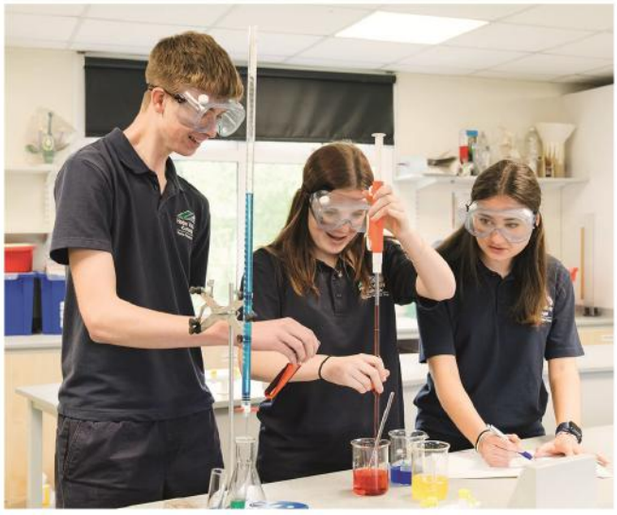
Hope Valley College

Chorus Education Trust



Key Stage 4 Options 2026-28

A student guide

Contents

Your key stage 4 options await

Dear Student,

At Hope Valley College we ask you to take part and make the most of all the opportunities of school life: we want to help you to get the very best outcomes you can at the end of your time with us.

In the next few weeks you will be asked to make your subject choices for Years 10 and 11. You will be given careers information and guidance, as well as opportunities to listen and talk to teachers and advisors. It is also important that you discuss your choices with your family. Options information, including this booklet, can be found on our website: www.hopevalley.chorustrust.org/ks4options.

We encourage you to take an active part in this process and pick a range of subjects which help you to maximise the choices available to you when you leave school. If you are already interested in a particular job, apprenticeship, or going on to study at a sixth form, college or university you should check that your choices help you to progress where you want to go. Careers advice will be available through our Careers Adviser and all our staff.

These are some of the first decisions you will make as a maturing, independent student, and they deserve your careful thought. Please remember that courses will only run if they recruit sufficient numbers. In allocating places on courses we aim to get as many people as possible the courses they prefer. As well as this booklet and the information teachers will provide over the coming weeks, each student will have the opportunity to talk to teachers during our Year 9 Options Evening on Thursday 29 January 2026. You will study for nine courses and we expect you to work equally hard in all of them.

We look forward to helping you achieve success in Years 10 and 11 as you become a member of the senior section of the school, having graduated successfully from key stage 3.

Make the most of your time at Hope Valley College and maximise your chances of a great start in adult life. Have fun choosing – it's a really exciting time!

Mrs D Petts – Headteacher

Key dates

Wednesday 7 January	GCSE Preferences launch assembly
Wednesday 14 January	Subject assemblies start
Monday 19 January	Pre-Interviews start
Thursday 29 January	Option preferences evening in school
Friday 6 February	Preferences form deadline
Monday 23 February	Options form sent out
Monday 2 March	Deadline for submission of options form
May	Confirmed options choices sent to parents/carers
September 2026	Start your key stage 4 courses

Choosing your GCSE courses

What courses are on offer?

We offer a range of GCSE and Technical Awards courses at key stage 4. They are all 'Level 2' qualifications.

GCSEs

Most of the qualifications that we offer are GCSEs, which count as Level 2 qualifications. The assessment is through formal examinations, although some also have an element of 'non-examination assessment' within them (tasks taken in school under controlled conditions). The GCSE grades are 1-9, with 9 being the highest grade.

Vocational courses

The Vocational Awards include a strong applied focus, linking learning to particular career paths. They have a greater emphasis on internal assessment, mainly via the completion of portfolios. Vocational courses enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. Additionally, they are popular and effective because they encourage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern day workplace. These courses count as Level 2 qualifications and Technical Awards are graded: Distinction Star (D*), Distinction (D), Merit (M) and Pass (P). Should the standard for a Level 2 pass not be achieved, the courses can be accredited at Level 1.

Humanities and Languages

Alongside English, Maths and Science, students will choose to study a Humanities Subject (Geography or History). Also, most students will study a modern foreign language (French or Spanish). We know that studying these subjects will give you a great foundation for further study after you leave Hope Valley College. However, we believe that all the subjects we teach are important and the preference subjects may prove very valuable to you.

How do I make my choices?

