geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

Homework

Homework will be set in line with the departmental homework policy at least once per week. Activities will include researching topical issues, completing examination questions and revising for assessment tests.

How can parents help?

Parents can help by assuring pupils are completing their homework and that they attend lessons fully equipped. They can also purchase a good quality atlas. The department will provide, free of charge, revision guides and resources.

Reasons for choosing this subject

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. This GCSE course offers an extensive mix of topics. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

In studying Geography at GCSE, you will learn skills that are valued by employers. As a result, a wide selection of careers will be open to you, for example: Building surveyor, GIS specialist, Travel writer, Lawyer, Accountant, Logistics manager, Diplomat. The list is endless!



Teachers to contact for further information: Ms Woodward.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Graphic Communication

GCSE



Specification

AQA GCSE Art and Design - Graphic Communication

Course Outline

GCSE Graphic Communication is a practical course where you will learn how to plan, design and create a range of graphics & video to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief.

This is a 2-year course. Coursework accounts for 60% of the GCSE grade awarded. Coursework is produced over the 2-year course. The exam is taken in the April of Year 11 and accounts for 40% of the GCSE grade awarded. There is an initial preparation time followed by a timed examination.

You will learn a range of software skills & techniques which will enable you to create a range of graphic & video products which include:

- Advertising
- Branding
- Package design
- Typography

Lessons will develop technical understanding as well as an artistic understanding of the subject.

Studying the work of professional graphic designers will be an important part of the course. Much can be learnt from their successful work.

Assessment Details

Unit 1 - portfolio of work will be assessed throughout the two years and pupils will receive informal and formal assessment reviews as well as regular tutorials and progress reviews.

Unit 2 - is an externally set task with unlimited preparation time, followed by 10 hours of sustained, focused study under exam conditions. Pupils respond to their chosen starting point.

Typical Activities

You will:

- be introduced to a range graphic design areas, such as; Advertising, Branding, Package design and Typography
- explore and learn about different graphic design techniques and processes;
- learn a range of graphic design creative skills using industry standard software which includes Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator & Premiere
- discover how other graphic artists and designers work and how they have made a career in graphic design;

use a combination of artistic and digital skills to create a portfolio of work and gain qualifications that will enable you to progress onto higher level courses or employment.

Homework

Homework will be a very important part of the course. Your commitment to working on your digital portfolio and sketchbook in your own time will provide you with opportunity to make your work interesting and very personal. All homework will contribute towards your final grade.

How can parents help?

- Monitoring homework and giving help and advice to students to develop and improve assignments.
- Encourage pupils to visit galleries, exhibitions and cultural events.
- Encourage students to attend extra- curricular support sessions available.

Reasons for choosing this subject

A practical and exciting subject that will give you the foundations in graphic design to enable you to pursue this as a viable and attainable career.



Teachers to contact for further information: Mr Black, Ms Lunt.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

History

GCSE



Specification

EDEXCEL GCSE History

Course Outline

Paper 1

- Crime and punishment in Britain, C1000-present with Whitechapel, c1870-1900: crime and policing and the inner city

Paper 2

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England C1060-88
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War

Paper 3

- The USA, 1954-1975: Conflict at home and abroad

Assessment Details

- Paper 1 comprises 30% of final mark.
- Paper 2 comprises 40% of final mark.
- Paper 3 comprises 30% of the final mark

Reasons for choosing this subject

History is a very interesting, well-respected GCSE qualification. History trains students to consider different points of view, to distinguish truth from bias and to be objective. Skills gained in the study of History are valued by employers; the world of work increasingly needs employees who have learned to think for themselves.

The range of university courses and job opportunities open to History students is endless. Future careers include lawyer, policeman, TV researcher, journalist, civil servant, archaeologist, archivist and, of course, teacher!

Typical Activities

- Source analysis and evaluation.
- Historical debates.
- Discussion and decision making.
- Analysing documentary footage.
- Completing practice questions.

Homework

Pupils will have homework set weekly, which will consist of written work, including source questions and revision for the final examinations.

How can parents help?

- Check that all homework is completed to a good standard.
- Encourage your son to attend additional sessions for revision



Teacher to contact for further information: Mrs Hare/Ms Dunn.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Hospitality & Catering

LEVEL 2



Specification

Eduqas L1/2 Hospitality and Catering

Course Outline

This is an exciting new course from Eduqas (WJEC) offering a level 1/2 qualification in Hospitality and Catering. Learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and Catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression. It will also equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and prepare food. It will also allow them to apply the principles of nutrition, sustainability and healthy eating.

