



YEARS 9 – 11 INFORMATION BOOKLET 2022 – 2025

STUDENT NAME _____

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Introduction

From September 2022 you will be starting your new courses; the next three years will be very important in your school career. This is an exciting time and you should take every opportunity to discuss your ideas with your parents and teachers.

We believe it is important that you continue to receive a broad and balanced education; one which is also tailored to your individual skills and needs, which leads to a range of qualifications. This will allow you to have greater educational choices and career opportunities in the future.

This booklet is designed to inform you and your parents about the range of courses which we hope to offer in Years 9, 10 and 11. Most of the courses offered will lead to a GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) or BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) qualification.

Compulsory Examined Subjects

These are courses that everyone must follow.

Subject	Number of sessions per cycle	Qualifications
English Language	4	1 GCSE
English Literature	4	1 GCSE
Maths	8	1 GCSE
Science (one of these options)	10	Combined Science – 2 GCSEs
	14	Separate Science – 3 GCSEs

Compulsory Non-Examined Sessions:

Recreational Sport and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) – 4 sessions.

Please note:

You will be asked to prioritise your preferences. Whilst every effort will be made to give you your first preference this may not always be possible.

Why do you have to study all these subjects?

When you leave Walton High it will be very useful if you have followed a broad and balanced curriculum. At the moment you are about 13 years old and may not be leaving Walton High until you are 18 years old.

Few have a clear idea of what they want to do when they leave school. Regardless of the eventual career route you choose, it is important to keep as many options open as possible. A lot of things can change in three years.

Studying a broad and balanced range of subjects will enable you to choose what is best for you at a later date, for when you have a clearer idea of the future education and career opportunities you may wish to pursue.

You will be required to undertake a variety of assessments, and BTEC assignments. **As a consequence of these demands, you will not be granted any discretionary leave of absence during term time.**

Please Note:

Give careful thought to your preferences as you will not be able to change subjects once started.

What is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)?

Whilst the **EBacc** is not a qualification in itself, it indicates that you have been able to achieve one of the higher grades in a range of more traditional academic subjects. These subjects are: English; Mathematics; History or Geography; Sciences (including Computer Science) and Languages. The **EBacc** is well recognised by top universities.

How will you make preferences between subjects?

Start by asking lots of questions. Some of these questions are about yourself, but you should also ask questions about the different courses and career opportunities available.

STRENGTHS

- Which subjects are you good at?
- How do you know?
- What do your teachers say about your strengths?

LIKES

- Which subjects do you like?
- Is it the subject you like or the teacher?

CAREER

- Which careers are you interested in?
- What knowledge or skills do you need for these careers?
- Which subjects would help develop the knowledge and skills you need?

With the exception of English and Maths, most careers do not require people to have studied a particular subject before Post 16. Most employers and higher education institutes will probably be more interested in the range of subjects studied, grades achieved and your enthusiasm for learning.

There are many more questions you can ask – see your tutor for further help and advice.

What happens if a course is oversubscribed?

If a course is oversubscribed the following process will apply:

Step 1: If you've opted for an oversubscribed course you will be asked whether you would be willing to switch another subject in the block.

Step 2: If the course is still oversubscribed, the relevance of the subject to a student's career aspirations will be considered. If the subject is considered particularly relevant, the student will be awarded priority for a place on the course.

Step 3: If there are still places available after step 2, a ballot will take place to allocate the remaining places.

Step 4: If a student is not allocated a place on the course they will be advised which other courses are available and will be allocated to one of these. Parents will be contacted to discuss the options available.

Please note: If a course is undersubscribed, it may not be offered.

Where can you get further information?

You will get help and information from:

- this booklet
- subject teachers
- Mr Mungham, our Careers Consultant
- your Personal Tutor
- the Information Evenings on 9 and 10 March
- Walton High's careers library
- Unifrog

Details on the precise specifications for each subject can be found on the relevant exam board websites:

www.aqa.org.uk/

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

<https://ocr.org.uk/>

What support is available?

You are expected to develop your independent learning skills further, throughout Years 9 -11, in preparation for final examinations. For this reason, all subject areas offer a weekly, independent learning session after school. The schedule is published at the beginning of each term under Session 9 Activities. These sessions are run by specialist teachers and provide timely opportunities for you to review any classwork or to discuss homework assignments with which you may need help.

After-school rehearsal time is also essential in Performing Arts; all who opt for Music and/or Drama are expected to attend all rehearsals.

In short, you are strongly encouraged to take up the wide range of support opportunities that are available across all curriculum areas to help ensure your academic success. Adopting a routine of regular, independent study provides the best opportunity for the successful completion of compulsory education.

Current Information

You are encouraged to check the school's website and learning platform (Firefly), for all updates and changes regarding:

- assignments
- assessment deadlines
- general subject guidance
- updates on examination changes
- additional resources
- useful websites

English Language GCSE

What will you study?

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts; read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from varied and extensive reading to inform and improve your own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to, and understand, spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively

You will be required to explore a range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries including:

- Literature in the form of novels, plays and poetry
- Literary non-fiction including biographies, autobiographies and travel accounts
- Journalism including printed and online articles and opinion pieces

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams and a verbal presentation:

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Spoken Language Assessment: Prepare, plan and present your views on a topic which is then sent to the exam board (Pass, Merit, Distinction)

You will be required to write both extended essays and short-answer responses. Literacy (spelling, punctuation and grammar) will also be formally assessed.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component.