To make the right choices you need to be as informed as possible about what the courses involve and how they are assessed. We have the following to help you to do this:

- This booklet has information about all of the courses available. This is also on our website.
- Assemblies will take place to explain the preferences process and every subject.
- Our PSHE explore the different education and career options available to you, and you will have an interview with a member of staff to discuss the options that you are considering.
- Use the UCAS website to investigate possible careers: www.ucas.com/explore/career-list

Following this you will be asked to complete an online form, that will be emailed to you. You will say which courses you prefer to study. Finally, you will chose options to study in each option block.

Who will offer me advice?

Our careers adviser, Mrs Brannelly, will guide you with important advice and information.

Your tutor and subject teachers will advise you about the different courses available.

The subjects

Compulsory subjects

Over 15 (out of 25) hours per week you will study:

Exam courses in:

- English – including GCSE English language & GCSE English literature.
- Mathematics.
- Science – all students are taught science by specialist teachers. The majority of students (here and nationally) will follow a combined science pathway, completing exams equivalent to two GCSEs, graded 9,9 to 1,1.
  Students with an aptitude for A-level study in the sciences are advised to study for three GCSEs in science (triple science) which will use one of their option choices. Those studying triple science are certificated in GCSE biology, chemistry and physics, each graded 9 to 1.

A further compulsory programme is taught in PSHE and core PE/sport. This includes:

- PE /sport (1 hour/week) – meeting the required compulsory physical education (and distinct from the GCSE in PE).
- PSHE (personal, social and health education) – including citizenship, health and sex education, work related learning and careers education.

Choice subjects

You will have the choice of:

- Geography or History
- French or Spanish

Preference subjects

Students will have the opportunity to study up to THREE additional courses depending on their pathway. Not all combinations will be possible.

The courses offered are outlined at the rear of this booklet. Students studying triple science have one less option as this course requires additional time. We may also offer self-study GCSE courses in citizenship and ancient history for suitable students.

Key Stage 4 courses

You are asked to make four decisions:

Decision 1: combined science or triple science

- All students study a science qualification, either combined (2 GCSEs) or triple science (biology, chemistry and physics – 3 GCSEs). If you study triple science, this will also take up one option subject, to accommodate the extra time required to teach it.

Decision 2: History or Geography

Decision 3: Languages

Decision 4: Preference subjects

If you're already thinking about a course at college or an apprenticeship, make sure you know the entry requirements for the pathway you want to follow.

Online preferences form

All students study the core subjects:

- English language (GCSE)
- English literature (GCSE)
- Mathematics (GCSE)
- PSHE (non-examined subject)
- Core PE (non-examined subject)

The online preferences form will guide you through the decisions you will need to make:

Preference 1

You should choose one of the following science pathways:

- ☐ Triple science (3 GCSEs: biology, chemistry, physics)
- ☐ Combined science (2 GCSEs)

Preference 2

- ☐ Geography (GCSE)
- ☐ History (GCSE)

Would you like to study a language? If yes, you can tell us if you prefer French or Spanish.

Preference 3

- ☐ Prefer to study a language
- ☐ Prefer not to study a language
- ☐ Prefer French (GCSE)
- ☐ Prefer Spanish (GCSE)

Preference 4

You will be asked to use NUMBERS to indicate your preferences for your remaining choices. Please indicate your first 4 preferences.

- ☐ Art and design: art, craft & design
- ☐ Computer science
- ☐ Design and technology
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ French
- ☐ Geography
- ☐ History
- ☐ Hospitality and catering
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Physical education
- ☐ Religious studies
- ☐ Spanish

Post-16 choices and beyond

Students from HVC go on to full-time education in a wide range of institutions:

- As we are part of Chorus Education Trust, our students get priority access into Eckington Sixth Form and Silverdale Sixth Form (which regularly achieves the highest A-level results across all state schools in Sheffield). As long as you achieve the entry requirements, you, together with students from our sister Chorus Trust schools, get allocated a place ahead of students from other schools.
- Other sixth forms in Sheffield schools, such as Tapton, King Edward VIII School, High Storrs, Notre Dame and King Ecgbert's Sixth Form.
- Derbyshire school sixth forms, such as Lady Manners in Bakewell and Buxton Community School.
- Colleges in Stockport, such as Aquinas and Marple.
- Colleges that specialise in a range of vocational courses, such as Chesterfield, Buxton & Leek and Sheffield College.
- Colleges that specialise in agricultural courses, such as Reaseheath and Askham Bryan.
- There are a wide range of apprenticeships available in every sector. Information can be found at: www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/what-you-need-know-about-apprenticeships.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8202

Course Leader
Miss A Nicklin

Art and Design: Art, Craft and Design

What will I learn?