Assessment Details

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry
40% (80 Marks) are thorough assessment by an online written examination
– 1 hour 30mins

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action
60% Non-Examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.
12 hours which includes a 3hours practical exam. Practical exam is to prepare and cook a two course meal for two people with accompaniments.

How can parents help?

Check Satchel One regularly to ensure that the set homework tasks are completed each week. Encourage progress with controlled assessment and homework tasks. Ensure students arrive prepared for practical lessons.

Homework

Homework tasks are set each week throughout the course. Tasks are usually coursework-related or questions from past exam papers.

Typical Activities

By studying Level 1 & 2 Hospitality and Catering learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- Understand and explore the Hospitality and Catering industry, the job roles and the different types of equipment used in the industry.

Reasons for choosing this subject

This qualification will encourage learners to cook. It will enable them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously. It will allow students to understand the huge challenges that we face globally in order to supply the world with nutritious and safe food. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.



Teacher to contact for further information: Mr Hampton.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Music BTEC

LEVEL 2



Specification

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Course Outline

This qualification is a vocational course in popular music. The aim is to provide students with the knowledge and range of skills needed to be able to operate successfully as performing musicians and producers/composers. It is equivalent to a GCSE.

The qualification consists of three components: two internally assessed components and one externally assessed synoptic component (to be taken in May/June of Year 11):

Component 1 submitted in May of Year 10: An internally assessed unit where students must...

Task 1: Using the musical elements of melody, harmony, tonality, rhythm, structure, instrumentation, texture, timbre and production, research and analyse different styles of music e.g. rock n roll, reggae, film music, blues music, Britpop. Students need to present their research in the form of essays or PowerPoint presentations.

Task 2: Students are also required to produce 3 music products exploring musical techniques - a live performance (video), compose music for film/media/computer game, and a remix project. Students must write about how they created their musical products, and the music theory behind their creative choices.

Component 2 submitted in November of Year 11: An internally assessed unit where students must...

Task 1: Plan and create 1 performance and 1 composition in response to a theme that will develop professional and musical skills. This will involve them exploring the expectations and professional skills required to succeed in the music industry. This will involve written as well and practical evidence.

Component 3 exam taken in May of Year 11: Students will develop and present music in response to a given music brief. This will involve written as well and practical evidence.

Assessment Details

1 x externally assessed component (exam)

2 x internally assessed components

How can parents help?

Please encourage your son to practise his instrument on a daily basis. Be fully supportive of & encourage good attendance at weekly instrument lessons/extra-curricular activities/concerts/coursework catch-up & intervention sessions.

Typical Activities

Music at Key Stage 4 incorporates both practical AND written work. You will have to write essays during the course. Alongside this, you will perform on your chosen instrument & compose your own music using music technology. You will develop and refine these skills to a high standard. Typical lessons might include the following activities:

- Rehearsing your instrument on your own
- Rehearsing as part of a band
- Video recording solo/band performances
- Using the iMacs/Logic Pro /Ableton Push to create and record your own music
- Researching and learning about different musical styles
- Writing essays, commentaries and PowerPoint presentations

Instrument lessons:

You will receive a weekly instrument lesson in school from a visiting peripatetic teacher to prepare you for your performance work. These are timetabled on a half-termly rota and will either take place during lesson time, at break time/lunchtime & before or after school. If you already have an instrument teacher outside school, you may continue to learn with them, but you must also have lessons in school from one of our members of staff. If you don't currently have instrument lessons either in or outside of school, you will start them in September of Year 10. The cost of instrumental lessons is covered by the school.

Homework

Practise your instrument on a daily basis in preparation for your weekly instrument lesson & performances

Complete any written work as and when required for homework

Attend after school coursework catch-up & intervention sessions as and when required

- Attend lunchtime and/or after school extra-curricular activities and concerts to develop your ensemble performance skills & confidence

Reasons for choosing this subject

The chance to develop musically and creatively

Develop important life skills – confidence, independence and communication

Personal enjoyment

Excellent facilities/equipment:

Apple iMac computers with Logic Pro software, Ableton Push 2 devices & software

Five practice rooms equipped with keyboards, electric guitars, bass guitars, amplifiers and drum kits.

