



READ SCHOOL

DRAX

Key Stage 4 Courses Booklet 2025-2027

SUBJECTS 2025

STATUTORY COURSES

English Language: GCSE

English Literature: GCSE

Mathematics: GCSE

Science: 2 GCSEs

Life Skills: PSHE

Physical Education: GAMES

OPTIONAL COURSES

Art and Design: GCSE

Business Studies: GCSE

Computer Science: GCSE

Creative iMedia: GCSE

Design and Technology: GSCE

Drama: GCSE

Food Preparation and Nutrition: GCSE

Geography: GCSE

History: GCSE

Latin: GCSE

Modern Foreign Languages – French and Spanish: GCSE

Music: GCSE

Physical Education: GCSE

Science - Separate Sciences: 3 GCSEs

Statistics GCSE & Further Maths level 2

General Information

Throughout Years 10 and 11, referred to as Key Stage 4 (KS4), you will follow statutory courses in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Life Skills (PSHE) and Games. In addition, you will be able to choose four option subjects.

This booklet contains information about the courses offered at KS4. We hope that you and your parents / guardians will work through this booklet together. During school time, we hope that you will pay close attention to the information made available and consider all possibilities with an open mind. This is a challenging time, with choices to be made in an informed and mature manner on subjects, style of teaching and form of assessment. Above all, this is the first opportunity for you to make choices about the subjects you study; helped by family discussions and based on teachers' advice about what choices may best suit you. We are confident that you will all rise to the challenge!

GCSE remains the traditional academic route through KS4 and is intended to allow you to demonstrate knowledge and skills acquired over extended periods of time. GCSE is assessed mainly by examination and partly by controlled assessments. In September 2015, new GCSEs were introduced in Mathematics and English nationally, followed by other subjects in September 2016 and then in September 2017. These are more demanding in terms of quantity as well as depth of subject knowledge and are now graded on a 9 to 1 scale, with 9 being the highest award. You will have to attempt particularly challenging questions in order to secure this high grade.

Some subject areas offer entry at varying levels, referred to as Higher or Foundation. Teachers will guide you into the most suitable tier of entry as you progress through the course, in an attempt to achieve the best outcome for you, depending upon your aptitude in a particular subject.

The choices curriculum consists of a wide variety of subjects. You should select your option subjects based upon enjoyment of the subject, previous success and method of assessment. Please do not choose a subject because your friends are choosing it or because you like your current teacher in this subject.

All courses will involve work out of lessons, some on specific days and others for completion by a given date. You and your parents will be familiar with the School Planner, which we regard as an essential tool in organising work throughout KS4. You have now become accustomed to Google Classroom where assignments are set with clear guidelines and due dates, this is becoming increasingly important as a tool to support our continued learning. Both methods will be key to meeting often demanding deadlines and ultimately achieving your very best.

STATUTORY COURSES

English Language

What will you be learning?

The GCSE course focuses on making you a critical, analytical reader, able to see how a writer influences you. This is a useful life skill. It leads to GCSE English Language.

The skills you learn are:

How to analyse language use in a text

How to analyse the structure of a text

How to summarise differences and / or similarities between texts

How to evaluate a viewpoint, and to explain how it is presented

How to produce personal writing in different styles: narrative, descriptive, informative, argumentative and persuasive.

Method of Assessment

You will be assessed through external examinations at the end of Year 11. There are two untiered papers, each worth 50% of the GCSE:

Paper 1: *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing* lasts for 1hr and 45 minutes

Paper 2: *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives* lasts for 1hr and 45 minutes

There is no coursework element.

Progression Opportunities

GCSE English language at Grade 4 or above is essential to progress to **any** A level and BTEC Level 3 course. English Language is also an A level subject in its own right.

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8700

English Literature

What will you be learning?

The GCSE course covers all three genres (poetry, plays, novels), and from a range of different eras. Specifically, you will study:

A nineteenth century novel (e.g. *A Christmas Carol*, *The Sign of the Four*)

A Shakespeare play (e.g. *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*)

A collection of fifteen poems on the theme of *Love and Relationships* **or** *Power and Conflict*

A modern text, which may be a play or a novel (e.g. *Animal Farm*, *The Lord of the Flies*, *An Inspector Calls*)

Method of Assessment

You will be assessed through external examinations at the end of Year 11. There are two untiered papers:

Paper 1: *Shakespeare and a Nineteenth Century Novel* is worth 40% and lasts for 1hr and 45 minutes

Paper 2: *Modern Texts and Poetry* is worth 60% and lasts for 2hrs and 15 minutes

There is no coursework element. Both of the Literature exams are closed book i.e. no texts are allowed into the exam hall.

