

Your Course

options

Key Stage 4
2026-2028



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Welcome to Your Options

You've reached an exciting milestone in your education. For the first time, you have the chance to shape your learning by choosing subjects that interest you and play to your strengths. You get some choice! These choices are important, so it's worth taking the time to explore your options carefully. We're here to guide and support you, helping you make decisions that will set you up for success in the years ahead.

So, what are your options exactly? Within this brochure, you'll find 23 optional courses, covering an array of interests, including practical and vocational courses. From these, you will choose 4. One of these 4 options should be History or Geography, as these subjects help you build useful skills that can be used in many jobs. They teach you how to think carefully, ask questions and understand the world we live in today.

These optional course choices are in addition to the compulsory subjects you must take at Key Stage 4, which we've also included in this brochure to give you a complete overview of your next two years with us. Some of these are not subject to examinations.

Now, there's a lot to think about here. To help, ask yourself these 3 questions:

1. **What subjects have I really enjoyed so far?**
2. **Where have I been getting the best grades?**
3. **Do I already know what I want to do in future? If so, which course(s) might help me?**

And consider these pointers:

- If you don't know what you want to do in future, choosing courses that offer a balance of different types of subjects is best.
- While your friends are great, they're not you, so choose the options for your future, not theirs.
- Choose an option for the course, not the teacher, there are no guarantees on who will be teaching what.
- Believe in yourself and be ambitious in your option choices!

It is important to note that whilst we try to accommodate first choices, courses may not run if there is not enough interest. You'll need to choose two reserve options just in case, as it's not always possible to give all your top 4 choices.

Remember, this is not something you have to tackle alone. Ask family, friends... and us! We're invested in your future, and we can't wait to see what you'll achieve, so we're here to help with any questions.

Best wishes,

Mrs E. May
Headteacher



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OPTIONAL COURSES YOU CHOOSE



GCSE Art & Design

Exam Board: AQA

Art & Design nurtures skills that are valuable far beyond the classroom. The course encourages resilience, critical thinking, visual literacy, problem solving, organisation and the ability to communicate ideas clearly and confidently. These transferable skills support future pathways in both creative and non-creative fields, including design, architecture, media, engineering, marketing and education.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Explore both two-dimensional and three-dimensional approaches, using a range of media.
- Learn how to research and evaluate the work of artists, designers, sculptors, and photographers, using specialist vocabulary with increasing confidence.
- Refine your ability to record observations, experiment with materials, and develop ideas thoughtfully through your sketchbooks.

How Assessment Works:

- Coursework Portfolio: two projects across Year 10 ('Natural Forms') and 11 ('Identity'), each with development sketchbooks and 5-hour final outcomes (60%).
- Practical Exam: Prepare a focused sketchbook of ideas and complete a 10-hour practical exam to produce a final piece (10 hrs, 40%).

Consider This:

Sketchbook development is ongoing and will often require work outside of lessons to maintain momentum and meet assessment expectations.

GCSE Astronomy

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Do you enjoy exploring the night sky, finding out about the Solar System – and beyond? If you're a budding astronomer and want to study Physics and Astronomy at A-level and beyond, or you want to study BTEC applied science or an apprenticeship in science, then this course is for you.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Learn about our Solar System and our position in the Universe, as well as the motion of stellar objects within our Solar System affecting the cycles in the night and daytime sky.
- Use different techniques to observe the night and daytime sky safely, including advanced technologies for the study of exoplanets and stellar evolution, giving you a wide variety of skills and knowledge needed within the field.
- Gain highly transferable skills necessary to become an astronomer and learn how to independently and successfully carry out two different types of observation: naked-eye and telescopic observations.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Naked-eye Astronomy (50%).
- Written Exam 2: Telescopic Astronomy (50%).

Consider This:

This course is suited to you if you're predicted a grade 6 or more in Mathematics.