Use of the school theatre for concerts

Excellent opportunities:

Instrumental tuition provided by the school

Opportunity to perform in concerts

Teacher to contact for further information: Ms Ellison.



WEST DERBY SCHOOL



Performing Arts BTEC

LEVEL 2

Specification

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts

Course Outline

There are three separate components at GCSE:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Students explore the processes used to create a performance.

During Component 1, using a set assignment, students will:

- explore performance styles, creative intentions and purpose
- investigate how practitioners create and influence what's performed
- discover performance roles, skills, techniques and processes.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts.

Students develop performance skills and techniques by reproducing existing performances.

During Component 2, using a set assignment, students will:

- take part in workshops, classes and rehearsals
- gain physical, interpretative, vocal and rehearsal skills
- apply these skills in performance
- reflect on their progress, their performance and how they could improve.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

Students pull together all they have learned and apply their knowledge in a performance.

To achieve this aim, using a set assignment, students will:

- use the brief and previous learnings to come up with ideas
- build on their skills in classes, workshops and rehearsals
- review the process using an ideas and skills log
- perform a piece to their chosen audience
- reflect on their performance in an evaluation report.

Assessment Details

Component 1 Assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated assignment. 30% of total course.

Component 2 Assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated assignment. 30% of total course.

Component 3 Assessment: externally assessed task. 40% of total course.

Typical Activities

There is a strong emphasis on working creatively and collaboratively; many of the activities involve working with others and respecting individual contributions. You will take part in workshops, themed lessons and take responsibility for interpreting the performances. Students are given the opportunity apply the knowledge they learn practically both in lessons and in performances. A typical lesson is lively, stimulating, enjoyable but also hard work!

Homework

Homework will usually be either a reflection on work which has been explored in class or planning which will contribute to assessment work. Preparation for assessment and examination will be also set as homework.

How can parents help?

Please support your son by encouraging him to get involved in theatre out of school; theatre events, clubs and rehearsals. Encouraging your son to read and watch plays and practitioner work will deepen his understanding. As practical exams come around, you may need to help him to learn lines!

Reasons for choosing this subject

Transferrable skills such as communication, teamwork and confidence are essential for happiness and success and we believe that students who study Performing Arts develop these skills in abundance. Students usually choose to continue with performing as they enjoy developing their acting, being creative and developing their social skills. Current Performing Arts students comment on appreciating a more practical, challenging and rewarding subject at BTEC level.

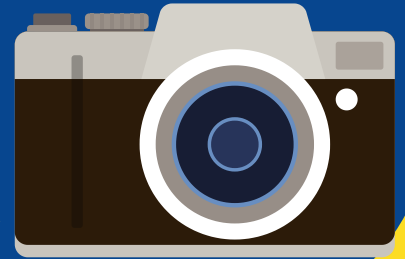


Teacher to contact for further information: Mrs Parkinson.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Photography

GCSE



Specification

AQA GCSE Art and Design – Photography Endorsement

Course Outline

GCSE Photography is a 2 year course.

AQA Photography Coursework accounts for 60% of the GCSE grade awarded. Coursework is produced over the 2 year course.

The AQA Photogrpaghy GCSE exam is taken in the April- May of Year 11 and accounts for 40% of the GCSE grade awarded. There is an initial preparation time followed by a timed examination.

Assessment Details

Unit 1 - portfolio of work will be assessed throughout the two years and pupils will receive informal and formal assessment reviews as well as regular tutorials and progress reviews.

Unit 2 - is an externally set task with unlimited preparation time, followed by 10 hours of sustained, focused study under exam conditions. Pupils respond to their chosen starting point. The exam is a practical piece of work that will draw upon the skills acquired in Years 10 and 11.

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below:

- portraiture
- location photography
- studio photography
- experimental imagery
- installation
- documentary photography
- photo-journalism
- moving image: film, video and animation
- fashion photography.

You may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Typical Activities

The majority of work will be practical.

Learning the skills of composition and picture making will be a very important part of the course.

Working on and improving your photographs on the computer will be time consuming and will require you to become familiar with Photoshop and demonstrate you can work independently.

Lessons will develop technical understanding as well as an artistic understanding of the subject.

Studying the work of professional photographers will be an important part of the course. Much can be learnt from their successful work.

You will also produce a journal to evidence your research skills. Visits to photographic exhibitions will provide opportunity to study the work of professional photographers.

