



GCSE Options Booklet

2025

Key Dates:

Wednesday 29 January 2025
Thursday 26 February 2025
Monday 3 March 2025
Friday 14 March 2025
End of June 2025

Parents' Evening 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Options Evening 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
Options online opens
Options online completed
Students notified of options

The Options Booklet

We are beginning the 2025 options process, which will enable all Year 9 students to decide the curriculum they wish to study until the end of Year 11. This booklet will guide you through the choices and we are here to support you in the decisions that you make.

Everyone will study English (Language and Literature, two GCSEs), Mathematics, Combined Science (two GCSEs unless a student opts for Triple Science), Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) education (non-examination) and Core PE (non-examination).

Options choices:

- All students need to choose at least one of the following subjects:
 - Geography, History or Computer Science.
- Students selected for the French pathway will also choose French.
- Students can then choose from the options list up to a **total of four choices**.
- There are some restricted option combinations - students may only choose either:
 - Art or Textiles
 - Design and Technology or Food Preparation and Nutrition
 - BTEC Travel and Tourism or CNAT Health and Social Care
 - GCSE PE or BTEC Sport

We would like you to think carefully about your choices.

Whilst we can't guarantee you all your first choices, we will aim to get you onto your selected courses and will discuss on an individual basis with any student who does not get their choices. We will prioritise students into subjects that are limited on numbers based on what their reserve choice is and, on their Attitude to Learning scores across all their subjects.

Whilst we will always do our utmost to ensure that any option subject we offer is able to run, in unforeseen circumstances we reserve the right to withdraw a subject.

Where to Get Help

- Discuss your choices fully with your parents/carers.
- Ask advice from subject teachers or your tutor. Seek information on the level, content, teaching methods and assessment of the course.

Options choices offered at The Roundhill Academy for teaching from September 2025

Subject	Qualification	Assessment type	Page
Art	GCSE	Coursework/ ten-hour practical exam	13
Business studies	GCSE	100% written exam	14
Computer Science	GCSE	100% written exam	9
Design and Technology	GCSE	Mix of practical, coursework and written exam	15
Drama	GCSE	Mix of practical, coursework, portfolio and written exam	16
Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE	Mix of practical, coursework and written exam	17
French	GCSE	100% written exam	12
Geography	GCSE	100% written exam	10
Health and Social Care	CNAT	Mix of coursework and written exam	18
History	GCSE	100% written exam	11
Music	GCSE	Mix of practical, coursework and written exam	19
Physical Education	GCSE	Mix of practical, coursework and written exams	20
Religious Studies	GCSE	100% written exam	21
Sociology	GCSE	100% written exam	22
Sport	BTEC	Mix of practical, coursework and written exam	23
Textiles	GCSE	Coursework/ ten-hour practical exam	24
Travel and Tourism	BTEC	Mix of coursework and written exam	25
Triple Science	GCSE	100% written exam	26

GCSE English Language

AQA 8700



How will this course be useful?

Possessing good literacy skills are now recognised as a vital quality required to help people access many, if not all, aspects of life.

A person with good literacy skills has greater chances of a more successful adult life.

Analytical skills are widely needed in the workplace and are key transferrable skills from both English Language and Literature.

Grade 5 in this course can lead to A Level English Language at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Miss Phahey or email aphahey@roundhill.bep.schools.org, or speak to your subject teacher.



What are the main aims of the course?

To encourage students to:

Read fluently and write effectively. They should be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English, be able to write grammatically correct sentences, deploy figurative language and analyse texts.

To enable students to:

- Read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding.
- Read critically, and use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing.
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately.
- Use grammar correctly, 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.

What is covered in the course?

- Critical reading and comprehension.
- Summary and synthesis.
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, form, grammatical and structural features.
- Comparing texts.
- Producing clear and coherent texts.
- Writing for impact.
- Spoken Standard English.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing	1h 45min – 50%	Section A: Literary fiction Section B: Descriptive or narrative writing
Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	1h 45min – 50%	Section A: Non-fiction & literary non-fiction Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint
NEA: spoken language assessment		Presenting, responding to questions Fail/Pass/Merit/Distinction

Grade 5 in this course can lead to A Level English Language at our sixth form.

GCSE English Literature

AQA 8702



How will this course be useful?

Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Reading literature develops empathy and understanding of others and the world around us.

Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure and is preparation for studying literature at a higher level. It is a highly sought after qualification for further study of professional degree courses such as Law, Psychology and Medicine.

Grade 5 in this course can lead to A Level English Literature at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Miss Phahey or email aphahey@roundhill.bepschools.org or speak to your subject teacher.



What are the main aims of the course?

To encourage students to:

- Develop knowledge and skills in reading and critical thinking.
- Read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding and make connections across their learning.
- Read in depth, critically and evaluatively so that they are able to discuss and explain their 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 their reading, using Standard English.
- Acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

What is covered in the course?

- Literal and inferential comprehension.
- Critical reading.
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features.
- Comparing texts.
- Accurate Standard English, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19 th Century Novel	Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry
1hr 45 min – 40%	2hr 15 min – 60%
Section A. Shakespeare: <i>Macbeth</i>	Section A. <i>An Inspector Calls</i>
Section B. Dickens: <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	Section B. Poetry - <i>Conflict & Power</i>
	Section C. Unseen poetry comparison

Grade 5 in this course can lead to A Level English Literature at our sixth form.