Progression Opportunities

English Literature is an A level subject in its own right and, moreover, a highly-regarded facilitating subject. Some colleges will accept a Grade 4 in English Literature in lieu of a Grade 4 in English Language for entry onto a Level 3 course.

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8702

Mathematics

What will you be learning?

The content for Maths GCSE is a progression from year 9 and will cover the same topic areas of Number, Algebra, Ratio, Geometry and Probability and Statistics.

Maths is taught by experienced specialists. We follow the AQA 3 year scheme of work, having already covered year 1 in year 9. This allows us to help pupils study maths at a greater depth. We focus on practising the fundamentals whilst extending mathematical thinking to enable pupils to work on problem solving questions. Pupils are supported at their own level so more able students are stretched and challenged with higher order problem solving tasks and pupils who find maths hard are helped to overcome misconceptions and encouraged to develop strategies to answer more complex problems. We use a range of resources rather than relying on teaching from a specific textbook.

Method of Assessment

There will be three written papers in May/June of year 11 of 1 hour and 30 minutes each. Each one is worth one third of the whole exam. Content from any part of the syllabus can be examined on each paper. Each paper will consist of a mix of question styles, from short, single mark questions to multi-step problems. Mathematical demand increases as a pupil progresses through the paper. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper. Calculators can be used on papers 2 and 3.

There are two tiers of exam papers, Foundation and Higher.

Grades 1 to 5 are obtainable on the Foundation Tier.

Grades 4 to 9 are obtainable on the higher tier, though pupils are only entered for the higher tier if they are certain of getting at least a grade 5.

Pupils must take three papers all from the same tier.

The three Foundation Papers will approximately have questions in the proportion Number 25%, Algebra 20%, Ratio 25%, Geometry 15% and Probability and Statistics 15%. The three Higher Papers will approximately have questions in the proportion

Number 15%, Algebra 30%, Ratio 20%, Geometry 20% and Probability and Statistics 15%.

Progression Opportunities

Maths is a core subject and compulsory. A grade 4 or 5 is required for most courses at 6th form and also for university.

Those wishing to study science and mathematics at A level should be taking the higher tier, aiming for a grade 6 or above.

Qualification

This is worth 1 GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8300

QAN number 601/4608/4

Science

What will you be learning?

At Read School the Science Faculty follow a national science course called AQA Trilogy (Combined Science) and AQA Separate (Separate Sciences). The AQA examinations are designed to have straightforward language and fewer contexts so as to build your confidence as you attempt the questions. The course will also have an emphasis on practical skills with you all completing mandatory “Core practicals” throughout the GCSE.

There are two curriculum pathways, Combined Science is the default pathway and leads to 2 GCSEs. Separate Sciences counts as one of your options and leads to 3 GCSEs.

Entry to the Separate Sciences option is restricted to those pupils who reach a certain level of attainment.

Curriculum Pathway 1: Combined Science

In the Combined Science GCSE course there are 24 subject specific modules - 7 Biology, 10 Chemistry, 7 Physics and in addition one Combined Science module. There are higher and foundation tier examination papers.

Method of Assessment

All assessments will be in the Summer of Year 11.

Unit	Title	Duration	Weighting	Total Mark
1	Biology topics 1 - 4	75 minutes	16.7%	70
2	Biology topics 5 - 7	75 minutes	16.7%	70
3	Chemistry topics 8 - 12	75 minutes	16.7%	70
4	Chemistry topics 13 - 17	75 minutes	16.7%	70
5	Physics topics 18 - 21	75 minutes	16.7%	70
6	Physics topics 22 - 24	75 minutes	16.7%	70

Progression opportunities

If you achieve a high grade in Combined Science GCSE you can progress to A-level sciences (provided your English and Mathematics GCSE grades are adequate). Many careers are available within the sciences.

Qualification

Combined Science (Trilogy). This leads to 2 GCSE grades

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8464F/8464H

PHSE & Personal Development

You will all be engaged in the PSHE curriculum throughout Years 10 and 11.

What will you be learning?