The GCSE art and design course is project based and you will have some choice in deciding on the kind of work you want to do. There are two components to this course: the portfolio, and the final exam.

The portfolio (60% of the final marks):

This is a collection of your best work. You will have to show that you can work in more than one area from: drawing and painting, textiles, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, graphics, digital photography, and applied art, (working to a set design brief in the way a professional designer/ illustrator would be expected to). Plus, an extended project in a media of your choosing. The coursework is split into 2 projects: 1 skills based, and 1 extended (personal project) covering all assessment objectives, 1 (research), 2 (develop), 3 (draw and annotate), 4 (final piece and evaluate).

The final exam (40% of the final marks):

This is a timed 10 hour session, broken down into smaller chunks of time. You are given the final exam paper by the exam board around January, you then choose which of the seven topics most interests you.

Between January and the exam in April/May (depending on when the final exam sessions are set) you will research and prepare for the exam. In the 10 hour exam, you produce the final piece of work you have been researching and building up to in the weeks of preparation.

What skills do I need?

- An enthusiasm for the subject.
- An enthusiasm for developing work creatively.
- An ability to produce work regularly in the lesson and for homework to meet the project requirements by the deadlines.

Art and design is a demanding course and, if you choose to study it you will be expected to work hard. Artwork takes time to produce: sometimes it may take you most of the weekend to complete a piece of homework. Only opt for it if you are committed.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 2: Externally set assignment | 10 hours | 40%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Component 1: Portfolio (skills based project and extended piece) | 60%

Could lead to:

A-level art and then onto foundation or BA courses. This could lead to a career in fine art, product design, architecture, advertising, digital media, design, or graphic design to name just a few. It could also be a good skill for academic degrees after A-level, particularly regarding creative problem solving e.g. engineering, or the sciences. Universities appreciate art as a valid qualification standard for most courses.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
OCR | J277

Course Leader
Mr H Rasool

Computer Science

What will I learn?

In computer science you will learn:

- About current and emerging technologies.
- How to write computer programs in Python.
- Creative and technical skills.
- The impact and issues relating to computer technology.

Students are required to complete one 'programming' task as part of the course. The programming project (non-examined assessment) is set by the exam board and will cover areas on analysis, design, development, testing, evaluation and conclusions. This will teach skills that are tested in the exams.

What skills do I need?

It helps to have good mathematical and logical skills but it most important that you enjoy working with computers and creating technical things with computers. Some experience of programming is useful but not essential.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- J277/01: Computer systems | 1 hour 30 mins | 50%
- J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming | 1 hour 30 mins | 50%

Could lead to:

There are lucrative opportunities to use computer science skills to help society in really interesting and rewarding careers. Computer scientists work in a vast number of areas from programming Formula One cars to designing artificial organ systems that train medics. With the knowledge that you've really enjoyed this course you would be in a great position to take a whole range of A-levels before following a degree course. Alternatively you could seek out apprenticeships or vocational courses that develop your computing skills.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8552

Course Leader
Mr R Beeden

Design and Technology

What will I learn?

The course is split into three core areas:

Core technical principles

Students will learn about industry, enterprise, sustainability and production techniques, energy generation and storage, and smart/modern materials. This is also the section in which all material areas are covered, as well as control systems.

Specialist technical principles

In this section we will study one of the material areas in greater depth – this year this will be timber based materials. This will involve studying material selection, properties, sources and origins, forces and stresses and ecological factors.

Designing and making principles

This unit involves the students designing and making a product. They will investigate the work of other designers, and design and manufacture a product based on different design strategies. Students will be able to use a range of materials and processes, and be creative and imaginative in their approach to solving design and manufacturing problems. The use of CAD and CAM technologies, including our 3D printers and other state of the art equipment, is a fundamental part of this unit and something that our students always enjoy.

What skills do I need?

You will need to be able to :

- Solve problems in a creative way using a variety of materials and techniques.
- Design and make a prototype that meets a set design brief.
- Use a combination of wood, metal, plastic and smart materials.
- Use CAD/CAM.
- Learn all about the different material areas in design and technology.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Paper 1: 2 hours | 50%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Design and develop a prototype: 30-35 hours approx. | 50%

Could lead to:

By studying design and technology, you will be able to build up your creativity, problem solving, planning, and evaluation skills. Since many projects are done via group work, you'll also gain communication and teamwork skills. Design and technology can set you up for a career in a wide variety of industries such as design, graphic design, website design, industrial design, fashion, engineering, architecture, information technology, careers in hospitality, and even education

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
Pearson Edexcel | 1DR0

Course Leader
Mrs A Starbuck-Ahmed

Drama

What will I learn?