GCSE Business

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

This course will be beneficial whatever your plans are for the future, because the better you understand the principles of how businesses operate and run successfully, the better prepared you will be to face the world of work in the future, including learning how different skills and talents can be applied to a vast number of sectors from fashion to sports to the environment.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Understand the ever-changing dynamic nature of the world and how businesses take advantage of opportunities as they arise, as well as prepare themselves for unforeseen events.
- Learn about small businesses, about enterprise and entrepreneurship, how to spot opportunities and put ideas into practice, how to make a business effective, and the external influences on a business.
- Explore building a business, including marketing, operational and financial decisions, and human resources.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Small businesses (50%).
- Written Exam 2: Building a business (50%).

Tech Award **Child Development & Care in the Early Years**

NCFE Level 1 & 2

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational understanding that introduces working with children aged 0-5, including giving you the knowledge and understanding of child development and wellbeing necessary for working with children in a variety of settings.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Explore 8 key areas: child development; factors that affect a child's development; care routines, play and activities; early years provision; legislation; expectations of an Early Years Practitioner; roles and responsibilities, and the importance of observations.
- Get the opportunity to participate in projects to prepare you for working with young children and babies.
- Undertake the 'Flour Baby Project' as part of your studies during Year 11. This is a non-assessed project, where you will make the flour babies and care for them for 1 week (materials for the flour babies will be provided).

How Assessment Works:

- Non-Exam Assessment: 2 hours of research time followed by 14 hours to complete 6 tasks (50%).
- Written Exam (50%).

Tech Award **Dance**

BTEC Level 1 & 2

Do you have a passion for dance? Are you interested in learning more about choreography? This performing arts course uses both theoretical and practical approaches, with both recorded and live performances, to help you explore and understand the creative world of dance.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Learn through both practical and theoretical formats of lessons, so that you develop an effective understanding of dance and choreography.
- Examine live and recorded performances to enhance your understanding of practitioners' work in dance, with reference to influences, outcomes and purpose.
- Challenge yourself, build motivation, and push your personal development to new levels through practical performance and choreography.

How Assessment Works:

- Practical Assessment 1: Exploring performing arts (30%).
- Practical Assessment 2: Developing skills and techniques (30%).
- Written Exam: Responding to a brief (40%)

Consider This:

You'll need to commit to participation in group rehearsals and performances.

GCSE **Design & Technology**

Exam Board: AQA

Design & Technology is a dynamic and creative subject that develops a wide range of practical and digital skills. The course covers areas such as traditional woodwork, computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacture (CAM), including laser cutting and vacuum forming.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Turn your ideas into reality through a structured design process, from initial concept sketches to modelling prototypes and finally producing a completed product.
- Alongside the theory, you'll complete a series of mini practical projects, gaining experience in the safe and independent use of workshop equipment.
- Strengthen your technical and problem-solving skills while gaining confidence in working with materials and tools via a hands-on approach.

How Assessment Works:

- Non-Exam Assessment: 30-35 hour design-and-make project, including an e-portfolio with research, design development, and photos of the final product (50%).
- Written Exam: Materials, processes, sustainability, design principles, and technological developments (50%).

Consider This:

You can only choose one of GCSE Design & Technology or GCSE Textiles Design & Technology, you cannot choose both.

Tech Award **Digital Information Technology**

BTEC Level 1 & 2

The modern world expects digital skills to be as important as English and Mathematics. Having both technical skills and business understanding is the key to success, and that's exactly what this course is for. You'll gain sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through looking at real life business scenarios by studying project planning, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Develop your understanding of user interfaces, including what makes them effective, and how to manage a project. You'll also get to plan, design and create your own user interface.
- Understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making, including using data manipulation methods to create your own dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.
- Explore effective digital working practices, covering modern technologies, cybersecurity, planning, and communication using digital systems.

How Assessment Works:

- Non-Exam Assessment 1: Exploring user interface design principles and project planning techniques (30% - completed in Y10).
- Non-Exam Assessment 2: Collecting, presenting and interpreting data (30% - completed in Y10).
- Written Exam: Effective digital working practices (40% - sat in January of Y11, with the possibility of resit in May).