GCSE Mathematics

OCR J560 - Foundation

What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

What is covered in the course?

Tier	Topic Area	Weighting
Foundation	Number	25%
	Algebra	20%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	25%
	Geometry and Measures	15%
	Statistics and Probability	15%

How is the course assessed?

- Students entered for Foundation can achieve grades 1 – 5.
- The GCSE is 100% assessment based.
- There are 3 papers: Papers 1, 2 and 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 mins long and is out of 100 marks.
- Papers 2 is **Non-Calculator**.



How will this course be useful?

All students are required to study GCSE Maths; it is a basic requirement for jobs of all descriptions.

Maths gives students the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding to help them progress to further academic or vocational study and for employment.

Maths is a key skill, essential for many areas of life, such as managing money, working out deals in supermarkets, understanding statistics in the news, planning holidays, DIY and cooking.

For further information, speak to Mrs Toon, or to your Maths teacher.



GCSE Mathematics

AQA 8300 - Higher



What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

What is covered in the course?

Tier	Topic Area	Weighting
Higher	Number	15%
	Algebra	30%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change	20%
	Geometry and Measures	20%
	Statistics and Probability	15%

How is the course assessed?

- Students entered for Higher can achieve grades 4 – 9.
- The GCSE is 100% assessment based.
- There are 3 papers: Papers 1, 2 and 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 mins long and is out of 80 marks.
- Papers 1 is **Non-Calculator**.

Grade 6 in this course can lead to A Level Mathematics and Grade 7 to Further Maths at our sixth form.

How will this course be useful?

All students are required to study GCSE Maths; it is a basic requirement for jobs of all descriptions.

Maths gives students the appropriate skills, knowledge and understanding to help them progress to further academic or vocational study and for employment.

Maths is a key skill, essential for many areas of life, such as managing money, working out deals in supermarkets, understanding statistics in the news, planning holidays, DIY and cooking.

For further information, speak to Mrs Toon, or to your Maths teacher.



GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy AQA 8464



Science

How will this course be useful?

This course will give you a double award GCSE in Combined Science.

Use this qualification to:

Go on to A Levels in Science.

Get on to a Science Apprenticeship.

Specific Science related careers include:

Midwife
Analytical Chemist
Veterinary Science
Nuclear Maintenance Technician
Food Science Technician.

Grade 6/6 in this course can lead to A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Mrs Kyle, or to your subject teacher.



THE ROUNDHILL ACADEMY

What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Apply their understanding of Science to the real world around them.
- Give students a firm grounding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which can lead into A Level (GCE).
- Develop their understanding of how to work scientifically and carry out investigations.
- Develop their scientific literacy in order to understand the world around them and make informed choices.
- Prepare for a Science related career.

What is covered in the course?

Biology	Cell biology and organisation, infection, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance
Chemistry	Atomic structure, chemical reactions, Organic chemistry, the Atmosphere
Physics	Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism, particles and atomic structure

How is the course assessed?

Examinations will be taken at the end of the second year of study and will include two 1hr 15m examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each examination is worth 16.7%

The GCSE covers all abilities from 9-1.

You will automatically be entered for this course if you have not chosen the separate sciences option course.

Grade 6/6 in this course can lead to A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics at our sixth form.

GCSE Computer Science

OCR J277

Computer Science will encourage learners to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

What is covered in the course?

Students studying this specification will learn:

- Systems architecture, including memory and storage.
- Wired and wireless networks, topologies, protocols and layers.
- System security and system software.
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.
- Algorithms.
- Programming techniques and producing robust programs.
- Computational logic.
- Translators and facilities of languages.
- Data representation.

Programming - practical skills

Students complete programming projects, demonstrating problem solving skills and analytical thinking. This is in preparation for the practical examination and an essential element of Computer Science.

How is the course assessed?

Students complete two examinations at the end of the course, both written. The first paper is called Computer Systems and the second is Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming. Both exams are one tier of assessment covering grades 9-1 and each exam contributes 50% of the final grade.

You are most likely to enjoy this subject if you have an interest in science and maths; you are a logical thinker and enjoy problem solving.

A grade 6 in Mathematics and Computer Science can lead to A Level Computer Science at our sixth form.



Reasons to choose this course:

- Gain a GCSE with practical programming techniques.
- Develop skills that can be applied in other subjects and careers.
- Clear progression routes to further studies.
- Develop skills that employers value.

Reasons to not choose this course:

- A lot of time you are not working on a computer
- It is a difficult GCSE to sit
- It does not cover video games
- There are multiple tests per term.

For further information, speak to Mr Longley in ICT1.



GCSE Geography

OCR B J386



How will this course be useful?

With global issues like climate change and sustainability becoming a priority for world leaders, Geography will equip you with vital knowledge of key geographical issues. With this global focus there will be an increase in job opportunities connected to these issues which this course will prepare you for. Geography is in the top ten subjects for employability when studied at university.

You will develop a vast number of skills to help you to become successful, not only at school but also in the future. You will improve your literacy through report writing and written work and you will use numeracy skills when you interpret data and produce graphs. Geography is also highly regarded by colleges and employers so it will support you in your next steps.