All texts in the examination will be unseen and you are encouraged to read widely to prepare for this.

GCSE Qualification Award - AQA 8700

English Literature GCSE

What will you study?

By the end of the GCSE course you should be able to:

- Read a wide range of classic literature with good understanding and be able to make connections across your reading.
- Read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that you are able to discuss and explain your understanding and ideas.
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often.
- Appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage.
- Write accurately, effectively and analytically about your reading, using Standard English.
- Acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the literary and linguistic terms you need to criticise and analyse what you read.

This will require you to explore a range of texts including:

- A play by Shakespeare
- A selection of poetry linked by the theme of Power and Conflict
- A nineteenth-century novel
- A modern drama text written after 1914

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams:

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (1 hour 45 minutes)
- Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)

You will be required to write both extended essays and short-answer responses for these exams. Literacy (spelling, punctuation and grammar) will also be formally assessed.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component.

There will also be unseen texts in the examination and you are encouraged to read widely to prepare for this.

GCSE Qualification Award - AQA 8702



Mathematics GCSE

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics equips you with a uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world. These tools include logical reasoning, problem-solving skills and the ability to think in abstract ways. Mathematics is important in everyday life, useful in virtually every form of employment, and a pre-requisite for many careers and courses of further study.

We aim to teach you:

- To be confident in your numeracy
- To solve problems by effectively deploying an increasing range of mental, written and ICT based mathematical techniques
- To be able to think logically and communicate precisely through analytical thinking
- To enjoy mathematics and appreciate the beauty inherent in mathematical patterns and statements

What will you study?

During the next three years you will follow the curriculum leading to GCSE. This will continue from the current curriculum both broadening and deepening your understanding of key maths concepts. You will study Numbers, Ratio and Proportion, Algebra, Statistics, Probability and Geometry with a strong emphasis on problem solving skills.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by examination only at the end of Year 11. There will be three papers, each one lasting one and a half hours. The first of these papers will be non-calculator.

Each exam has two tiers of entry; Higher and Foundation. The Foundation Papers are assessed at grades 1-5. The Higher tier from grades 4-9.

You may change entry tiers as you progress towards Year 11, and no student will be limited as to their grade aspiration by the group in which they are taught.

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8300



GCSE Combined Sciences (GCSE Double Award)

Why study Combined Sciences?

Should I have my baby vaccinated? Should we build more nuclear power stations? How can I cut my fuel bills?

GCSE Combined Sciences provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and you will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of Science. Studying Combined Sciences will be good preparation for doing A levels in Physics, Chemistry or Biology in Post 16.

What will you study?

You will follow the OCR's GCSE in Combined Sciences A (Gateway Science) (J250) specification. You will study elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and, by the end, will achieve a double grade from 9-9 (highest double grade available), 9-8, 8-8, down to 1-1 (lowest double grade available).

What will you do in Science lessons?

- You will carry out regular practical work, along with many other activities that will challenge your thinking skills.
- Some lessons will be especially designed to develop the skills needed to answer practical questions.
- Other skills like those of applying what you know, evaluating ideas and analysing data will be developed by looking at Science in interesting contexts such as: health, drugs and disease; the environment; global warming; pollution in the Pacific Ocean and providing sustainable energy around the World.

How is the course assessed?

The specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed through the written papers.

The GCSE in Combined Sciences A (Gateway Science) is a linear qualification.

OCR's GCSE in Combined Sciences A (Gateway Science) consists of six examined papers. You will be entered for either the Foundation Tier or the Higher Tier. Each paper carries an equal weighting of 16.7% for that tier of the GCSE qualification. Each paper has a duration of 1 hour and 10 minutes.



Separate GCSE Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

OCR Gateway Science Suite - Biology A

OCR Gateway Science Suite - Chemistry A

OCR Gateway Science Suite - Physics A

Why study Sciences separately?

Separate Sciences are designed for those who plan to use science in their career path and have a passion for understanding the natural world we live in. Studying separate Sciences will be good preparation for doing A levels in Physics, Chemistry or Biology or BTEC L3 Applied Science in Post 16.

What will you study?

You are required to study all three Sciences separately, that is Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Gateway Science Suite - Biology A - J247

Biology is the science of living organisms (including animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms) and their interactions with each other and the environment. The study of Biology involves collecting and interpreting information about the natural world to identify patterns and relate possible cause and effect. Biological information is used to help humans improve their own lives and strive to create a sustainable world for future generations.

Gateway Science Suite - Chemistry A - J248

Chemistry is the science of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of matter, understood in terms of atoms, atomic particles and the way they are arranged and linked together. It is concerned with the synthesis, formulation, analysis and characteristic properties of substances and materials of all kinds.

Gateway Science Suite - Physics A - J249

Physics is the science of the fundamental concepts of field, force, radiation and particle structures, which are inter-linked to form unified models of the behaviour of the material universe. These have enriched both our basic understanding of, and our many adaptations to, our material environment.

How are the courses assessed?

Each of the sciences studied separately consists of two exam papers each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. You are entered for either the Foundation Tier or Higher Tier. Each paper carries an equal weighting of 50% for that tier of the GCSE qualification.