GCSE Drama

Exam Board: AQA

GCSE Drama is an exciting and creative course that allows students to explore ideas, issues and stories through performance. The course is highly practical and encourages students to work collaboratively to develop their acting, communication and creative thinking skills.

How This Course Could Help You:

- You will have the opportunity to perform, devise original drama, and study a range of plays and theatre styles. You will learn how to interpret scripts, develop characters, and use drama techniques to communicate meaning to an audience. Alongside performance, you will also analyse and evaluate live theatre and your own work.
- GCSE Drama is ideal for students who enjoy being creative, working with others and expressing ideas confidently. It develops valuable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and presentation, which are useful in many future careers and further study, including theatre, media, teaching, law and business.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam: Understanding Drama (40%).
- Practical/Written Non-Exam Assessment: Devising Drama (40%).
- Practical Exam: Texts in practice (20%).

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA

Whatever the future holds, skills in food preparation and nutrition will always be in demand. This course empowers learners to make informed decisions about food and nutrition - both now and in the future - while exploring global issues surrounding the production of safe, sustainable, and nutritious food for an ever-growing population.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Get not only the practical skills needed to cook confidently, but the knowledge to understand the intricacies of the subject, covering such key areas as: nutrition and health; science; safety; choice; labelling and marketing, and provenance.
- Explore the functional and chemical properties of ingredients and cooking methods via a series of scientific food investigations.
- Develop valuable life skills and a foundation for further study or careers in nutrition, catering, hospitality, food science, or health and wellbeing.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam: Principles of food preparation and nutrition (50%).
- Food investigation task: A written report of 1,500-2,000 words (15%).
- Food preparation task: A written report of up to 15 A4 pages (35%).

GCSE French

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

As the official language in 26 countries around the world and spoken across 5 continents, French is truly a global language. It is something which will broaden your horizons and can really open doors if you're looking at a future involving any kind of travel.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Explore this important language via themes including: my personal world; my neighbourhood; studying and my future; lifestyle and wellbeing; media and technology, and travel and tourism.
- Gain invaluable cultural awareness throughout the course, including first-hand via trips to France.
- Develop transferable abilities such as communication skills, problems solving, and resilience, as well as improved memory.

How Assessment Works:

- 4x assessments across Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (25% each).

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Travel the world from your classroom, exploring emerging economies and lower income countries as well as the UK, balancing both physical and human themes and investigating the links between them. Learn about climate change, hazard management, vulnerable ecosystems, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use, alongside our roles in society.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Learn about living with the physical environment, from the challenge of natural hazards like tropical storms, to examining ecosystems, to looking at the coastal and river landscapes of the UK.
- Explore challenges in the human environment, such as the impact of rapid urbanisation, different levels of development across the world and the role of TNCs (Transnational Corporations), and global demand on resources and energy security.
- Understand geographical applications, including issue evaluation and decision making, and local fieldwork involving physical and human elements.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Living with the physical environment (35%).
- Written Exam 2: Challenges in the human environment (35%).
- Written Exam 3: Geographical applications (30%).

Consider This:

You must choose one of either GCSE History or GCSE Geography (it is possible to do both).

Tech Award Health & Fitness

NCFE Level 1 & 2

Do you want to pursue a career in the health and fitness sector or progress to further study PE and sport, and you perform best when completing coursework assessed tasks? Then this course could be a great fit for you, providing an introduction to health and fitness in a vocational and project-based way of study.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Explore the structure and function of body systems, how they apply to health and fitness, and the effects of health and fitness activities on the body.
- Understand the principles of training and the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness.
- Discover how to test and develop components of fitness, including applying health and fitness analyses and setting goals.

How Assessment Works:

- Non-Exam Project-Based Assessment (60%).
- Written Exam (40%).

Consider This:

This qualification does not include a practical assessment.