This course can lead to A level Geography at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Mrs Sloneczny.



What are the main aims of the course?

Students develop an understanding and appreciation of the natural world they live in and why it looks the way it does. They study the rich diversity of landscapes and ecosystems which are changing through physical processes and human interactions.

Students explore the social, cultural, political and economic forces that make places unique, and how these change over time and space, particularly the growth of urbanisation and the challenges of feeding an ever-growing population.

As part of this course, you will also go on two fieldwork trips. This allows you to see the geography you are learning in the classroom in the real world. By seeing Geography in action, it can deepen your understanding of key concepts and help keep learning in your long-term memory.

"Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future" Michael Palin

What is covered in the course?

GCSE Geography is divided into three topics made up of eight units:

Our Natural World

- Global Hazards
- Sustaining Ecosystems
- Distinctive Landscapes
- Changing Climates
- **Physical Fieldwork**

People and Society

- Resource Reliance
- Dynamic Development
- Urban Futures
- UK in 21st Century
- **Human Fieldwork**

Geographical Exploration

This unit draws on topics from both Our Natural World and People and Society and is fully synoptic. This means in the exam you will be given a resources booklet to use to help you answer the questions. The purpose of this paper is to give you practical skills for the future and allow you to 'think like Geographers'.

How is the course assessed?

35%- Exam 1hr 15 on Our Natural World- Summer 2027

35%- Exam 1hr 15 on People and Society- Summer 2027

30%- Exam 1hr 30 on Geographical Exploration which is a synoptic paper- Summer 2027.

GCSE History

Edexcel 1HI0

What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Gain a greater insight and understanding of the world.
- Select, organise and structure your work effectively.
- Learn in a variety of ways such as research, collaborative learning, case studies and analysis of sources.
- Cover a wide range of historical events and topics from different countries that will engage, interest and develop a love of History.

What is covered in the course?

The American West

Our period of study covers the fascinating history of the Native Americans and the American West. Students will explore what the 'real' American West was like from early settlement on the plains to problems of lawlessness and tension between the settlers and Plains Indians.

Medicine through time

The Medicine in Britain study is the story of the development of science and its place in British society. Our study begins in the Middle Ages and finishes with a focus on the rise of technology in the 21st century. In the linked study of the historic environment students will learn about the connections between conditions on the Western Front during WW1 and their wider impact on the provision of medical care.

Weimar and Nazi Germany

Students will analyse how, between the First and Second World Wars, a democratic Germany became a one-party dictatorship. Students will examine various political, economic, social and cultural aspects of the changes in Germany during this short time span.

Early Elizabethan England

This unit will look at significant events during the reign of Elizabeth I including threats to the security of the country, differing views on religion, the education of young people and Tudor attitudes towards the poor.

How is the course assessed?

100% examination taking the form of three written exams (Summer 2026).

This course can lead to A Level History at our sixth form.



How will this course be useful?

Studying History can lead to a number of diverse careers where you are required to be critical and analytical thinkers. It is a highly regarded academic qualification by both further education providers and employers.

You will develop the ability to be more independent in your learning, to synthesise varying ideas and interrogate evidence. You will also develop the ability to question, critically analyse and evaluate the past, explaining how it has affected the present.

This course can lead to A Level History at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Miss Thornton.



GCSE French

AQA 8652

What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Develop an understanding of the French language in a variety of contexts.
- Communicate effectively in French.
- Explore the cultures of different countries and communities where French is spoken.
- Recognise that their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their place in a multilingual, global society and also provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of the language.

What is covered in the course?

The skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing are developed through the study of the following topics:

People and lifestyle

Identity, relationships, healthy living, lifestyle, education, work

Popular culture

Free time, customs, festivals, celebrations, celebrity culture

Communication and the world around us

Travel, tourism, media, technology, the environment, town

How is the course assessed?

Students are entered for either foundation or higher tier.

Skill	Weighting	Format
Listening	25%	Written exam – end of Year 11
Reading	25%	Written exam – end of Year 11
Speaking	25%	Speaking exam – end of Year 11
Writing	25%	Written exam – end of Year 11

A grade 7 can lead to French A level at our sixth form.



How will this course be useful?

A GCSE in French will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE studies, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for.

Languages complement other subjects, increasing opportunities for travel and work within many different sectors. These include: science, engineering, law, business, journalism, media, leisure, tourism and education.

Language learning helps to enhance many useful transferable skills, including the ability to communicate clearly with a wide range of people and to speak confidently in public.

For further information, speak to Mr Jones, or to your subject teacher.



GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art AQA 8202

(N.B students can only choose one of either Fine Art or Textiles)



What are the main aims of the course?

Students will learn to research and develop their own creative ideas from both observation and imagination. They will acquire a range of practical skills in different media and experiment using a variety of materials and techniques.

What is covered in the course?

During the course, students will undertake their coursework unit based on a centre selected theme. Students will be taught how to use more complex and sophisticated techniques and introduced to new media. They will learn the process of developing an art project from initial concept through to creating an impactful outcome. Students will be encouraged to visit galleries and exhibitions so that works of art can be studied first-hand. Having spent time developing their skills and creative confidence, students will move on to the Set Task. This is a project created from one of five starting points set by the exam board released in January of year 11, culminating in a final outcome/s produced in exam conditions.