Ancient History GCSE

Why study Ancient History?

Ancient History provides an exciting opportunity to study Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. You will examine defining individuals such as Alexander the Great, Cleopatra and Julius Caesar. Students will also look at key events and battles from both periods, such as the defeat of the 300 Spartans at the battle of Thermopylae and the foundation of Rome and creation of Democracy. You will develop key skills such as critical thinking, forming a substantiated argument and communicating ideas effectively. These topics will be examined through a range of ancient source material such as artefacts, coins and archaeological sites. A GCSE in Ancient History offers the opportunity for you to investigate new and exciting time periods that you may not have covered before in school. Walton High is also the only school in the local area to currently offer this qualification.

What will you study?

The course is made up of four units: -

- The Persian Empire, 559-465BC (Greek Period Study)
- Alexander the Great, 356 – 323 BC (Greek Depth Study)
- The Foundation of Rome – From Kingship to Republic 753 – 440 BC (Roman Period Study)
- Cleopatra – Rome and Egypt, 69 – 30 BC (Roman Depth Study)

The course requires you to consider key issues such as change over time, turning points, the significance of key people and source evaluation skills. You will study a range of historical sources from the Greek and Roman periods. You will also be supported in how to retain, embed and revise information effectively and how to take greater ownership of your learning, as the course progresses.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams:

- Paper 1: Greece and Persia (50% final grade)
- Paper 2: Rome and its Neighbours (50% final grade)

Each paper lasts for 1 Hour 45 minutes.

GCSE Qualification Award – OCR J198

Geography GCSE

Why study Geography?

GCSE Geography provides the opportunity for you to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and your place within it.

It offers opportunities to nurture a range of transferable skills such as modern computer based mapping (called GIS), map skills, fieldwork skills, presenting, role-play and debating techniques. Literacy skills are developed through report writing and written work and practical use is made of numeracy skills when interpreting data and constructing graphs.

What will you study?

Living with the physical environment

- **The challenge of natural hazards** - types of hazard and hazard risk
- **The living world** – including small scale ecosystems in the UK, the tropical rainforest, deforestation and hot deserts
- **Physical landscapes in the UK** – including coastal and river landscapes.

Challenges in the human environment

- **Urban issues and challenges** – including global patterns of urban change and megacities
- **The changing economic world** - different economic and social measures of development and economic change in the UK
- **The challenge of resource management** - global inequalities in food, water and energy.

Geographical Applications – Issue evaluation and fieldwork

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by three written exams and two pieces of fieldwork in contrasting environments which will involve a compulsory day trip to Hunstanton in the Summer Term of Year 10.

- Paper 1 – Physical Geography (88 marks) 1 hour 30 minutes (35% of GCSE)
- Paper 2 – Human Geography (88 marks) 1 hour 30 minutes (35% of GCSE)
- Paper 3 – Applications (76 marks) 1 hour 15 minutes (30% of GCSE). This will include questions about your fieldwork experiences.

Question types include multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8035

History GCSE

Why study History?

The study of History helps to not only understand the world in which you live, but contributes a great deal to the development of thinking and literacy skills. By studying History you will learn how to critically evaluate evidence, how to produce a substantiated argument through the deployment of well-chosen knowledge and how to communicate your ideas effectively. The study of History also helps you learn to reflect not only on the subject matter covered, but also on your own attitudes and preconceptions. Studying History GCSE will provide you with a rich body of knowledge that will truly enrich your appreciation of the world around you, and enhance your understanding of other subjects you may study. Through the continued study of 'Real people, in real places, in real moments in time' it is our intention that you appreciate the study of the past and all that it has to reveal about the impact that human behaviour has had on the past and continues to have in the world today.

What will you study?

The course is made up of four units:-

- Conflict and Tension 1918-1939 (Wider World Depth Study)
- Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship (Non – British Period Study)
- Britain – Health and the People (Thematic Study – British History)
- Elizabethan England (British Depth Study including the study of the historic environment)

The course requires you to consider key issues such as change over time, turning points, the significance of key people and source evaluation skills. You will study a range of historical sources and interpretations. You will also be supported in how to retain, embed and revise information effectively and how to take greater ownership of your learning, as the course progresses.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams:

- Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World: Non British History
- Paper 2: Shaping the Nation: British History

Each paper lasts for 2 hours and is made up of two sections

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8145GC



Computer Science GCSE

Why study Computer Science?

The course gives you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many of you find absorbing. The course provides excellent preparation for further study and employment in the field of computer science.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. Lessons give you a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

An ideal Computer Science student should be able to think outside the box, be an independent learner, and have good IT and mathematical skills. If you want to study or work in areas such as engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine, then this is the course for you.

What will you study?

The specification covers the following topics:

- Computer Systems
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
- Practical Programming

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams (equal weighting of 50% each), and a project:

- Paper 1: Computer systems (J277/01) (1 hour 30 minutes) (80 marks)
The written exam is designed to test your understanding of various topics related to computer systems.
- Paper 2: Computational thinking, Algorithms and programming (J277/02) (1 hour 30 minutes)(80 marks)
A written exam to test your understanding on topics such as computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.
- Practical programming
You will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during the course of study, which allows you to develop your skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. You will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular in paper 2.