GCSE History

Exam Board: AQA

With the roots of so many of today's news stories found in the past, the study of History is central to our understanding of the world in which we live. It can help you to gain insights that may shed light on solutions to many of the issues that face us both now and in the future.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Covering over 1,000 years of British and world history, you will get a deeper understanding of important issues, enhance your ability to think critically and develop evidence-based opinions.
- Understand the modern world: investigate opportunity and equality in the USA between 1920 and 1973, from economic boom to the Depression and post-war America. Then explore conflict and tension in Asia between 1950 and 1975 via the Korean War and the Vietnam War.
- Go back in time to unearth Britain's roots, study the relationship between citizens and the state and find out how protest has changed the balance of power since c1170. Then go back even further to 1066 to explore the Norman conquest and how it changed life in England forever. You'll even get to study an historical site linked to the Normans in depth.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Understanding the modern world (50%).
- Written Exam 2: Shaping the nation (50%).

Consider This:

You must choose one of either GCSE History or GCSE Geography (it is possible to do both).

GCSE Latin

Exam Board: Eduqas

The bedrock of many modern languages today, Latin is an ancient Italic language that is still used within both scientific and classical fields – and is viewed very positively by colleges and universities. This course explores not only the language, but also its roots and the world of ancient Rome.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Follow the Cambridge Latin course through its three books covering life in Pompeii, including the volcanic eruption in AD79, what life was like in turbulent Roman Egypt, and how the Romans conquered Britain.
- Enjoy trip opportunities to Italy, including locations such as Pompeii, Herculaneum, Sorrento, Rome, and Naples, to take your learning into the real world.
- Use your knowledge of Latin, the basis of many other languages, to take your progress further in future and more easily learn other languages.

How Assessment Works:

- Language assessment: comprehension and translation (50%).
- Literature assessment: commentary on plot, literary devices and themes (30%).
- Civilisation assessment: understanding of the Roman world (20%).

Consider This:

This course is reading and writing only, no listening or speaking.

GCSE Music

Exam Board: Eduqas

Music offers an exciting and practical course of study which encourages learners to develop their skills as performers, composers and listeners. You will build a strong understanding of how music is created, performed and analysed while studying a wide range of styles such as classical, ensemble, film and popular music.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Develop confident performing skills, both as a soloist and as part of an ensemble, communicating musical ideas with fluency and control.
- Develop composing skills by creating, developing and structuring musical ideas, making effective use of musical elements and appropriate resources.
- Improve your ability to listen carefully to different styles of music and write about them using accurate musical vocabulary and an understanding of musical context.

How Assessment Works:

- Practical Assessment: Performance, with a minimum of one ensemble piece and one solo piece, both linked to an area of study (4–6 minutes, 30%).
- Practical Assessment: Composing, including one composition from a set brief and one free choice (3–6 minutes, 30%).
- Written Exam: Appraising, using the correct vocabulary to talk about a range of musical styles and genres (1 hour 15 minutes, 40%).

Consider This:

To achieve a grade 5 or above, you must be able to perform on an instrument or sing to approximately Grade 3 level (but you don't need to have taken any instrumental or vocal exams). This course provides a strong foundation for further study of music at sixth form level.

GCSE Physical Education

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Are you committed to your PE curricular study and extra-curricular participation? Do you have an interest in the body systems, science and sports psychology behind sports performance? Do you enjoy working with others to improve your theoretical and practical knowledge? If so, this course is for you.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Gain a strong understanding of the body and health, helping you to make informed choices about fitness, nutrition, and long-term wellbeing.
- Build practical skills and confidence through a mix of physical performance and applied theory.
- Develop transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience, and problem-solving.
- Open pathways to further study and careers in sport, fitness, teaching, physiotherapy, coaching, sports science and more.

How Assessment Works:

- Practical Assessment: one team activity, one individual and one free choice (30%).
- Written Personal Exercise Programme (10%).
- Written Exam 1: Fitness and Body Systems (36% of the GCSE).
- Written Exam 2: Sport and Performance (24% of the GCSE).

Consider This:

It is desirable that students compete or perform in a minimum of one sporting activity out of school to be considered for this qualification.