The course is predominantly delivered through practical lessons but there is also a written element.

We are currently studying the Edexcel drama GCSE. Throughout the course students are expected to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama.
- Explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created.
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances.
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas.
- Develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective learners able to make informed choices in process and performance.
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance.
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others.
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice.
- Adopt safe working practices.

What skills do I need?

- Ability to explore ideas creatively.
- An open mind to different artistic approaches.
- Positive attitude when working with others.
- Analytical skills.
- Most of all you need to be passionate about theatre and enjoy the subject.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 3: Theatre makers in practice | 1 hour 45 mins | 40%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Component 1: Devising | performance or design of duologue or group scene of 10-25 mins | 40%
- Component 2: Performance from a text | performance or design of two monologues, duologues or group scene of 4-30 mins | 20%

Could lead to:

A love for the theatre and developing a greater cultural appreciation, with a refined understanding of the industry. This course leads directly into the A-level theatre studies and is specifically designed to facilitate post-16 study of drama. The GCSE is equally valuable as a subject that complements other GCSE studies. It is recognised as being beneficial to further study of academic subjects; research has found that at Cambridge University 'drama helps students get into law'.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
WJEC Level 1/2 Award

Awarding body | Course code
WJEC Eduqas | 600/8645/2

Course Leader
Mr M Streets

Engineering

What will I learn?

Advanced manufacturing is at the heart of the growth economy and WJEC engineering is a great foundation for learning in this area. The area of advanced engineering is one in which there are many opportunities for career progression via university or technical college. Course structure:

Unit 1 engineering design

You will learn about design process and how to analyse a product so you can see what features make it work and how it meets certain requirements. You will learn how to take ideas from different products in order to produce a design specification for a product, and redesign the product using CAD.

Unit 2 producing engineering products:

Through this unit, you will learn to interpret different types of engineering information to plan how to make engineered products. You will develop the skills to work safely with a range of engineering processes, equipment and tools. With these skills, you will learn to make a range of engineered products that are fit for purpose.

Unit 3 solving engineering problems:

Problem solving is critical to working in engineering. You will learn how engineers in the past have found solutions to problems and how engineers use their ideas to solve problems today. You will learn about materials, processes and maths and how engineers use them to solve problems. In solving problems, you will learn to follow a process and develop drawing skills to communicate your solutions.

What skills do I need?

You will need to be able to:

- Work safely and independently.
- Develop accurate working products using a range of processes.
- Use Computer Aided Design.
- Analyse existing products, develop specifications and design ideas.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Unit 3: Solving engineering problems | 1 hour 30 mins | 25%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Unit 1: Engineering design | 30 guided learning hours | 25%
- Unit 2: Producing engineering products | 60 guided learning hours | 50%

Could lead to:

The UK engineering industry is vast, with more than 6,000 organisations employing around 800,000 engineers. Career opportunities exist across a broad spectrum of sectors, from aerospace and defence to renewable energy and transportation and many of these sectors have a shortage of qualified engineers.

Compulsory subject

Qualification
2 GCSEs

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8700 (English Language); 8702 (English Literature)

Course Leader
Ms G Worrall

English Language & English Literature

What will I learn?

- You will read a wide range of non-fiction and fiction texts with understanding and insight.
- You will develop an appreciation of literature through the close study of prose, poetry and drama texts.
- You will learn to write skilfully to suit various audiences, purposes and forms.
- You will speak with increasing confidence and fluency for a variety of purposes and audiences.

What skills do I need?

- Writing creatively, persuasively and accurately.
- Analysing what you read, in a range of fiction and non-fiction genres.
- Essay writing, interpreting literature from different time periods.

Assessment: English Language

☑ Examination

- Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing | 1 hour 45 mins | 80 marks | 50%
- Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives | 1 hour 45 mins | 80 marks | 50%

☑ Non-examined assessment

Spoken Language endorsement

Assessment: English Literature

☑ Examination

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel | 1 hour 45 mins | 64 marks | 40%
- Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry | 2 hours 15 mins | 96 marks | 60%

Could lead to:

A good GCSE in English is a requirement for many courses and jobs. Skills and techniques developed in English studies may be continued in a wide range of A-level courses including: English language, English literature, combined language and literature, media studies and film studies.