How is the course assessed?

The Coursework Portfolio unit, will count for 60% of the final assessment. During the spring term of Year 11, students will undertake the set task accounting for the remaining 40% of the marks. Students will select one of the starting points, issued by the awarding body. Students will prepare studies for this task in advance. They will then use these to create artwork under examination conditions during a 10-hour supervised time.

Additional information

As a creative subject that demands time for the making of images and artefacts, an opportunity will be given for all Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE art and design students to attend the extra-curricular GCSE Art/textiles Club which will run after school, twice a week from 3:10–4:15pm. It is helpful but not essential, that students have a range of materials to enable them to develop their work outside of the classroom.

Be a part of 'The Creative Industries'



How will this course be useful?

Creative industries are worth £8 million an hour to the UK economy.

The ability to work creatively is an essential aspect of many careers.

Specific Art related careers include:

Games Designer
Artist
Web Designer
Fashion Designer
Interior designer
Book Illustrator
Architect
Surface pattern designer
Art Gallery curator
Conservator
Make-up Artist
Tattooist
Graphic Designer
Florist
Jeweller
Film Set Designer

This course can lead to A Level Art at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Mrs Woodrow.



GCSE Business

AQA 8132

What are the main aims of the course?

You should choose this subject because you are interested in what goes on behind the scenes to make a business successful. You should also study this course if you're somebody who enjoys learning about real-life examples – you probably already watch Dragons' Den! Studying business also gives you a chance to use all of your academic skills, including both literacy and numeracy.

What is covered in the course?

There are **six** topics studied over the two years:

- Business in the real world – entrepreneurship, the different types of business structure, goal setting, location and business planning
- Influences on business – the external factors that influence a business such as technology, economic climate, globalisation and the law
- Business operations – the different ways businesses produce goods and services, how they manage their stocks and supplies, and how they attempt to produce high quality products and provide excellent customer service
- Human resources – staffing structures, how businesses recruit new employees and how they train them once they start work
- Marketing – how businesses identify, understand and target their customers by using advertising and other methods to promote their products
- Finance – how businesses raise the finance they need to operate and how they manage their cash, calculate their profits and use data to judge their performance

How is the course assessed?

There will be **two written exams**, each one lasting 1 hour 45 minutes. Both follow the same structure, with three sections: one section consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions; two sections using separate case studies and requiring longer, more developed written answers.



How will this course be useful?

This course is ideal preparation for the world of work, because it provides you with an understanding of how businesses work and what it takes to be successful

It is also an excellent platform for further study. It will help you to progress smoothly to study subjects such as business or economics in Bradgate Sixth Form (B6).

Because it uses both literacy and numeracy, it will also help you maintain and develop the skills you need for your other GCSE subjects.

For further information, speak to Mrs Rann



GCSE Design and Technology

AQA 8552

(N.B. students can only choose one of either Design & Technology or Food Preparation & Nutrition)



How will this course be useful?

Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of the design process. Solve technical problems using designing, modelling and testing.

Use CAD/CAM to design & manufacture products.

Develop communication skills and work in teams.

Use a range of tools and equipment safely and skilfully.

Demonstrate creativity and useful thinking skills.

What can this course lead to?

- Product Design A-Level at our sixth form
- Architecture
- Product design
- Engineering
- Furniture design
- 3D design
- Interior design
- Gaming design
- Construction industry

For further information, speak to Mrs Robinson.



What are the main aims of the course?

- ✓ Do you enjoy solving problems?
- ✓ Do you like working with your hands?
- ✓ Do you want to develop your creative mind?



GCSE Design and Technology is a practical based subject that develops knowledge and understanding of the design process and the use of resistant and compliant materials to solve everyday problems.

The course is a fun and exciting way to develop skills working with tools and equipment solving technical problems through designing and making tasks.

What is covered in the course?

- A range of designing and making skills.
- An understanding of how to make informed decisions.
- How to manufacture with accuracy and how to choose the correct material for a job by considering its properties and environmental impacts.
- How to reflect upon your own ideas so that you can improve them.
- How to apply your knowledge and experience in new contexts.



The various aspects of the course will be taught in a range of ways: practical projects, computer design work, different drawing techniques, group work and individual project work to name but a few!

During Year 10 students will do several mini designing and manufacturing projects which prepare you for your formal GCSE assessments and develop your transferrable skills for life beyond your studies at school.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1: 50% **Design Portfolio:** An extended designing and making task which allows you to independently research, design, develop, test and manufacture your ideas.

Unit 2: 50% **Design and Technology Exam:** Students will be examined on their knowledge of materials, components, manufacturing processes and design principles. They will be expected to apply their knowledge to a range of contexts and in doing so demonstrate their ability to design products with the environment and user in mind.

GCSE Drama

OCR J316

What are the main aims of the course?

Students gain a practical understanding of drama and apply this knowledge to their performances as they develop their practical skills. Students can choose to be a performer or can take on the role of designer in lighting, sound, set or costume. Students must choose one role throughout the component but can choose different roles throughout the course.

What is covered in the course?

Component 01/02: Devising Drama

Students research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. They complete a portfolio of evidence during the devising process, give a final performance of their drama, and write an evaluation of their own work.