Homework

Homework will be a very important part of the course. Your commitment to taking photographs in your own time and outside of school will provide you with the opportunity to make your work interesting and very personal. All homework will contribute towards your coursework grade.

How can parents help?

Parents can help with ideas and to accompany you when taking photographs out of school time.

Reasons for choosing this subject

A practical and exciting subject that will give you the opportunity to improve your photography skills and to produce a portfolio of work to be proud of.



Teachers to contact for further information: Mr Black, Ms Lunt.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Spanish

GCSE



Specification

AQA GCSE Spanish

Course Outline

Taking a GCSE in Spanish will build on the great work you have done in KS3 and will encourage you to use the language more fluently, with accuracy, pronunciation and intonation and with confidence. Students in Year 9, sets 1 & 2, will study GCSE Spanish as part of their EBACC pathway. The themes are as follows:

THEME 1. IDENTITY AND CULTURE

- Topic 1: My family and friends and I
- Topic 2: Technology in everyday life
- Topic 3: Free-time activities
- Topic 4: Customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries/communities

THEME 2. LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL AREAS OF INTEREST

- Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Topic 2: Social issues
- Topic 3: Global issues
- Topic 4: Travel and tourism

THEME 3. CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT

- Topic 1: My studies
- Topic 2: Life at school/college
- Topic 3: Education post 16
- Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment Details

There are examinations in the following four skill areas:

Paper 1 Listening	1Exam	25%
Paper 2 Speaking	1Exam	25%
Paper 3 Reading	1Exam	25%
Paper 4 Writing	1Exam	25%

How can parents help?

Ensuring that your son completes homework punctually and to the best of his ability is something that we know is of huge support and to help your son with his revision is extremely beneficial to his success. We ask that you ensure he comes to lessons fully equipped, together with a GCSE Spanish Revision guide that will be useful, especially for independent home learning. We greatly encourage working with your son so they have that further support away from school and you can keep up-to-date with their home learning.

Typical Activities

You will use a variety of resources, including ICT, to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing and translation. You will develop awareness of cultural traditions and all aspects of life in the Spanish-speaking world by an enhanced enrichment programme including Spanish restaurant visits and themed experiences both in school and externally.

Homework

Homework will be set to reinforce or to extend the learning that takes place in the classroom. This will be set weekly and can take the form of a reading comprehension task, grammar-related tasks and written work in the target language. The learning of new vocabulary and structures of the language is extremely important at GCSE level and homework will often include some learning and/or revision, which will then be marked in the following lesson.

Home learning can also be set via the online languages website 'Kerboodle,' which enables staff to send you appropriate and personalised tasks. We also encourage the use of GCSE Pod, which is a video-based learning platform that also helps to further embed the knowledge required for independent learning. You can access your work on a home computer or in school at lunchtime or at the end of the school day.

Reasons for choosing this subject

A GCSE qualification in any foreign language will be an immense advantage when applying for a job or continuing in Post-16 education. European links and the world's economy are demanding a higher linguistic proficiency in the competitive world of work. On average, a bilingual person will earn about 10% more than those without a second language. In recent years, there has been a huge increase in the number of areas where languages are needed. Languages can be a springboard to a wider range of careers in areas such as Business, Law, Marketing, Digital Media, Travel and Tourism, and much more. It can also mean living and working abroad!

The following are just a few of the careers/areas which give preference to applicants with a language qualification: Armed Forces, Journalism, Catering/Hotel Management, Civil Servant, Teacher, Interpreter, Aircrew, e.g. cabin crew, pilots, B1/B2 licensed engineers (The B1 mechanics license focuses on engines and airframes, while B2 avionics centres around instrumentation and electrical/electronic equipment). Many popular university and college courses now lead to combined degrees in areas such as 'Law and Languages', 'Languages and Sport' or 'Languages and Business'.



Teachers to contact for further information: Ms Burns.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Sports Science

LEVEL 2



Specification

OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies Level 1/2 option.

Course Outline

The Cambridge National in Sport Science will prepare the participants for physical activity in ways which keeps them safe as well as learning how to react should injuries happen and how to recognise common medical conditions. Learn how to conduct fitness tests, including interpreting and feeding back on the data you get from these as well as how to design, implement and evaluate fitness training programmes. Develop knowledge of either how the body responds to exercise and understand how technology helps inform us of these changes, or delve into the world of sports nutrition to understand how what we eat can impact our performance in sport. Develop the skills of team working, research and planning and understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical movements of the human body.