GCSE Qualification Award - OCR

What you will study

You will develop:

- The ability to communicate effectively for a variety of purposes
- Knowledge and understanding of other cultures and customs
- Improved memory and problem solving skills

People learn languages every day. However, the reasons for doing so are varied. A recent report has indicated that having language skills has financial rewards for employees too; 74% of UK employers state that they are looking for conversational language skills when they recruit new staff.

How is the course assessed?

- **Listening** – understanding and responding to different types of spoken language
- **Speaking** – you will take part in a role-play task, a photo card discussion, and a general conversation based on the topic areas studied. This exam will take place in school with recordings sent to the exam board to be marked
- **Reading** – understanding and responding to different types of written language. Translation from the target language into English is a requirement for this paper
- **Writing** – communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts. Translation into the target language will also be a requirement of this paper

GCSE Qualification Award – Spanish AQA 8698



Not included in the EBacc qualification

Art, Craft and Design GCSE

Why study Art, Craft and Design?

Art, Craft and Design provides an ideal course for students who wish to develop their creative skills through different media such as drawing, textiles, paint, clay, photography and print. The course builds confidence, problem solving, risk taking and independent study skills. Through this Art, Craft and Design experience, you will be encouraged to interact with, and be aware of, the artistic world around you and have the opportunity to study a variety of contemporary and historic references.

What will you study?

Year 9

You will experience a number of workshops that introduce you to the different areas within Art, Craft and Design.

Years 10 and 11

You may specialise in one of the areas below or continue with a broad approach covering more than one area:

- **Fine art:** drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, ceramics, installation, printmaking, moving image (video, film, animation) and photography
- **Textile design:** fashion design, fashion textiles, costume design, digital textiles, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, wallpaper, interior design, constructed textiles, art textiles and installed textiles
- **Three-dimensional design:** ceramics, sculpture, exhibition design, design for theatre, television and film, interior design, product design, environmental design, architectural design, jewelry/body ornament and 3D digital design
- **Photography:** portraiture, landscape, still life, documentary, fashion photography, photojournalism, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and digital manipulation

How is the course assessed?

- You need to submit a portfolio of work that covers the four assessment objectives. In your portfolio you should include a range of observational studies created in a range of media, research into the work of others and developmental pieces. A large component of the portfolio will be your sustained project which will be an independent development of one of the topics that you have studied.
- The work in the portfolio should represent approximately 45 hours' worth of work and will be made up of components of projects completed over the course of study in addition to the sustained project. The Portfolio accounts for 60% of the final grade.
- An externally set brief makes up the other 40% of the grade and runs from January to April of Year 11. This ends with a 10 hour controlled assessment for the completion of a final outcome. This project is marked to the same four assessment objectives as the portfolio submission.

All work is marked internally by Art teaching staff, and externally moderated by the exam board.

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8201c

Business Studies GCSE

Why study Business Studies?

“The best minds are not in government. If any were, business would steal them away.”

Ronald Reagan

“There is a new kind of woman out there. She's interested in business and money.”

Anna Wintour

Business Studies complements a number of other GCSE courses and provides you with a sound understanding of how businesses operate within the UK and European markets. A successful Business student is one who asks questions and looks further than the obvious solution to a problem. In lessons, emphasis is placed on active learning and investigation. You learn research and presentation skills and develop the ability to apply business theory to real business situations.

What will you study?

The themes that make up the core subject content are:

- Businesses in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

You will be able to:

- Know and understand business concepts
- Apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues
- Develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively
- Develop as effective and independent critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Use an enquiring, critical approach to make informed judgements
- Investigate and analyse real business opportunities
- Develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data

How is the course assessed?

There are two exams. Each paper will be 1 hour 45 minutes in duration and consist of three sections:

- Section A – multiple choice and short answer questions worth 20 marks
- Section B – one case study/data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks
- Section C – one case study/data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 36 marks

GCSE Qualification Award - AQA 8132

Child Development BTEC Technical Award

Why study Child Development?

This course will suit any student interested in taking a vocational course which offers an insight into what it is like to work in the Early Years sector – covering childcare, Early Years teaching and healthcare roles. You will develop a broad knowledge and understanding of child development and growth from birth to age five, looking at a range of social and environmental factors.

You will learn concepts and theory and develop key skills such as research and written communication but also develop a range of specific practical skills which you will use in supervised visits to local children's centres and Early Years settings. You will also have the opportunity to plan and organise real activities with children coming into school or you going out to work with them in their own setting.

Child Development is a key career pathway much valued by the NHS, educational sectors and childcare providers. The course builds on knowledge and skills from other subjects, especially Biology and creative subjects such as Drama and Music.

What will you study?

You will explore three different units:

Children's Growth and Development

In this component you will learn about how children grow and develop from birth to five years. You will study what is expected in terms of development and the different factors that affect children's growth.

Learning Through Play

You will understand how play activities influence children's learning and consider the different types of play in which children engage.

Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop

In this component you will learn about the impact of individual needs on a child's learning and development, investigate the role of an adult in play activities and to adapt activities to promote learning and support inclusion.

How is the course assessed?

You will complete six internally assessed tasks each worth 10% of the qualification and sit one two hour exam in Year 11 which is worth 40% of your final grade.