Component 03: Presenting and Performing Texts

Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. The chosen extracts must allow sufficient exploration of dialogue, plot and/or subplot, and characterisation for students to work in depth on their acting or design skills

Component 04: Drama Performance and Response

Students explore practically a whole performance text and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

How is the course assessed?

Component 01/02 is NEA and is worth 30% of final GCSE grade. Students will be assessed on their devised performance as well as producing a portfolio, detailing and evaluating the journey of the devising process.

Component 03 is a practical NEA and is worth 30% of final GCSE grade. Students will present and perform 2 extracts from a play script.

Component 04 is an externally assessed written exam lasting 1hr 30 mins. This is worth 40% of final GCSE grade.

This course can lead to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies at our sixth form.



How will this course be useful?

- Encourages creative thinking, which is essential to many future courses and careers
- Allows development of confidence and presentation (e.g. in a future interview).
- TV/Radio/Theatre production
- Presenting
- Acting
- Set/costume/lighting/sound design
- Theatre technician
- Stage/theatre manager
- Drama/Arts therapy
- Youth and community work
- Journalism
- Public speaking
- Creative writing

This course can lead to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Miss Coltman.



GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA 8552

(N.B. students can only choose one of either Design & Technology or Food Preparation & Nutrition)

What are the main aims of the course?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition allows students to develop their understanding of nutrition and the working characteristics of food materials and where they come from. Students will also develop their creativity, their practical cooking skills and a wider understanding of the science behind food.

There are five core topics;

- Food, nutrition and health; macro and micronutrients, diet related disease.
- Food Science; Why is food cooked, heat transfer and changing properties
- Food Safety; Storing food, food spoilage and food poisoning
- Food Choice; Influences, food labels, religion & morals and international cuisine
- Food Provenance; Where food comes from, food processing and food waste.

The duration of Year 10 will be spent developing practical skills and studying the five core topics and exam content. During Year 11, students will complete two coursework pieces.

How is the course assessed?

50% Exam (1 hour 45)

50% NEA (Non-Exam Assessment).

NEA 1: Food investigation (15%) : Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task. 1500 words and 10 hours.

NEA 2: Food preparation assessment (35%): Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance with relevant research to the task.

20 hours, 20 pages. three skill cooks and a three-hour practical exam.

How will this course be useful?



Food Preparation and nutrition allows students to obtain skills such as;

- Independence
- Teamwork
- Organisation
- Time management
- Problem solving
- Gain a life skill
- Understanding of nutrition and the body
- Understanding consumers.

Career pathways in food:

- Chef
- Product developer
- Food photographer
- Nutritionist
- Dietitian
- Food engineer
- Food scientist
- Food safety Inspector
- Hotel/ restaurant manager/owner
- Home economist
- Teacher
- Food technologist
- Quality Assurance officer

For further information, speak to Miss Bates.



CNAT Level 1/ Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

What are the main aims of the course?

Cambridge National in Health and Social Care will equip students with transferable knowledge and skills relevant to a wide range of health and social care settings. Students will gain an understanding of how to interact with service users and ensure they receive the best care possible. Students will also develop skills in planning and delivering creative activities with service users to develop their physical, intellectual, emotional and social skills.

What is covered in the course?

Unit R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings.

Students will learn about the key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care settings. Topics include: the rights of service users, person-centred values, effective communication and protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings. **(mandatory, exam in Year 11).**

Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events.

Students will learn about growth and development through the life stages, understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs. **(mandatory, coursework, completed in Year 11).**

Unit R034: Creative and therapeutic activities

In this unit students will research therapies and learn about how they can benefit people. The unit covers the benefits of creative activities which students will plan and deliver to a group or individual. **(option, coursework completed in Year 10).**

Assessment

R032 – Students complete one examination, 1hr 15 mins with a range of short and medium length questions.

R033 and 34 – students complete coursework (NEA) under supervision in school with guided teaching hours for each component.

This course can lead directly into BTEC Health and Social care Level 3 or a range of T levels in the health. More broadly, students can go onto study Social Sciences such as Sociology or Psychology A Levels at our sixth form.

[Cambridge Nationals - Health and Social Care Level 1/Level 2 – J835 - OCR](#)



How will this course be useful?

This Level 1/2 (GCSE equivalent) qualification will help students to

- Understand the importance of effective communication skills when working in Health and Social Care settings.
- Develop the skills needed to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for those in care.

These skills will help students progress onto further study and/or employment in the health and social care sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as T Levels in Health; A' levels in Psychology, Biology or Sociology and a range of apprenticeships.

For further information, speak to Mr Witchard.



GCSE Music

Eduqas C660QS



How will this course be useful?

GCSE Music is a good way to explore different styles of music for your own interest. It naturally leads to A Level and vocational courses like the RSL Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma for Music Practitioners which is offered at the Bradgate Sixth Form. Music can then be studied at University, leading to future career pathways, such as:

- Performing
- songwriting
- composing
- live music entertainment
- music education
- music production
- artist management
- marketing and PR
- music journalism

For further information, speak to Mr Rule.

What are the main aims of the course?

GCSE Music enables students to engage in a balanced course of performance, composition and appraisal and analysis of different musical styles and genres. Throughout the course students will develop performance skills on an instrument of your choice and will work on solo performance and work with others to produce ensemble performances. Compositional techniques are taught enabling students to create their own ideas.