GCSE Psychology

Exam Board: OCR

Do you want to know how your memory works? Are you interested in why you do things you don't want to in order to fit in? Have you ever wondered if criminals are different to everyone else? If these kinds of questions occupy your daily thoughts, then psychology is the subject for you.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Understand what makes people tick, why we do the things we do, and look at how we can predict, and potentially change, people's behaviour.
- Delve into criminal psychology, social influence, development, memory, psychological problems, sleep and dreaming, and research methods.
- Combine your love of science, your mathematical skills and your interest in human behaviour to construct arguments and evaluate theories when building essays that tackle the big questions in life.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Criminal psychology, development, psychological problems, and research methods (50%).
- Written Exam 2: Social influence, memory, sleep and dreaming, and research methods (50%).

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board: AQA

As well as learning facts and gaining knowledge about religious beliefs and practices, this course encourages you to develop skills of empathy, critical thinking and debate. You will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling you to develop your own attitudes towards religious issues.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture.
- Explore the study of religions, including beliefs, teaching and practices from Christianity to Buddhism.
- Examine four religious, philosophical and ethical thematic studies: A) relationships and families; B) religion and life; C) religion, peace and conflict, and D) religion, crime and punishment.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: The study of religions (50%).
- Written Exam 2: Thematic studies (50%).

GCSE Sociology

Exam Board: AQA

Are you interested in the nature of power and equality? If so, this course is for you. We'll dig down into the roots, exploring why we have families, schools and a criminal justice system and the functions they perform. We'll then take things further by learning about the role of politics and, crucially, how society works.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Discover how families and education shape our lives, from different family types to how schools influence opportunities and achievement.
- Explore crime, deviance, and inequality, examining why rules are broken, how society reacts, and why some groups have more power and opportunities than others.
- Get a deep and fundamental understanding of how society functions and your role within it.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: The sociology of families and education (50%).
- Written Exam 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification (50%).

GCSE Spanish

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world and is the official language in no less than 23 different countries – so if you're looking to explore the world and strengthen your career prospects in a range of fields, look no further.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Learn across a variety of topics, including: family, friends and relationships, the natural world and environmental issues, travel and accommodation, food and drink, and much more.
- Get the opportunity to experience the language locally with trips abroad and an exchange with a partner school in Spain.
- Build powerful life skills by mastering communication and problem-solving, developing resilience, and enhancing your memory.

How Assessment Works:

- 4x assessments across Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing (25% each).

GCSE Statistics

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Statistics helps you to understand the world through data. From sports performance and business trends to medical research and social media, statistics is used everywhere. If you enjoy problem-solving, analysing information, and making evidence-based decisions, this course is a great choice. It also supports many other GCSEs, especially Mathematics, Science, Geography, Psychology, Business and PE.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Develop your ability to collect, analyse, interpret, and present data, with topics including: planning investigations, collection methods and sampling techniques, data representation, probability and risk, correlation and regression, and more.
- Learn how statistics is applied in real situations, how data may be misleading and how you can draw sensible conclusions, a key skill which will serve you well in future.
- Gain fundamental skills including logical and critical thinking, problem-solving, clear communications, and interpretation and reasoning. These skills help you to challenge information, make better decisions going forward, and open doors to many future pathways.

How Assessment Works:

- 2x written papers (50% each).

Consider This:

You don't need to be in the top set for Maths for this course.

GCSE Textiles Design & Technology

Exam Board: AQA

Textiles Design & Technology is a creative and practical course where you can explore how fabrics, fashion, and textile products are designed, made, and used in the real world. You'll learn to design for real users, investigate trends, and consider sustainability and the wider impact of the textile industry.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Research existing products and identify a design opportunity, investigate designers, artists, and textile influences, carry out market and materials research, develop design ideas, create prototypes, and construct a final textile product, producing your very own product.
- Use both traditional textile techniques and digital technologies such as CAD and CAM (including laser cutting) to produce high-quality outcomes, building creativity through a hands-on approach.
- Blend creativity with technical skill, independent thinking, innovation, and problem-solving, developing strong transferable skills such as communication, project planning, and analysis. These are invaluable for further study and industry.