The course consists of 3 units. One unit will be externally assessed with an online exam. The other two units will be internally assessed.

Assessment Details

Cambridge Nationals use both internal and external assessment and have a range of exciting units to choose from. Both sport qualifications have the same structure with two mandatory units and a choice of optional units. The externally assessed unit makes up 40% of the qualification. Each unit contains statements of evidence that you have to produce in order to receive a pass, merit or distinction. Evidence for assessment can include assignments, work-based assessments, role play projects, performance observation, verbal presentations, case studies and time constrained assessments.

Typical Activities

- R180 Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions. Exam 40% MANDATORY
- R181 Applying the principles of training and fitness. How it affects skills performance. Coursework. 40% MANDATORY
- R183 Nutrition and sports performance. Coursework 20% OPTIONAL TEACHER CHOSEN UNIT.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the Cambridge National course. You need to be well organised to co-ordinate a variety of tasks for each assignment. You must be confident in terms of self-study and research as well as disciplined to meet deadlines. Your teacher will set homework for each task and expect it to be done by an agreed date. Deadlines must be met.

How can parents help?

Assignment tasks need to be completed within two to three weeks of the hand-out date. Therefore parents can help by ensuring that their child is up to date with each task. They can support and guide the pupils when they are researching and planning their work. All homework will be set via 'Microsoft Teams'.

Reasons for choosing this subject

The course is designed for pupils who are looking to work within areas such as fitness, coaching, sports development, physiotherapy, teaching and leisure centres. It will also benefit pupils who enjoy sport and PE and may have another career pathway planned. A level 2 qualification in sport is a valued asset to have when applying for college places and future employment.



Teacher to contact for further information: Mr Jones.

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Attendance

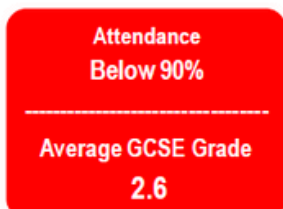
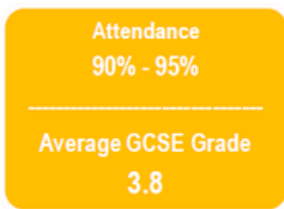
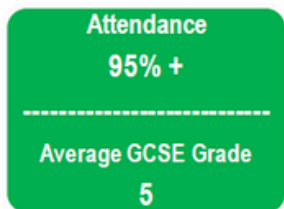
Attendance Matters

At West Derby School we believe that one of the most important things you can do to help your child achieve academic success is to ensure they attend school every day and on time. We expect all students to have a minimum of 97% attendance, this is to ensure your child has the best chance of being successful academically.

All students have the target of 100% attendance with the expectation that they will achieve no less than 97%

Whole School Life Attendance & 2023 GCSE Results

“You Have To Be In To Win”



Your school attendance from Year 7 through to Year 11 makes a difference as to how well you achieve in your exams.

Attend Every Day – The West Derby Way

Why Attendance Matters

As the infographic above shows, in 2023 pupils with good attendance on average achieved GCSE grades at 5+. As a pupil's attendance declines so does their GCSE grades.

Good attendance is also important in building relationships with staff and peers, to develop a range of life skills, to take advantage of the careers pathways in place and utilise the personalised support packages the school has to offer.



Teachers to contact for further information: Mr Moore, Mrs Swain.

Timeline

Things I can do to help me prepare....

For information on careers including Apprenticeships and T Levels, please visit the 'Careers & Higher Education' area on our school website

Assemblies

15.04.2024, 22.04.2024, 29.04.24

Pupils have the opportunity to hear from key staff about our KS4 subjects.

Options Evening

02.05.2024

Students and parents attend our evening in school where they will be provided with key information from their PPL and subject staff. Students will receive their KS4 Option Choices form at this event.

Deadline to Return Option Choices Form

16.05.2024

All students needs to return their KS4 Option Choices form to their form tutor by this date.

1:1 Option Interviews

Weeks beginning 03.06.2024 & 10.06.2024

All students will have a 1:1 meeting with key staff to discuss their choices

Things I can do to help me prepare....

Ask your teachers any questions you have about choosing their subject at KS4.

Choices Confirmed

Week beginning 24.06.2024

Students will have their KS4 option subjects confirmed

Next Steps...

**Complete and return your
'Option Choices' form**

by

Thursday 16th May 2024