Languages (decision 3)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8652

Course Leader
Mr M Barnes

French

What will I learn?

The GCSE course is divided into 3 main themes: *People and lifestyle*, *Popular culture*, and *Communication and the world around us*. You learn the grammar and vocabulary necessary to enable you to talk and write about these themes confidently and to communicate in French effectively.

- To listen to and understand short conversations, messages and dialogues in French.
- To speak French by taking part in conversations in class with your teacher and your peers, and by giving short presentations.
- To read and understand short notices and adverts, and longer items from letters, magazines, brochures and websites in French.
- To produce written French for class and homework in French culminating in a final written exam.
- To translate from and into French.
- To appreciate the fascinating cultures and traditions associated with the language.

What skills do I need?

- To be able to listen carefully to help with understanding spoken French.
- To be able to learn vocabulary and structures.
- To be able to communicate with others either by speaking or writing in French.
- To be able to read and identify details, opinions and preferences from written texts.
- To be able to improve your own learning and performance by revising vocabulary and structures to use them effectively.
- To be able to work co-operatively with others to communicate in class.
- To be able to use ICT to access French websites and use word processing packages.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Paper 1 Listening: Foundation 35 mins | Higher 45 mins | 25%
- Paper 3 Reading: Foundation 45 mins | Higher 1 hour | 25%
- Paper 4 Writing: Foundation 1 hour 10 mins | Higher 1 hour 15 mins | 25%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Paper 2 Speaking: Foundation 7-9 mins + prep | Higher 10-12 mins +prep | 25%

Could lead to:

Your studies will help you to communicate with people who speak French at home and abroad. You will be able to email, talk and write to young people from all over the world. Many employers are looking for people who can communicate with others and use foreign languages. You will find that speaking a foreign language will make your holidays more enjoyable. A GCSE qualification in a language may become the deciding factor in gaining a place at university. With a GCSE grade 5/6 or above you will be able to continue with your language studies to A-level and this GCSE will also help you to get into the top universities.

Humanities (decision 2)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
WJEC Eduqas | 601/8153/9 (Specification B)

Course Leader
Mr M Fitton

Geography

What will I learn?

Our course is extremely varied, giving you the chance to learn about many of the world's major human and physical features. Physical geography includes topics as varied as rivers and coasts, hurricanes and ecosystems. Human topics range from urban change and regeneration to looking at issues of the changing global economy. Human and physical geography come together when we take a long term look at topics like climate change and desertification. We will study the causes of these changes, how they affect different people in different places and how we are responding to them. Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies like sustainable housing in Sheffield, London and the Middle East.

Component 1— Investigating geographical issues

- Changes to where people live and changes to how people work.
- How the environment is changing, including rivers, coasts, weather and global climate.
- Environmental challenges, including pollution, ecosystems, water shortage and desertification.

Component 2— Problem solving geography

This will set an issue in a global context, explore solutions and give students the opportunity to justify a response.

Component 3—Applied fieldwork enquiry

Applied fieldwork enquiry involving data collection, analysis of results and application across all geographical topics.

What skills do I need?

The skills you have built up in key stage 3 are designed to help you with your GCSEs. By doing geography GCSE you will develop a wider range of skills, some specifically geographical (like using a range of maps and fieldwork skills), others mathematical (like simple statistics) together with graphical, literacy and data presentation skills. All these are valuable transferable skills.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 1: Investigating geographical issues | 1 hour 45 mins | 40%
- Component 2: Problem solving geography | 1 hour 30 mins | 30%
- Component 3: Applied fieldwork enquiry | 1 hour 30 mins | 30%

Could lead to:

A GCSE in geography is an excellent stepping stone to a wide range of careers and post-16 opportunities. A good grade will allow you to take any A-level course, including continuing with geography. However, the discussion skills and ability to understand people's actions will help you if you want to follow a career in social sciences or the arts, like education, media or law.

Some of the content of GCSE geography can be a good introduction to new subjects (at A-level) like business studies and sociology.

Humanities (decision 2)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8145

Course Leader
Mr C Young/ Ms K Rourke

History

What will I learn?

In GCSE history you will study:

- Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship.
- Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972.
- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day.
- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603.

What skills do I need?