Creative Media Production BTEC Technical Award

Why study Creative Media Production?

The Creative Media industry is in a continuous state of change; moving from **old media** such as newspapers, magazines, television, film and radio to **new media** like games, Internet, web design, social media, photo image manipulation, photography, , digital music and mobile graphics.

The aim of this vocational qualification is to prepare you to take an **active part** in this dynamic, cutting edge, worldwide industry. It will emphasise the knowledge and practical skills which will enable you to understand, create and evaluate a range of media products. By focusing on digital media production this course will particularly appeal to those you who enjoy using ICT as a creative design tool.

What will you study?

You will explore media products, develop your media production skills and use them to create a media product in response to a brief – just as you would do in the world of work.

How is the course assessed?

This course will be assessed in a variety of different ways including case studies, assignments and work-based assessments, along with projects, performance observation and time-constrained assessments. Each unit will be graded as Pass, Merit, or Distinction.

- **Components One and Two:** assessed through internal assessment.
- **Component Three:** Building on Components One and Two, you will apply your production skills to the creation of a media product in response to a brief.

This key task enables you to demonstrate that you can identify and use effectively, an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge in an integrated way. The external assessment takes the form of a set task taken under supervised conditions that is then marked and a grade awarded by Pearson.

Details of all assessments and deadlines will be issued to you at the start of the course. External exam will be sat at the end of Year 11.



Dance GCSE

What does GCSE Dance Offer?

The study of dance contributes to your aesthetic and social development. It is a fantastic physical activity to promote fitness, agility, core strength and well-being. Dance supports learning across a range of subjects because you develop confidence and self-esteem through this course.

A highly competent dancer requires great physical effort, and the determination to succeed. On this course you also learn to choreograph and develop the skills of problem-solving and creativity.

The GCSE Dance course also teaches you how to critically analyse performances of professional dancers and choreographers as you evaluate the many set dances of the course. You will be taught to articulate your knowledge, opinions and preferences in a highly skilful way. Viewing professional dances is a part of the course. It expands your cultural enrichment and broadens your artistic experience.

Who is this qualification for?

This three-year GCSE Dance course will suit those who are committed to developing their practical and theoretical dance knowledge, in three main areas: Performance, Choreography and Dance Appreciation.

You will work in an active way to develop ideas, rehearse, perform and then evaluate them.



Career Opportunities

GCSE Dance can give you the skills to go on to further study in Post-16, Vocational and Higher Education as well as possible careers in many different areas as a performer, critic, choreographer, therapist, writer, teacher or arts administrator (this list is not exhaustive).

How is the course delivered and assessed?

The course is made up of two components.

- **Component One** is practical and covers performance and choreography. It is worth 60% of your overall GCSE. You be examined in a performance setting.
- **Component Two** is a written exam covering Dance appreciation. The paper will ask you questions about the practical work you have completed in Component One as well as questions about the GCSE Dance Anthology which is a collection of six professional dance works covering a variety of dance styles and performance settings. It will be something you will also explore practically in lessons as well as in classroom-based learning.

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA

Design and Technology GCSE

Why study Design and Technology?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare you for an increasingly technological world. You will gain an awareness of, and learn from, wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and applying technical and practical expertise.

What will you study?

The specification content is divided into the following categories:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

You will acquire and apply knowledge, skill and understanding in the following areas:

- Papers and boards
- Natural and manufactured timbers
- Metals and alloys
- Plastics
- Textiles
- Electronic and mechanical systems

How is the course assessed?

- **A Non Examined Assessment (NEA)** accounting for 50% of the final grade to be submitted in the spring of Year 11. The NEA consists of a design and make project resulting in a concise design portfolio and the related 3-dimensional outcome(s). The portfolio needs to communicate in detail the design process including the areas of research, analysis, design, design development, planning for manufacture, technical drawing and testing and evaluation. It is expected that within this document, you will demonstrate effective use of IT. The NEA project is internally assessed and externally moderated.
- **A Written Exam** accounting for 50% of the final grade which assesses core and specialist technical principles and designing and making principles. This includes understanding new and emerging technologies, energy generation and sustainability, materials and components, manufacturing processes (including commercial processes), the work of others, design theory and technical vocabulary. This exam is sat at the end of Year 11 and is two hours long.

GCSE Qualification Award - OCR

Drama GCSE

What is GCSE Drama?

The GCSE Drama course develops your knowledge of theatre and performance as an actor, director and a designer. The course is both theoretical and practical, teaching you approaches to theatre making by key drama practitioners.

If you choose GCSE Drama you need to have an interest in theatre, enjoy working practically, and have a desire to perform. This course has also been taken by those who simply want to develop their communication and presentation skills necessary for further education in medicine, engineering and the public service.

What does the qualification cover?

- You will learn about the skills and techniques of lighting, sound and costume design as well as directing and acting
- You will develop your ability to create character and improve your vocal and physical skills to show this
- You will learn how a director approaches text and different theatre spaces to create unique experiences for an audience
- You will learn how a designer works with directors to establish atmosphere, setting, mood and theme
- You will work in an active way to develop ideas, rehearse, perform and then evaluate them

We offer extensive performance opportunities in a variety of venues throughout the course. There are regular trips to see professional shows across the UK, including participating in masterclasses and workshops.