How Assessment Works:

- Non-Exam Assessment: 30-35 hour design-and-make project, including an e-portfolio with research, design development, and photos of the final product (50%)
- Written Exam: Materials, processes, sustainability, design principles, and technological developments (50%)

Consider This:

You can only choose one of GCSE Design & Technology or GCSE Textiles Design & Technology, you cannot choose both.

Tech Award **Travel & Tourism**

BTEC Level 1 & 2

Find out what the world has to offer by exploring the travel and tourism industry, considering the needs of both the travel organisations and the consumers. Not only will you learn how organisations meet the needs of consumers and global influences on the industry, you'll also develop transferable life skills, such as researching, planning (e.g. routes, holidays and itineraries), and problem solving and decision making.

How This Course Could Help You:

- Learn about travel and tourism organisations and destinations, investigating organisation ownership, aims, key products and services and how they all work together, as well as consumer technologies, different types of tourism and popular routes to a range of destinations.
- Explore customer needs in travel and tourism, finding out how organisations identify customer needs and preferences, and then how these are met.
- Investigate influences on global travel and tourism, the impact of tourism on destinations, and destination management in travel and tourism.

How Assessment Works:

- Coursework 1: Travel and tourism organisations and destinations (33.3%).
- Coursework 2: Customer needs in travel and tourism (33.3%).
- Written Exam: Influences on global travel and tourism (33.3%).



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COMPULSORY EXAMINED COURSES



GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Realise the incredible energy of the written word from across the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first centuries, explore the ideas of some of the greatest writers from around the world and prepare yourself for life way beyond school.

English Language

How This Course Will Help You:

- Become a critical thinker, able to understand, summarise, analyse, evaluate and compare.
- Develop and refine your creative writing skills and find out how to write effective real-world texts.
- Explore and craft your own creative writing voice by studying some of the very best writers.
- Learn how to influence and create meaning by investigating big ideas, themes and writers' methods.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Reading and writing fiction texts (50%).
- Written Exam 2: Reading and writing non-fiction texts (50%).
- Additional: Spoken language presentation task. *

* Note: This is reported separately and does not form part of the GCSE English Language grade, but it is a compulsory component of the course.

English Literature

How This Course Will Help You:

- Explore the ideas of the best writers, unearth a deep understanding of core texts and learn how to write sophisticated analyses.
- Broaden your knowledge and understanding via a wide range of important literature including 19th century prose (A Christmas Carol), Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet), modern texts (An Inspector Calls) and Love and Relationships poetry.
- Develop the knowledge and skills you need to be able to analyse the characters, relationships, themes and big ideas of any piece of literature.

How Assessment Works:

- Written Exam 1: Romeo and Juliet and A Christmas Carol (40%).
- Written Exam 2: An Inspector Calls, Love and Relationships poetry and unseen poetry (60%).

GCSE Mathematics

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Harness the power of mathematics to develop truly transferrable skills for life, helping you to build resilience to challenges, learn different techniques to analyse problems, communicate complex ideas and lay the foundations for a successful future.

How This Course Will Help You:

- Build on your understanding of the topics in Number, Algebra, Shape & Space (Geometry) and Data & Probability that you encountered in Key Stage 3.
- Enhance your understanding of the key elements that will help you to succeed in other subjects such as science and geography.
- Content is tailored to your tier group to help you achieve in the most effective way possible – and there are also opportunities to move tiers throughout the course based on your progress.

How Assessment Works:

- 3x written papers (including one non-calculator), all equally weighted.

Consider This:

You can achieve Grades 1 to 5 on the Foundation Tier and Grades 5 to 9 on the Higher Tier.

GCSE Combined Science (2x GCSEs)

GCSE Separate Sciences (3x GCSEs)

Exam Board: AQA

Dig into the essential science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, equipping you with the versatile analytical tools needed to understand and shape our complex, changing world.

There are two different routes here:

- 1) Take the Combined Science Trilogy and learn the key concepts in all disciplines of science: Biology; Chemistry, and Physics – you'll get 2x GCSE grades.
- 2) Work hard* for the Separate Biology, Chemistry & Physics qualifications – you'll get 3x GSCE grades.