For anyone choosing GCSE Music, there must be a willingness and enthusiasm for playing and practicing a musical instrument and to take an interest in, and listen to, all kinds of music

What is covered in the course?

There are three main areas of study :

- Performing music: solo and ensemble
- Composing music: how to compose, using different musical forms and structures, writing melodies and harmony, how to compose to a particular musical genre or style
- Analysis of the following areas of study:
 - Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
 - Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
 - Area of study 3: Film Music
 - Area of study 4: Popular Music

An understanding of music notation is needed throughout the course, the skills learnt during Years 7 to 9 are a good foundation for this.

How is the course assessed?

Performance: one solo, one ensemble (30%)

Composition: one free choice, one to an exam board-set brief (30%)

Analysis: 1 hour 15 minute exam at the end of Year 11

This course can lead to the RSL course offered at our sixth form.



GCSE Physical Education

AQA 8582

(N.B students can only choose one of either PE or BTEC Sport)

What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Encourage creativity and decision-making skills to enable students to plan effectively for performances and to respond to changing situations.
- Enable students to become increasingly physically competent through being actively engaged in a range of physical activities.
- Become increasingly effective in their performance in different types of physical activity within individual and team sports.

What is covered in the course?

Students will develop their knowledge of physical education and physical activity, in relation to:

- **The Human body and movement in physical activity and sport (component 1)** through lessons on anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and physical training.
- **Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport (component 2)** through lessons on health, fitness and well-being; sport psychology and the socio-cultural influences affecting participation in sport.
- **Practical Performance (component 3)** in a range of individual and team activities.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1 (Theory) is assessed through a written exam and contributes to 30% of your total marks.

Component 2 (Theory) is assessed through a written exam and contributes to 30% of your total marks

Component 3 (Practical) is assessed through three practical performances in a team sport, an individual sport and a sport of your choice and contributes 30% of your total marks.

Coursework (Combination of theory and practical) is assessed through coursework and contributes 10% of your total marks.

This course can lead to BTEC Sport at our sixth form.



How will this course be useful?

The course is ideal preparation for A Level P.E. and allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as a BTEC in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science.

The course develops transferable skills and key skills such as teamwork, communication, independence and can lead to a variety of employment opportunities. This could include training in areas such as recreation management, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the Civil Service.

This course can lead to BTEC Sport at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Miss Friswell, or a member of the Physical Education Department.



GCSE Religious Studies

AQA 8062

What are the main aims of the course?

- To gain a greater insight and understanding of the world.
- To develop a wide range of knowledge about different religions.
- To consider different viewpoints and belief systems.
- To investigate contemporary, moral and ethical issues in today's society e.g. how did life begin? Is it ever right to go to war? Should capital punishment be legal? Should animals be experimented on?
- To develop a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing critical and evaluative skills.

What is covered in the course?

GCSE Religious Studies is divided into two units.

Unit 1: The study of Religions - this unit will examine the beliefs, teachings and practices of two different religions e.g. Christianity and Buddhism.

Unit 2: Thematic Studies - this unit will involve examining four moral and ethical topics – both from different religious viewpoints and non-religious viewpoints.

Topic 1 Relationships and Families: Issues surrounding sex before marriage, homosexuality, divorce, contraception and gender equality will be examined.

Topic 2 Religion and Life: This topic examines the origins of life and the universe, as well as looking at ethical issues concerning abortion, euthanasia, animal experimentation and problems surrounding the environment.

Topic 3 Religion, Crime and Punishment: Students will consider reasons for crime and examine the different types of punishment e.g. prison and the death penalty.

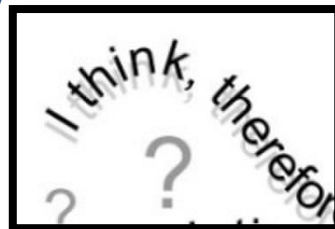
Topic 4 Religion, Peace and Conflict: In this topic contemporary wars will be examined as well as nuclear weapons and the rise in terrorism. Examples of pacifism and peace making will also be investigated.

How is the course assessed?

This course is 100% examination in the summer of 2026.

Paper 1: Study of two Religions – 50%.

Paper 2: Philosophy, Ethics and Religion – 50%.



How will this course be useful?

Religious Studies is a fundamental subject needed for any career. It will build strong skills in understanding other people's diverse cultures and viewpoints.

It creates opportunities for young people to develop their skills of dialogue, literacy, interpretation and analysis of textual studies.

All these are vital skills in a modern workforce where communication, collaboration, analysis and use of literacy are core skills.

For further information, speak to Miss Kaur.



GCSE Sociology

Eduqas C200QS



How will this course be useful?

One aim is to help students understand the social world in which they live. To develop their inquisitive side and explore key issues such as why crime occurs, why the family unit has changed over the last 60 years or so and what makes us human?

Another aim is for students to develop subject vocabulary and literacy skills, becoming fluent in the use of sociological language.

Students will learn transferable knowledge and skills useful in a range of careers.

What are the main aims of the course?

- To develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, and how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues
- To develop key skills: evaluation, analysis and application of knowledge
- To be inquisitive and develop wider knowledge of current issues in society

What is covered in the course?