It is crucial that you recognise yourselves not just as students, but as young citizens of our community, our country and the world beyond. The PSHE programme in Years 10-11 reflects updated statutory guidance which came into effect September 2020 which divides the programme into three key areas: Health & Well Being, Living in the Wider World, Relationships (RSE). PSHE lessons cover the following key themes:

- Mental and physical well being – including managing risk (alcohol, drugs, sexual relationships, gambling, e-safety)/ healthy eating / developing resilience
- Religious Studies- examine key ethical issues like crime, punishment, the death penalty, war and peace.
- Sexual Health- consider a variety of contraception methods, investigate STI's and the issue of FGM.
- Citizenship – becoming an ACTIVE citizen / UK legal and justice systems / human rights / political systems / being British / global issues
- Study Skills – Time management / self-discipline / revision techniques / exam techniques
- Careers Education & Guidance – exploring the world of work / types of jobs and the skills required / future aspirations / Creation of CVs and applications / Interview techniques
- Impartial Advice and Guidance – individual pathways after Year 11 using the Morrisby online aptitude and careers-matching assessments – Sixth Form / Colleges of FE / Apprenticeships
- Financial Capability – budgeting / avoiding debt / understanding taxation, national insurance & pensions.

Physical Education - Games

A high-quality Physical Education curriculum will inspire you to succeed and excel in competitive sport and other physically demanding activities. Our Physical Education curriculum provides opportunities for you to become physically confident in a way which supports your health and fitness. Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect.

Our aims are to ensure that you:

- develop competence to excel in a broad range of physical activities
- are physically active for sustained periods of time
- engage in competitive sports and activities
- lead healthy, active lives.

What will you be learning?

Examples of some of the Physical Education provision are where we will encourage you to :

- use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games
- develop your technique and improve your performance in other competitive sports or other physical activities
- take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges and which encourage you to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group
- evaluate your performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve your personal best
- continue to take part regularly in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

Progression Opportunities

We hope that such enjoyable experiences at this point in your development will lead to selective specialisation and later successful participation beyond school to lead a healthy active lifestyle.

Method of Assessment

You will be provided with verbal feedback on a frequent basis that will identify key areas of strength and areas for development to aid your progress and enjoyment. By the end of Key Stage 4, you are expected to know, apply and understand the matters, skills and processes specified in the relevant activity.

OPTIONAL COURSES

Art and Design

What will you be learning?

When opting for Art and Design you embark on a rich programme of study you must:

- Commit to producing work towards a variety of coursework projects to develop your skills. In addition, you will undertake the Externally Set Assignment – with choices set by the examination board.
- Create work using a wide range of techniques. These can include painting, printmaking, drawing, textiles, photography, digital art, 3D sculpture and mixed media. You are encouraged to develop work to your own strengths and tastes.
- You will be challenged to be inspired by other artists and develop a wide range of ideas of your own.
- Learn about and investigate a range of artists, designers and craftspeople to inspire your work to ensure that you develop your own original ideas and outcomes. These range from the earliest art made to the most contemporary ones, who are practising now.
- How to take your experimentation and ideas to their widest and most creative extent. You will be challenged to refine your practical work to improve your skills and application.
- Widen your use of the visual language to appreciate others' work, and support your own work as it develops.
- Use additional homework time and lunchtime/activity time to develop your work and ideas. You will work on your own and as part of a larger working community to develop your ideas, as professional artists and designers do!
- Have an interest in viewing and appreciating art through exhibitions and galleries, by visiting in person or online. There is an opportunity to visit London as part of this learning.
- How to self-manage and work as an individual, as well as working as a team with your peers.

Method of Assessment

Your grade is calculated using the ratio: Coursework 60%: Examination 40%. The same four assessment objectives apply to both coursework and the examination. You will be assessed on:

- Your ability to record (25%). This means how well you can draw, paint, sculpt, photograph and any written work. – every piece of work in your coursework portfolio will be assessed but we examine books closely when marking and award marks for the best bits!
- Your ability to develop your ideas (25%). Ideas should be developed thoroughly to explore sources, you must provide evidence that you can select and refine your best ideas and develop them, rather than simply choosing the first thing that comes to mind.
- Your ability to refine ideas and experiment (25%). You will use a wide range of techniques and materials to produce your work. 'Taking risks'/experimenting with

- materials is not only fun but will get you high marks. You will be encouraged to push yourself out of your comfort zone!
- Your ability to respond, by creating art in a personal and meaningful way (25%). Such responses are evident throughout your work and in your 'final' piece or series of pieces.