Why study history? Everyone considering GCSE history should think about this question. It is reasonable to expect that anyone studying history has an interest in the past – but that should not be the only reason. In today's world, where the focus is on today and tomorrow, the value of history is often questioned. Below are a few reasons why you should study history:

- History requires a complex range of skills.
- History teaches lessons about past, present and future.
- History teaches you to research and interpret.
- History teaches you to think and problem-solve.
- History teaches you to communicate.
- History prepares you for many professions.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Paper 1: Understanding the modern world | 2 hours | 50%
- Paper 2: Shaping the nation | 2 hours | 50%

Could lead to:

A GCSE in history is useful for a range of opportunities at post-16. A good grade will allow you to take any A-level courses including history, politics, English and social science courses. It is also useful for students considering a career in medical sciences. The skills you have gained will also be valued by vocational courses and by employers. Many students who wish to go in to law use history to show that they can interpret evidence and present a substantiated conclusion from it.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award

Awarding body | Course code
WJEC Eduqas | 601/7703/2

Course Leader
Mrs D Whitehall

Hospitality and Catering

What will I learn?

This is a qualification designed for learners with an interest in food and cookery. It will provide you with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable you to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give you a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food.

This qualification will help you to understand how to prepare and cook using basic skills as well as about food and its functions in the body and in recipes. You will learn about ingredients sources and environmental influence, all aspects of diet, food needs and health. You will gain a thorough understanding and application of food hygiene and safety, and learn how to develop and apply a wide range of practical cooking skills, using appropriate equipment to meet specific needs.
Students will progress through two mandatory units:

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry

You will learn about: the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate, how hospitality and catering provision operates, meet health and safety requirements, and how food can cause ill health. Finally you should be able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements.

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action

You will be expected to safely plan, prepare and present a 2-course nutritional meal based on a live brief given by the exam board. Within your controlled assessment you will be expected to show you understanding of the importance of nutrition when planning a menu and be able to prepare, cook and present your two dishes.

What skills do I need?

- An enjoyment and enthusiasm for working with food.
- Literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.
- Ability to work in a group and individually.
- Research and design skills.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry | 1 hour 20 mins | 40%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action | 72 guided learning hours | 60%

Could lead to:

The course will help you to understand how food preparation and nutrition affects our everyday lives. You will acquire practical skills which will be of benefit to you in the future. The course provides a good foundation for related vocational courses and college courses such as hotel management and hospitality. It is a good preparation for A-level food technology and future university courses e.g. health and nutrition, food science and hotel management.

Compulsory subject

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
Pearson Edexcel | 1MA1

Course Leader
Mrs K Rumpel

Mathematics

What will I learn?

All students at key stage 4 study GCSE mathematics. Many of the topic areas from key stage 3 are extended and there is more emphasis on algebra and formal skills, such as trigonometry and quadratic equations. There is also a larger emphasis on contextualised problem solving.

In GCSE mathematics you will use and apply mathematics in practical tasks, in real life problems and within mathematics itself. You will:

- Develop and use a range of methods for working with numbers.
- Focus on the various methods to apply different forms of ratio.
- Use algebra to model real life situations and solve problems.
- Explore shape and space.
- Use data analysis to make judgements.

What skills do I need?

You will need to be able to:

- Solve problems using mental, written and calculator methods.
- Use fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios to solve problems.
- Understand and apply algebraic and other mathematical skills to real life situations.
- Present and analyse statistics.
- Break larger problems down into smaller sections.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Paper 1 (non-calculator): 90 mins | 33%
- Paper 2 (calculator): 90 mins | 33%
- Paper 3 (non-calculator): 90 mins | 33%

Could lead to:

The mathematics GCSE has changed significantly since September 2015. There is more content and far more complexity is expected in the examination questions. Due to this, we may offer an additional course, such as further maths, as an extra-curricular activity during Year 11 instead of during curriculum time.

A good GCSE grade in maths is an essential requirement for numerous future qualifications at sixth form, college or university, such as maths, engineering, economics, the various scientific courses, and more. The course also provides skills that most employers will find extremely valuable, such as problem solving, thinking creatively, an understanding of units and measures, as well as crucial number skills.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
WJEC Eduqas | 601/8131/X

Course Leader
Mrs J Machan

Music

What will I learn?

In GCSE music you will learn to:

- Compose your own music in a variety of different styles, using your instruments and music technology. You will be able to use recording equipment, microphones, midi keyboards and other equipment to create your own music.
- Perform by playing any instrument, singing or rapping, beatboxing or DJing. Improve your performance skills by playing in groups and learning your own solo pieces.
- Listen to and begin to understand music in different styles, from different countries and cultures including pop, rock, jazz, classical, film and world music.