This course also helps to develop other skills such as self-evaluation, communication and decision-making skills, and the ability to persuade, lead and collaborate. All of these skills will benefit you, wherever you progress to.

What will you study and how is the course assessed?

The course is made up of three components:

- **Component One** is a group devised performance that is internally assessed.
- **Component Two** is a performance made from two short scenes from existing texts. This is externally examined.
- **Component Three** is a written exam focusing on questions about how you might act, direct or design a section of a set text. It is an open book exam. You also have to evaluate a professional play seen together on a theatre trip.

All components are assessed individually even though you work in groups for Components One and Two. Alongside high quality classroom teaching there is an active extra-curricular programme that creates performance work for the Venue each team.

GCSE Qualification Award – Eduqas

Economics GCSE

Why study Economics?

Economics provides a sound understanding of your own personal finances, as well as an understanding of the circumstances of a range of different economies. It explores ways in which governments attempt to manage the economy and the impact of such policies.

A successful Economist is a student who asks questions, looks further than the obvious solution to a problem and is able to use theoretical and practical models. In lessons, emphasis is placed on active learning and investigation.

What will you study?

- Introduction to economics
- The role of markets
- The role of money and financial markets
- The role of government
- International trade and the global economy

You will be able to:

- Understand how markets operate
- Understand how the economy works nationally and globally
- Be a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind, able to distinguish between fact and opinion
- Build economic arguments and make informed judgements

Quantitative Skills

You will be expected to demonstrate the level of quantitative skills appropriate for GCSE economics. These will include:

- Calculating percentages,
- Calculation of averages
- Calculation of totals, revenue, costs and profit
- Calculation of income, gross and net pay

You will be expected to construct graphs, including supply and demand curves.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams:

- Paper 1: How markets work (50% of GCSE)
- Paper 2: How the economy works (50% of GCSE)

Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in duration and will consist of two sections:

1. Section A: 10 multiple choice questions followed by a range of calculations, short and extended response questions.
2. Section B: five questions involving a mix of calculations, short and extended responses.

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8136

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE

Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting subject where you will learn to cook new foods, and develop your culinary skills. The syllabus focuses on nutrition and health, as well as the functional properties and chemical processes of food products.

As well as gaining a GCSE in this subject, you will also develop life skills in cooking and gain a good understanding of health and nutrition. There are many links with other subjects so you can apply what you learn here to your other subjects. For example Geography – learning about food from other countries and food miles; Science – links to nutrition, bacteria, experimental work; Maths – scaling up and costing recipes; PHSE and PE – Healthy Eating, diet and wellbeing.

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a very dynamic subject. You will acquire transferable life skills that you will use throughout your whole life. Examples include managing your time, team working and problem solving.

What will you study?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip you with the knowledge, understanding, and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Key areas to be covered include:

- Nutrition - healthy eating, meal planning, dietary reference values, an understanding of the major diet related health risks
- Food Provenance - including where food comes from, "farm to fork"
- Food Choice - including sensory perception of foods, factors influencing choice such as religion, culture and ethical belief, food marketing and labelling of products
- Cooking and Food Preparation - including the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food
- Skills Requirements: preparation and cooking techniques - e.g. understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

How is the course assessed?

Assessment will be in the following format:

- A food science investigation (15% of GCSE) set by the exam board in September of Year 11.
- A food preparation task which includes a three hour practical exam where you will be expected to make three dishes, worth 35% of GCSE
- A written exam paper lasting 90 minutes (worth 50% of GCSE)

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8585

Health and Social Care BTEC Technical Award

Why study Health and Social Care?

This course will suit anyone wishing to study how to work with people within Health and Social Care settings. The course will prepare you for careers within the Health and Social Care sector providing a broad educational base for further training or education.

The course is very practical and involves lots of active learning in the classroom. BTEC qualifications are recognised by employers and educational institutions and will provide a good progression route to more advanced qualifications, e.g. BTEC Nationals or A-levels.

Health and Social Care is a vital career area that the NHS and educational sectors are keen to recruit for. The course will help you to develop confidence, practical communication and problem solving skills.

What will you study?

Learners will use realistic vocational contexts to learn subject specific knowledge and skills, exploring a range of healthcare conditions and social care needs, considering how the difference healthcare and social services available can help meet individual's needs. You have the opportunity to explore this through a range of difference components:

Component One: Human Lifespan Development

In this component, you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their lifetime, from infancy to old age, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. You will also explore the different factors that may affect them, and how people cope with, and are supported through, changes caused by life events.

Component Two: Health and Social Care Services and Values

This component will give you an understanding of health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. It will also help you develop the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

Component Three: Health and Wellbeing

In component three, you will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators as well as person centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

How is the course assessed?

All three components are assessed through internal assessments and an external exam broken down in the following way:

- Component 1: 30% weighting, 60 marks available, internal assessment, 4 tasks to complete
- Component 2: 30% weighting, 60 marks available, internal assessment, 5 tasks to complete
- Component 3: 40% weighting, 60 marks available, external exam, 2 hours.

The grades from the external assessment and portfolio of evidence will be combined in order to calculate the overall qualification grade. To achieve the BTEC Technical Award, you are required to achieve at least pass for each component.