Progression Opportunities

A GCSE in Art and Design is suitable for any student wishing to progress onto A-levels/other higher-level qualifications. Students wishing to pursue a career in the Creative Industries or become an artist or designer will find the skills learnt invaluable. If any of these sectors area of interest for your career this could be the course for you- Graphic Design including branding, IT, Media Design including TV, Theatre and Film, Fashion or Textile Design, Architecture, Fine Art and Photography, and many more.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8201

Business Studies

What will you be learning?

Business Studies encompasses the way in which we run our everyday lives. You may, one day, be part of a company or organisation and will require skills learnt in this subject. Business Studies is a subject that will give you the skills and knowledge to understand how businesses are setup and managed. Business activity is the basis of so much that we take for granted in our everyday lives.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1 – Unit 1: Business World Written examination: 2 hours 62.5% of qualification 100 Marks

A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 2 hours

100 marks (62.5% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – Unit 2: Business Perceptions Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification 60 Marks

Data response questions covering all of the specification content

How it's assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

60 marks (37.5% of GCSE)

Topics include; Business activity, Influences on business, Business operations, Human resources, marketing and Finance. Both units assess content from all six topic areas, so learners will be required to draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the subject content in each assessment.

Business Studies must relate to the real world of business outside the classroom – hence the need to keep up to date with the world around us. The course requires the pupils to use a variety of skills to analyse and evaluate data (analytical and numerical). During the course, presentations, debates, wider reading around the subject material and the running of mini enterprises will be expected.

No prior learning is necessary for pupils to join the course. However, pupils will be expected to read around the subject and develop reasoning skills throughout the business studies course. GCSE Business Studies lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Business Studies at A-level or related subjects. In addition, it provides a worthwhile course for pupils in terms of their general education and life skills.

Progression Opportunities

A-Level or BTEC Level 3 Business, BTEC Enterprise, A-level Economics

Awarding Body

Educas C510QS

Computer Science

We live in a world where technology is evolving at an unprecedented rate and driving developments in everything from medicine and engineering to fashion and media. This year in your lessons you have seen that Computer Science (CS) is the most relevant subject that you can study as it is where the jobs will be in the future - 17 of the top 20 emerging jobs in the next 5 years are CS related. Any STEM job (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is underpinned by the use of computers, and a good grasp of the most important concepts and ideas will give you an advantage over those who don't understand this. You have already researched 7 CS career pathways and will be talking with STEM Ambassadors about their jobs.

What will you be learning?

The new Key Stage 3 curriculum has already started to develop your programming skills with Python and you have the online Trinket course to go through at your own pace. If you did well in the Bebras Competition, programming and algorithms will help you further develop your logical thinking skills. The GCSE has a practical computing exam and a theory exam. Your programming includes understanding and applying the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. The exam requires you to analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs. The exam will be done in a computer room which means you can debug and see if your code is working as you go along. The theory paper requires you to understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems; and the impact of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy and cybersecurity. You may have seen in the news about the AI bot ChatGPT – think about the impact this is going to have on education.

Method of Assessment (2 Units)

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science: Written examination / 1 hour and 30 minutes / 50% of the qualification. Based on units 1-5; Computational thinking; Data; Computers; Networks and Impact (awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies).

Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking: Onscreen examination / 2 hours / 50% of the qualification. This paper will assess Unit 6: Problem solving with programming. This assessment consists of six compulsory programming questions.

Progression Opportunities

The GCSE has built-in progression to study A-level Computer Science and it is recognised as developing the skills that are valued by employers.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

Pearson Edexcel (GCSE in Computer Science 1CP2)

Creative iMedia

What will you be learning?

The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will encourage you to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues and creation/publishing/distribution considerations
- develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely
- design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both
- client and target audience requirements.

Method of Assessment (2 Units)

Unit 1 - Creative iMedia in the media industry: externally assessed unit (exam) - 70 marks.

Unit 2 - Visual identity and digital graphics: centre-assessed unit (NEA) - 50 marks.

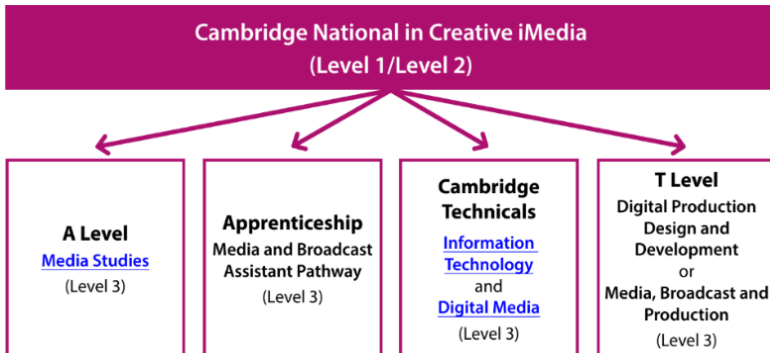
Unit 3 - Interactive Digital Media: centre-assessed unit (NEA) - 70 marks.