What skills do I need?

It is important to have:

- An interest in and enthusiasm for music.
- An open mind and creative imagination.
- An ability to enjoy making music by using an instrument, your voice or music technology such as sequencing and recording software.
- An ability to work independently and with others.
- A real interest in listening and appraising different styles of music.
- A committed approach to attending and actively participating in the department's extended-curricular programme.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 3: Appraising | approx 1 hour 15 mins | 40%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Component 1: Performing | performances of 4-6 mins | 30%
- Component 2: Composing | compositions duration of 3-6 mins | 30%

Could lead to:

GCSE music is a required preparation for further musical study, such as A-level/BTEC music and music technology. It is also studied at the majority of universities.

Music is useful for all vocations and career pathways as it encourages confidence, creative thinking and team work. It also allows students to use analytical thinking skills and develops their cultural awareness. Music does not limit you, it actually allows you to grow creatively.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
Pearson Edexcel | 1PE0

Course Leader
Miss A Astbury

Physical Education

What will I learn?

Components 1 & 2:

Both units are externally assessed through TWO written examination papers:

- Fitness and body systems.
- Health and performance.

This will contribute a maximum of 60% towards your total marks.

Component 3:

The assessment consists of students completing THREE practical activities from a set list:

- A team activity.
- An individual activity.
- The third activity can be either team or individual.

This will contribute to 30% towards the total mark.

Component 4:

- The assessment consists of students completing a personal exercise programme (PEP).

This will contribute to 10% towards the total mark.

What skills do I need?

- You will need to enjoy participating in a variety of sports.
- You will need to be enthusiastic and be prepared to work hard.
- You will need to participate in sport regularly (in and out of school).
- You will need to work towards being a competent performer in THREE different sports (1 x individual, 1 x team, 1 x choice).
- You will need to be able to analyse and improve performance for your independent PEP coursework.
- You must be prepared to work hard at school and at home on the theoretical aspects of the course.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 1: Fitness and body systems | 1 hour 30 mins | 36%
- Component 2: Health and performance | 1 hour 15 mins | 24%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Component 3: Practical performance | 30%
- Component 4: Personal exercise programme | 10%

Could lead to:

The course will help you develop your confidence, self-esteem and team building skills. It will help you to understand activities in more detail and how to stay fit and healthy. The course provides a good base for A-level physical education and BTEC sport.

Preference subject (decision 4)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
WJEC Eduqas | 601/8879/0

Course Leader
Ms J Reynolds (Mr Hunter)

Religious Studies

What will I learn?

Component 1:

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world. Candidates will study the following four themes.

- Theme 1: Issues of relationships.
- Theme 2: Issues of life and death.
- Theme 3: Issues of good and evil.
- Theme 4: Issues of human rights.

Component 2:

Study of Christianity.

- Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity.

Component 3:

Study of a world faith.

- Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Judaism.

What skills do I need?

You will need to be:

- Enthusiastic and be prepared to work hard.
- Able to think about different topics, beliefs or issues in order to develop your own opinion on them.
- Respectful towards other people's ideas, beliefs and opinions.
- Able to listen to the opinions and ideas of others and use them to help form your own opinion.
- Able to not only put across your own opinion in an argument but also use and consider that of the opposition.
- Able to evaluate different ideas, beliefs and opinions.
- You must be prepared to work hard at school and at home on the all aspects of the course.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world | 2 hours | 50%
- Component 2: Study of Christianity | 1 hour | 25%
- Component 3: Study of a world faith | 1 hour | 25%

Could lead to:

Religious studies takes a distinctive issues based approach to the study of religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world. The course will also enable learners to gain knowledge and understanding of two religions. Following up from this a student may go on to study A-level religious studies but a GCSE in religious studies is equally complementary to the study of history, sociology, psychology, law and politics.

Compulsory subject (decision 1)

Qualification
2 GCSEs (equivalent)

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8464

Course Leader
Mr S Taylor

Science—Combined

What will I learn?

- Develop knowledge and understanding of 'working scientifically'.
- Develop a wide range of practical and investigative skills.
- See the relevance of science in our daily and working lives.
- Consider and interpret scientific data, evidence and ideas so that you can reach your own conclusions.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of a broad selection of science topic areas.
- You will complete a number of 'required practicals' throughout the course. Final examinations will include questions about these 'required practicals' and so it is important that they are not missed.

What skills do I need?

You will build on the skills that have been important in science at key stage 3.