IT Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate

Why study CNAT L2 IT?

This qualification will teach you about the use of IT in the digital world and how to apply design tools, principles of human computer interactions, the use of data and testing, cyber-security and legislation when creating an IT solution or product.

You will learn about data manipulation using spreadsheet tools and features and how these can be integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information.

You will also develop technical skills which can be used to plan, design, create, test and evaluate/review IT solutions and Augmented Reality (AR) products that are appropriate for a defined target audience.

What will you study?

You will study three core units as shown below:

Unit R050: IT in the digital world

Unit R060: Data Manipulation using Spreadsheets

Unit R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information

How is the course assessed?

This course will be assessed through a combination of written exam and production of portfolios for the individual controlled assessment units, based upon a variety of different assignments as set by the exam board. This will include case studies research, work-based assessments, along with projects, performance observation and timed assessments.

Unit R050: IT in the digital world (written paper, externally set and marked, 1 hour 30 minutes, 70 marks)

In this you will sit an exam to assess your knowledge and understanding of:

- Design tools (hardware and software applications)
- HCI
- Cybersecurity and legislation
- Digital communications
- The Internet of Everything (IoE)
- Data and testing

Unit R060: Data manipulation using Spreadsheets (assignment set by OCR, centre assessed, externally moderated, 60 marks across three to five practical tasks)

Unit R060 focuses on how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet a client's requirements. You will be able to evaluate your solution based on the user requirements.

Unit R070: Augmented Reality to present information (assignment set by OCR, centre assessed, externally moderated, 36GLH, 60 marks across three to five practical tasks)

This unit is assessed by designing and reviewing an augmented reality model prototype to meet a client's requirement.

Each unit will be graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Details of all assessments and deadlines will be issued to you at the start of the course.

Music GCSE

Why Study Music?

This course will suit if you wish to develop your musical and theoretical skills. It is a practical course covering performance and composition, theoretical knowledge and listening to musical elements and style. There are three elements: Composition 30%, Performing 30% and Listening 40%. It will offer you the chance to develop creative skills and use music technology to produce work that will be recorded and moderated.

GCSE Music will prepare you for studying Music further at 'A' Level as well as working in the Media or Music Recording Industry. The software that you will be introduced to is used in the Music Industry and will provide an excellent stepping-stone towards working in this field.

What will you study?

Throughout the course you will develop your performance skills including solo and ensemble work. You should do this through regular practise on an instrument or voice. Performance can be technology based, linked to keyboards and computers. You will be taught how to compose music in a variety of styles, including the use of Music Technology. This will build on composing skills that you have already gained during Years 7 and 8.

We will listen to a variety of music throughout the course linked to Areas of Study, 1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910 2. Popular music 3. Traditional music 4. Western classical tradition since 1910. There are 2 set works to study in depth, Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major, K. 622, 3rd movement, Rondo and 3 tracks from Graceland by Paul Simon, Graceland • Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes • You Can Call Me Al

Entry requirements

Although there is no specific entry requirement, you must be performing regularly on your instrument or voice and agree to receive music tuition to enhance your performance and musical skill. You must also contribute to one extracurricular activity per week run by the Music Curriculum area.

How is the course assessed?

Music will be assessed through:

- two composing tasks (lasting at least three minutes in total)
- two performance tasks (one solo and one ensemble, recorded in Year 11 and must last four minutes in total)
- one listening exam which includes set works

All GCSE composing and performing assessments are moderated by staff at Walton High. The listening section is examined at the end of the course by a written exam.

Support

There is a lively extracurricular programme in Music and across the Performing Arts with regular rehearsals and performances. You are encouraged to work at your performance and compositional skills through instrumental lessons available through Walton High instrumental tuition or Yamaha Music Point. Please contact Yamaha@waltonhigh.org.uk for more details.

GCSE Qualification Award - AQA 8271

Psychology GCSE

Why study Psychology?

Psychology is a scientific subject that looks at the brain and behaviour.

It is about people both as individuals, and as members of society, and includes biological and environmental effects on the individual. This GCSE specification focuses on areas that you will find interesting, including why and how people are different, how our genetics contribute towards our behaviour, as well as developing an understanding of how individuals change through their lives.

This GCSE will help you gain another science-based GCSE and it provides a useful basis for studying the subject at A level. The subject complements the study of biology, health and social care and other social sciences. You will develop a range of transferable skills such as, evaluation skills, constructing arguments using evidence, using research methods and skills of data analysis.

What will you study?

You will be looking at the following topics:

Paper 1

- Development – How did you develop?
- Memory – How does your memory work?
- Psychological problems – How would psychological problems affect you?
- The brain and neuropsychology – How does your brain affect you?
- Social influence – How do others affect you?

Paper 2

- Criminal psychology – Why do people become criminals?
- Sleep and dreaming – Why do you need to sleep and dream?
- Research methods – How do you carry out psychological research?

Studies: You will learn about a number of in depth studies within each of the topic areas, where you will need to be able to explain what happened in the study as well as the possible issues with it.

Theories: Within each topic you will learn theories that psychologists have suggested and the possible problems with them.

Research Methods: Knowing how psychologists conduct research and being able to conduct research ourselves is a very important part of psychology.

How is the course assessed?

There are two exams which include multiple-choice and short answer questions, as well as extended writing.