Paper 1: Understanding Social Processes. This covers sociological concepts such as, socialisation, identity and culture which underpin the whole course. Family and education topics are also covered in this paper. Students explore sub-topics such as sociological explanations of the role of family and schools, family diversity, achievement of different social groups in education and patterns of marriage, divorce and cohabitation.

Paper 2: Understanding Social Structures. This focuses on social differentiation, power and stratification. Students explore the theme of power, issues of social order and social control, studied through crime and deviance. Topics include poverty, explanations of crime and the role of social control agents such as the police.

In both components students explore the advantages and disadvantages of sociological research methods (paper 1) and apply their knowledge (paper 2). They also learn about key sociological perspectives.

How is the course assessed?

- 100% examination at the end of Year 11.
- Both papers include multiple choice questions and a range of shorter questions and essay questions for all topics.

This course can lead directly to A Level Sociology at our sixth form or more broadly into the study of other social sciences.

[GCSE Sociology | Eduqas](#)

For further information, speak to Mr Wichard.



Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Sport

(N.B students can only choose one of either PE or BTEC Sport)

What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Learn about sport and physical activity through a more vocational style of course.
- Improve practical sports ability.
- Gain a wide and in-depth theoretical knowledge of sport and how it can be applied within the world of work.
- Progress to higher levels of education (e.g. BTEC Nationals/A-Levels).

What is covered in the course?

During this course students must cover all three of the units shown in the table below:

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Sport		
Unit	Core Components (All 3 components must be covered)	Assessment Method
1	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (This unit is based around different sporting/physical activity providers, technology within sport & how to prepare participants for physical activity).	Internal coursework
2	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (This unit is based around practically taking part in sport, Officials within sport and the fitness requirements needed to participate in sport).	Internal coursework
3	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (This unit is based around fitness components, fitness testing and fitness training)	Externally set assignment (Synoptic)

- 60% of the course is internally assessed coursework.
- 40% of the course is assessed through an externally set synoptic unit.
- The Unit 3 synoptic assessment can be retaken once if necessary.
- Students receive one chance to improve each piece of coursework for unit 1 and 2 (at the course leader's discretion).
- Grading for the course is Level 2 Distinction* (GCSE 9), Level 2 Distinction (GCSE 7-8), Level 2 Merit (GCSE 6), Level 2 Pass (GCSE 4-5) and Level 1 Distinction (GCSE 3), Level 1 Merit (GCSE 2), Level 1 Pass (GCSE 1).



How will this course be useful?

This course is ideal preparation for the new Level 3 BTEC SPORT offered at Bradgate Sixth Form, as well as A-Level P.E.

It develops key transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, independence, leadership, literacy and numeracy.

This course can also lead to a variety of career opportunities, some of which are listed below:

- Sports coaching
- Sports science
- P.E. teaching
- Sports physiotherapy
- Fitness instructor
- Personal trainer
- Events management
- Sports innovation

For further information, speak to Miss Friswell or a member of the Physical Education Department.



GCSE Art & Design:Textile Design

AQA 8204

(N.B students can only choose one of either Fine Art or Textiles)

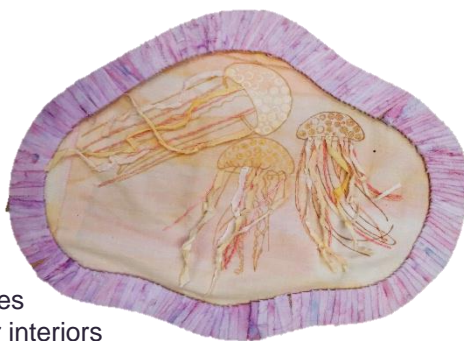
What are the main aims of the course?

This is a practical course in which you learn by doing. You will find out about a whole range of textile materials, techniques and processes. You will develop your creativity and independent thought through exploring different themes, artists and designers - learning how to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish.

What is covered in the course?

Students are required to work in **one or more area(s)** of Textile Design, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

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



Students will develop skills over a broad range of textile techniques such as **embroidery (hand & machine), dying, weaving, felting, stitching, appliqué, construction methods, printing, surface printing (block/ digital) and lots more.**

Students will need to produce drawings, photographs and textile designs. They will explore different themes, design movements, textile artists and designers. They will build a portfolio of work which will be the foundation to AS, A-level and beyond if they wish.

How is the course assessed?

The Coursework Portfolio unit, will count for 60% of the final assessment. During the spring term of Year 11, students will undertake the set task accounting for the remaining 40% of the marks. Students will select one of the starting points, issued by the awarding body. Students will prepare studies for this task in advance. They will then use these to create a textiles artefact(s) / product(s) / personal outcome(s) under examination conditions during a 10 hour supervised time.

Additional information

As a creative subject that demands time for the making of images and artefacts, an opportunity will be given for all Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE art and design students to attend the extra-curricular GCSE Art/textiles Club which will run after school, twice a week from 3:10–4:15pm. It is helpful but not essential, that students have a range of materials to enable them to develop their work outside of the classroom.



How will this course be useful?

Creative industries are worth £8 million an hour to the UK economy.

The ability to work creatively is an essential aspect of many careers.

What can this course lead to?