- Communication and ICT.
- Designing investigations.
- Observation skills.
- Using and presenting data.
- Working with others.
- Handling apparatus.
- Problem solving and research.
- Analysis and evaluation.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Biology Paper 1, topics 1-4: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%
- Biology Paper 2, topics 5-7: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%
- Chemistry Paper 1, topics 8-12: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%
- Chemistry Paper 2, topics 13-17: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%
- Physics Paper 1, topics 18-21: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%
- Physics Paper 2, topics 22-24: 1 hour 15mins | 16.7%

Could lead to:

You will have gained 2 GCSEs in science and will be in a strong position should you wish to continue with science subjects at BTEC, A-level or beyond. The skills refined during this course are also sought after by employers, particularly planning, organisation and communication skills acquired in a scientific context.

Compulsory subject (decision 1)

Qualification
3 GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8461 (Biology); 8462 (Chemistry); 8463 (Physics)

Course Leader
Mr S Taylor

Science—Triple (Three separate sciences)

What will I learn?

- You will study for three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics.
- The content of 'combined science' will still be covered.
- Extra topics will be studied in all three sciences that will cover additional topics.
- These extra topics will provide the chance to enhance practical and investigative skills.
- 'Triple science' will build further on the understanding of 'working scientifically'.
- You will complete a number of required practicals; final exams will include questions about the techniques used in these practicals and so it is important that they are not missed.

What skills do I need?

- You will build on the skills that have been important at key stage 3.
- You should have a high level of interest in science.
- The course is open to all students regardless of ability but if we feel that following the triple course might limit a student's future options then we will discuss this with you during the options process.

Assessment

☑ Examination

Biology

- Paper 1, topics 1-4: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2, topics 5-7: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE

Chemistry

- Paper 1, topics 1-5: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2, topics 6-10: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE

Physics

- Paper 1, topics 1-4: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2, topics 5-8: 1 hour 45 mins | 50% of GCSE

Could lead to:

You will have gained 3 GCSEs in science and will be in a strong position should you wish to continue with science subjects at BTEC, A-level or beyond. The skills refined during this course are also required by employers, particularly planning, organisation and communication skills acquired in a scientific context.

Hope Valley College

Languages (decision 3)

Qualification
GCSE

Awarding body | Course code
AQA | 8692

Course Leader
Mr M Barnes

Spanish

What will I learn?

The GCSE course is divided into 3 main themes: *People and lifestyle*, *Popular culture*, and *Communication and the world around us*. You learn the grammar and vocabulary necessary to enable you to talk and write about these themes confidently and to communicate in Spanish effectively.

- To listen to and understand short conversations, messages and dialogues in Spanish.
- To speak Spanish by taking part in conversations in class with your teacher and your peers, and by giving short presentations.
- To read and understand short notices and adverts, and longer items from letters, magazines, brochures and websites in Spanish.
- To produce written Spanish for class and homework in Spanish culminating in a final written exam.
- To translate from and into Spanish.
- To appreciate the fascinating cultures and traditions associated with the language.

What skills do I need?

- To be able to listen carefully to help with understanding spoken Spanish.
- To be able to learn vocabulary and structures.
- To be able to communicate with others either by speaking or writing in Spanish.
- To be able to read and identify details, opinions and preferences from written texts.
- To be able to improve your own learning and performance by revising vocabulary and structures to use them effectively.
- To be able to work co-operatively with others to communicate in class.
- To be able to use ICT to access Spanish websites and use word processing packages.

Assessment

☑ Examination

- Paper 1 Listening: Foundation 35 mins | Higher 45 mins | 25%
- Paper 3 Reading: Foundation 45 mins | Higher 1 hour | 25%
- Paper 4 Writing: Foundation 1 hour 10 mins | Higher 1 hour 15 mins | 25%

☑ Non-examined assessment

- Paper 2 Speaking: Foundation 7-9 mins + prep | Higher 10-12 mins +prep | 25%

Could lead to:

Your studies will help you to communicate with people who speak Spanish at home and abroad. You will be able to email, talk and write to young people from all over the world. Many employers are looking for people who can communicate with others and use foreign languages. You will find that speaking a foreign language will make your holidays more enjoyable. A GCSE qualification in a language may become the deciding factor in gaining a place at university. With a GCSE Grade 5/6 or above you will be able to continue with your language studies to A-level and this GCSE will also help you to get into the top universities.

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For more information and help, please use the email address below.

For information about the subjects on offer, please email the enquiries address and ask us to pass it on to the subject leader.

Hope Valley College

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