Paper 1 – 98 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes (55% of qualification)

Paper 2 – 79 marks, 1 hour 20 minutes (45% of qualification)

Edexcel Qualification Award – 1PS01

Religious Studies GCSE (Philosophy and Ethics)

What will you study?

You will study a Religious Studies qualification through the AQA Specification A course. In this course you will study the following topics:

Part One: 50% Study of Religions

25% study of a first religion (Christianity)

- Beliefs and teachings
- Sources of wisdom and authority

25% study of a second religion (Buddhism)

- Beliefs and teachings
- Sources of wisdom and authority

Part Two: 50% Thematic Studies

- 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
- Crime and punishment: causes of crime, aims of punishment, the concepts of forgiveness, retribution, deterrence, reformation; the death penalty, treatment of criminals; good, evil and suffering
- Religion and life: the origins and the value of the universe, the origins and value of human life. You will cover themes such as; abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation
- Relationships and Families: issues of sexuality, marriage, contraception and family planning, divorce, the nature and purpose of families, and gender equality.

We have selected these topics to help engage you and to help cover the issues which we have found are most important to the students we teach. In each theme both religious and non-religious views are examined.

How is English incorporated into the GCSE?

All students will be required to draw on their English skills throughout the Religious Studies course. This be demonstrated through the production of extended answers including the use of key terms. You will be supported to developed persuasive extended answers that incorporate literacy skills which you have learnt in English. You are also awarded marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed through two exams at the end of Year 11. One paper will be on the Study of Religion and the other Thematic Studies. You will prepare for this by studying the two components in the during Key Stage 4.

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8062BA

Sociology GCSE

Why study Sociology?

Sociology is the study of societies and the way that they shape people's behaviour, beliefs and identity. Sociology enables us to make sense of the rapidly changing world in which we live. Some of the main changes that we have seen recently in Britain have been:

- Changes in family life: fewer people are living in the 'conventional nuclear family' – marriage rates are falling, divorce rates are increasing and other types of family/household are becoming popular.
Increasing inequalities as more people have experienced poverty and exclusion and the gap has widened between rich and poor.
- Crime rates in the UK have been falling consistently since 1995 – but most people think that the opposite has happened because of the way that the media report crime.

This subject encourages you to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing your critical and evaluative skills.

Perhaps most fundamentally of all, sociology enables us to understand ourselves. The way that we think, behave and feel; indeed our very sense of identity, is socially produced.

Sociology opens up a range of career pathways and complements a range of other subjects. For example it can assist with careers in journalism, social work, the charity sector, research for government and other agencies and the legal profession. As a subject that incorporates a range of skills and contemporary content it works particularly well with other humanities and social sciences such as Geography, History and Psychology.

What will you study?

The following modules are covered during the course:

- Studying Society – Sociological Methodology
- Education
- Families and Households
- Crime and Deviance
- Social Inequality

Each section of the specification is connected and interrelated.

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes with 100 marks available. These exams will test your subject knowledge and skills at analysing and evaluating competing perspectives on the topics covered.

- Paper 1: Assesses Education, Families and Households with links to sociological methods (50% of GCSE grade).
- Paper 2: Assesses Crime and Deviance and Social Inequality with links to sociological methods (50% of GCSE grade).

GCSE Qualification Award – AQA 8192

Sports Science Cambridge National Certificate

Why study Sport Science?

The sports industry is huge with a wide and diverse range of jobs linked to the sector. Many ex-students have gone on to become sports coaches, personal trainers, as well as gym instructors. However, some have also gone on to complete Post 16 and degree courses in Sport Science, Medicine, Physiotherapy, Sports Journalism, Sports Business and Finance.

The Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science is a nationally recognised Level 2 vocationally specific qualification in sport, equivalent to one GCSE. If you enjoy playing and/or watching sport this qualification is designed to develop your knowledge through practical and theoretical learning and apply it to real-life sports situations, thus enabling you to gain the skills required for your chosen career.

What will you study?

R180: Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions

This unit makes students aware of how to prepare participants to take part in physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries occurring, how to react to common injuries that can occur during sport and how to recognise the symptoms of some common medical conditions. This knowledge will provide you with a good foundation to undertake formal first aid training and qualifications.

R181: Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance

Students will learn how to conduct a range of fitness tests, what they test and their advantages and disadvantages. They will also learn how to design, plan and evaluate a fitness training programme. This will give them the background knowledge they need to be able to plan and deliver appropriate fitness tests, some of which will be adapted to suit the skills of the sporting activity.

R182: The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this

In this unit, students will learn how both the cardio-respiratory and musculoskeletal systems provide you with the energy and movements needed to keep you exercising and in turn how exercise helps develop both systems. Students will also learn about relevant technology and how this assists us in measuring changes in these systems.

How is the course assessed?

- **R181 and R182** are internally assessed through portfolio based work which will be set and marked by subject teachers. These three units combined count towards 60% of the overall grade. These units will be assessed using grading criteria at Pass, Merit and Distinction.
- **R180:** A one hour written exam where there are 70 marks available. This unit counts towards 40% of the final grade. This unit will be assessed using grading criteria at Pass, Merit and Distinction.

The grades from the external assessment and portfolio based work will be combined in order to calculate the overall qualification grade.