All results are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

Level 1 – Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1) and Fail/Unclassified.

Progression Opportunities



Qualification

Technical Award category of the 14-16 performance tables

Awarding Body

Pearson Edexcel (GCSE in Computer Science 1CP2)

Design and Technology

What will you be learning

The GCSE Design and Technology course prepares pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Pupils will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on design and technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Whilst studying the course pupils learn core technical, designing, and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment in the following areas

- Paper and Boards
- Timbers
- Metals and Alloy
- Polymers
- Textiles

They will also have the opportunity to specialise in Polymers in greater depth.

Method of Assessment

50% of the final grade is through a written exam, which is a two-hour paper consisting of a mixture of short answer and extended response questions

The remaining **50% is a non-exam assessment (NEA) project** which takes 30–35 hours of class time when they are in year 11. The NEA project will consist of a working prototype and a concise digital portfolio of approximately 20 pages. The NEA should consist of an investigation into a contextual challenge, defining the needs and wants of the user. Pupils are required to generate design ideas with flair and creativity and develop these to create a final design solution (including modelling). Pupils investigate, analyse and evaluate throughout the portfolio and evidence all decisions made.

Progressions Opportunities

The course is an ideal platform for further study at advanced level leading to the study of architecture, engineering or one of the numerous design courses specialising in fashion, transport, product, furniture etc. as well as media such as game and interactive design. It also provides a good foundation for vocational qualifications such as construction or building studies. A level product design is offered at Read, building on the materials knowledge learnt at GCSE.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding body

AQA specification code 8552

Drama

What will you be learning?

Drama is both a practical and an academic course that develops essential life skills. As well as studying a range of plays and the development of theatre practice from different eras, you will learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. You will learn about performing, directing, devising and designing for the theatre and you will study the social, cultural and historical contexts of plays past and present as well as experiencing live theatre in the 21st Century.

GCSE Drama will help you develop the following life skills:

- Creative thinking, independence and experimentation
- Communication and team-working
- Empathy and sensitivity to others
- Evaluation, critique and analysis
- Problem solving, resourcefulness and time management
- Self-confidence and self-reflection

Method of Assessment

Component 1 - Understanding Drama (External Written Examination - 40%)

The examination (one hour and 45 minutes) tests your knowledge and understanding of drama and the theatre. It requires you to study one set text, evaluate and review a live performance and answer questions on general theatre knowledge.

Component 2 - Devising Drama (Practical Coursework - 40%)

In this module, you will collaborate as a group to create a new piece of theatre from a starting point (stimulus). You will be assessed as a performer but there is also a design option available too. You will perform your piece as part of the assessment. You are also assessed on a devising log that demonstrates how your ideas were developed and analyses and evaluates your finished performance. This unit is assessed by your teachers and moderated externally.

Component 3 - Texts in Practice (External Practical Examination - 20%)

You will study a complete play script and then you will perform in two extracts from the text. You can perform as part of a group or with a partner. You will be marked by a visiting external examiner for this unit.

Progression Opportunities

Whilst GCSE Drama is a necessity for individuals seeking a career in Performing Arts, it is not just for those who are seeking to perform. This subject option develops essential transferable skills such as self-confidence, the ability to communicate with others and to present yourself effectively. GCSE Drama is ideal preparation for A-level Drama and Theatre and for vocational diplomas in Performing Arts. It links well with subjects like Music, Art, Dance, English Literature

and Language and History. Many employers look specifically for expertise in this area, the soft, transferable skills (such as creativity, diversity and cultural intelligence) are an integral part of any job in your future.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8261

Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will you be learning?

The GCSE qualification in food preparation and nutrition is a practical based course which will equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Following this qualification will encourage learners to cook and enable them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

The structure of the course is shown below.

Year 10 will focus on building up skills and knowledge; pupils will cook once a week and will learn through investigations to build up subject knowledge.

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation

During Year 11 pupils will work on two non-examination assessment (NEA) tasks as shown in the method of assessment below.