How This Course Will Help You:

- Discover the intricate yet expansive world of Biology.
- Unearth the secrets of Chemistry and how it shapes everything around us.
- Get a crucial understanding of Physics and how it impacts our daily lives.
- If you take Separate Sciences, you can expect to delve a lot deeper into each of these fascinating and important topics, uncovering even more about the world around us.

How Assessment Works:

Combined (2x GCSEs)

- 16x practical activities over the course.
- 6x written papers (2x each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, 1 hr 15 mins each – equal weighting).

Separate (3x GCSEs)

- 21x practical activities over the course.
- 6x written papers (2x each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, 1 hr 45 mins each – equal weighting).

Consider This:

The pathway you follow in Year 11 is dependent on the results of your Year 9 mocks. *So if you work hard and achieve at least a grade 6, you'll have the opportunity to take all 3 science GCSEs.



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COMPULSORY

NON-EXAMINED COURSES



Ethics (Religious Studies)

How This Course Will Help You:

- Uncover the emerging needs of the UK and influential markets, cultures and religions.
- Reflect on the diversity in today's society and explore different points of view.
- Empower yourself to make a change in your local, national and global community.

Physical Education

How This Course Will Help You:

- Participate in a range of physical activities, including invasion games, aesthetic activities, personal fitness activities and cultural games, for an active, healthy lifestyle.
- Develop your leadership and officiating skills during core PE, even taking responsibility for leading aspects of the lessons.
- Get the opportunity to follow the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award during extracurricular time.

Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE)

How This Course Will Help You:

- Work through a programme of study for three units: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World.
- Enhance your understanding of moral, social and cultural issues in Britain today.
- Explore Human rights and British Values in a multicultural society, developing a strong appreciation of diversity and inclusion.

Work Related Learning and Careers Education

How This Course Will Help You:

- Gain a greater awareness of the skills you need to be a successful job candidate and future employee.
- Prepare for life after school with topics on decision making, alternatives at 16+, further education and training opportunities, selection procedures, application and interview techniques and more.
- Get a taste of your next steps with careers fairs, college representative presentations, university visits, mock interviews and work experience placements.

Questions You Might Have

Why are some courses compulsory?

The government expects all students to study a broad and balanced curriculum. The compulsory courses are a vital part of not just this approach, but your development. They teach important skills and knowledge that everyone needs, whatever you want to do in the future.

Do I have to choose exactly 4 options?

Yes, you need to choose 4 optional courses. We're pleased to have been able to increase the number of options that you can now choose, up from 3 in previous years. Combined with the compulsory courses, we believe this offers an ambitious yet manageable mix of subjects for your future.

Why does this brochure tell me what the exam boards are?

There are a number of exam boards, each with their own approaches to assessment and particular subject strengths. We believe that the exam boards named against each course are the most appropriate for your progression, and we encourage you to find out more by visiting their respective websites.

What are BTEC and NCFE?

These are types of vocational qualifications, equivalent to GCSE at Level 2. If you're interested in learning practical, hands-on skills for a particular job, these could be the right choice for you.

Am I guaranteed the course options I choose?

While we do our utmost to satisfy the wishes of all our students, we cannot guarantee that you will get to do all your optional course choices. This is why you must choose two reserve options in case we cannot fulfil your top 4 preferences.

One of my friends said we should take whatever course is taught by their favourite teacher, as we'd definitely enjoy it. How do we find out which courses they'll be teaching?

First of all, think again. It's important that you choose options for you, nobody else. After all, it's your future, not theirs. Also, never choose a course just because of a particular teacher. There is no guarantee they will be teaching a specific course. You should choose what you are interested in based on the subject content and your future goals.

Can I change my option choices once the courses have started?

Given the complexity of offering a range of course options to such a diverse and significant group of students, it is not possible to change choices once courses have begun. That's why we strongly encourage you to think hard about your options and consider the right mix for your future.

If you have a question that isn't answered here, please let us know – we are here to help you make the right choices for your future.

Your Notes



Willingdon
COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**Preparing You To Take
The Next Steps In Life**

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