Colour trend
forecaster/stylist
Costume designer
Creative director
Digital textiles designer
Fabric designer
Fashion designer
Fashion illustrator
Fashion journalist
Fashion stylist
Interior designer
Museum/gallery
conservator
Pattern cutter
Retail buyer
Teacher or lecturer
Textile designer
Theatre designer
Surface pattern designer
Swimwear designer
Athletic wear designer
Upholsterer
Wallpaper designer
Weaver

A level Art at our 6th Form

For further information,
speak to Mrs Woodrow



BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism (Level 2)

What are the main aims of the course?

You should choose this subject because you are interested in working in the travel and tourism sector which is the UK's third largest employer, accounting for 9.5 per cent of total employment.

In this course you will acquire sector-specific knowledge through studying the aims, products and services of different travel and tourism organisations, their use of consumer technologies, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer needs and preferences, and the influences on global travel and tourism. The qualification develops transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. It also complements the learning in GCSE Geography by broadening experiences and skills participation, with the opportunity to practically apply knowledge and skills through areas such as investigating different travel and tourism organisations.

What is covered in the course?

There are **three** components studied over the two years:

Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations. You will learn about the different travel and tourism organisations and the products and services they offer.

Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism. You will investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends and identify customer needs and preferences.

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism. You will examine the potential impacts of tourism at global destinations and how destinations can manage the impacts of tourism and control tourism development to achieve sustainable tourism.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Non-exam internal assessment. The assignment will be completed in approximately 4 hours of monitored preparation and 6 hours of supervised assessment.

Component 2: Non-exam internal assessment. The assignment will be completed in approximately 5 hours of monitored preparation and 6 hours of supervised assessment.

Component 3: External assessment. 2-hour exam.



How will this course be useful?

You will have the opportunity to explore one of the world's most dynamic and fast-growing industries. This course is designed to give students a practical insight into the travel and tourism industry potentially leading to level 3 BTEC travel and tourism courses. You will gain a wide range of knowledge within this qualification, enabling you to work successfully in a variety of jobs in the travel and tourism industry.

Because this course requires analytical and evaluative skills, it will also help you maintain and develop the skills you need for your other GCSE subjects.

For further information, speak to Mrs Rann



GCSE Triple Science

Biology, Chemistry and Physics

AQA 8461, 8462, 8463



Science

How will this course be useful?

This course will give you three separate GCSEs.

Use this qualification to:

Go on to A Levels in Science.

Get on to a Science Apprenticeship.

Specific Science related careers include:

Doctor
Dietician
Meteorologist
Aquacultural Manager
Aviation Inspector.

Grade 6's in these subjects can lead to A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at our sixth form.

For further information, speak to Mrs Kyle, or to your subject teacher.



What are the main aims of the course?

To provide students with opportunities to:

- Apply their understanding of Science to the real world around them.
- Give students a firm grounding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which can lead into A Level (GCE).
- Develop their understanding of how to work scientifically and carry out investigations.
- Develop their scientific literacy in order to understand the world around them.
- Prepare for a Science related career.

What is covered in the course?

Course content is the same as Combined Science: Trilogy, but includes additional course content for each subject including:

Biology	Monoclonal antibodies, plant disease, the brain, negative feedback, biodiversity
Chemistry	Life cycle assessment and recycling, chemical cells, fuel cells, greenhouse gases
Physics	Gears, forces as vectors, atmospheric pressure

How is the course assessed?

Examinations will be taken at the end of the second year of study and will include two 1hr 45m examinations in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each examination is worth 50% of the grade for each GCSE.

The GCSE covers all abilities from 9-1.

You will need to speak to your Science teacher to find out if this course is suitable for you.

Grade 6's in these subjects can lead to A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at our sixth form.

Who can help?



Mrs Rann, Assistant Headteacher KS4
jrann@roundhill.bepschools.org



Mrs Smith, Careers Lead
msmith@roundhill.bepschools.org

Subject	Head of Subject	Email
English	Miss Phakey	aphakey@roundhill.bepschools.org
Maths	Mrs Toon	etoon@roundhill.bepschools.org
Science	Mrs Kyle	lkyle@roundhill.bepschools.org
Computer Science	Mr Longley	jlongley@roundhill.bepschools.org
Geography	Mrs Sloneczny	lsłoneczny@roundhill.bepschools.org
History	Miss Thornton	sthornton@roundhill.bepschools.org
French	Mr Jones	djones@roundhill.bepschools.org
Art and Textiles	Mrs Woodrow	rwoodrow@roundhill.bepschools.org
Business Travel & Tourism	Mrs Rann	jrann@roundhill.bepschools.org
Design & Technology	Mrs Robinson	hrobinson@roundhill.bepschools.org
Drama	Miss Coltman	ecoltman@roundhill.bepschools.org
Food	Miss Bates	abates@roundhill.bepschools.org
H&SC, Sociology	Mr Witchard	kwitchard@roundhill.bepschools.org
Music	Mr Rule	mrule@roundhill.bepschools.org
PE and BTEC Sport	Miss Friswell	rfriswell@roundhill.bepschools.org
Religious Studies	Miss Kaur	hkaur@roundhill.bepschools.org
Exams	Mrs Taylor	ttaylor@roundhill.bepschools.org

Make a note here of your initial choices to visit on Options evening

	Subject
1.	Computer Science, Geography or History
2.	French (if on the French pathway)
3.	Combined Science or Triple Science
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