Method of Assessment

- **NEA 1** - Scientific food investigation – 15%
- **NEA 2** - Food preparation assessment - 35%
- **Written Exam** – 50% -The written exam is one tier of assessment covering grades 9 - 1

Progression Opportunities

The course is an ideal platform for further study and can lead to career opportunities in areas such as chef, dietician, environmental health officer, food chemist, food consultant, food stylist, food photographer, home economist, hotel and restaurant manager, marketing and advertising executive, health professional, farmer, microbiologist, nutritionist, recipe developer, teacher, working in food magazines, radio and television. The food industry is a major employer in the UK which is expanding all the time, employing people in a huge variety of roles ranging from agriculture to manufacturing. It is competitive and challenging, offering many opportunities within farming; research and development; purchasing; production; quality assurance; marketing; sales; distribution and logistics; information technology and human resources.

At post 16 here at Read we offer a level 3 food related qualification so there is progression. Successful students are eligible for UCAS points and at distinction level it is equivalent to an A level.

Qualification GCSE

Awarding Body AQA specification code 8585

AQA Unit awards in Food and Nutrition

What will you be learning?

There are over 20 food and nutrition unit awards to choose from; three examples include

- 111826 PLANNING AND COOKING HEALTHY MEALS ON A BUDGET
- 113514 FOOD SCIENCE: FUNCTIONAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF FOOD
- 106981 PLANNING, PREPARING AND MAKING AN AFTERNOON TEA

The wide range of units makes achievement accessible to every student regardless of their ability or interests. Each unit clearly sets out what learning outcomes need to be achieved and how to evidence them. We can tailor learning for individuals or groups of pupils by choosing any combination of the selection of standalone units. They allow all students to engage with learning and have their achievements formally recognised. Pupils are rewarded with a certificate each time they successfully complete a unit of learning. They can build up a portfolio of certificates to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience.

The scheme boosts confidence, increases engagement and improves motivation, helping students to make progress on their lifelong learning journey. It is an alternative to GCSE for a child who learns in a more practical way.

The units set out clearly what learning outcomes need to be achieved and the evidence required. It will be completed in class so there will be no homework expectations. It is a practical based course, which will consist of a digital folder evidencing the learning. There is no written exam. It will equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook meals independently as a valuable life skill.

Method of Assessment

100% practical and portfolio based with short modules to build up. They could do two or three each year.

Progression Opportunities

The course is an ideal platform for further study and can lead to career opportunities in areas such as chef, environmental health officer, food stylist, food photographer, home economist, hotel and restaurant worker, health professional, farmer, recipe developer, working in food magazines, radio and television. The food industry is a major employer in the UK, which is expanding all the time employing people in a huge variety of roles ranging from agriculture to manufacturing. It is competitive and challenging, offering many opportunities within farming; research and development; purchasing; production; quality assurance; marketing; sales; distribution and logistics; information technology and human resources.

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Qualification

Unit Award Scheme

Awarding Body

AQA

Geography

What will you be learning?

Topics that are relevant to the world around you now and in the future. Issues evaluation, problem-solving and critical thinking skills will be developed throughout the course to help you successfully evaluate the geographical issue in the final exam. Fieldwork will be undertaken into different locations and you will plan and collect primary data.

Method of Assessment

This is a 100% exam based subject. All students sit three non-tiered papers.

1 – Physical Geography – Paper of 1 hour 30 minutes' worth 35%

Natural hazards (Tectonic, Weather and Climate Change). Rivers and Coasts and Ecosystems (Hot Deserts and Rainforests)

2 – Human Geography – Paper of 1 hour 30 minutes' worth 35%

Urban Challenge, Resource Management (Food, Energy or Water is chosen as an optional subject) and Changing Economic World.

3 – Fieldwork, including geographical skills and statistics – Paper of 1 hour 15 minutes' worth 30%

Progression Opportunities

Geography is considered a strong GCSE choice by employers and universities. The wide range of skills to practise in geography, like decision-making and problem solving set you up well the world of work and other courses you may go on to study in Sixth Form.

To plan and carry out your own investigations and you use GIS/ICT packages to help present and analyse patterns - these are very useful for any future careers using ICT and for working with people. Much of the knowledge will also support A-level Geography, but also supports other GCSE subjects such as Science and Business Studies. The applicable written skills are also similar to those required in English, History and Business Studies. People around the world are becoming more aware of the impacts of changes to the environment, our population and the resources that we use. There will be many jobs available in this sector in the future and taking GCSE geography will mean you can show a real understanding of these future issues.

The skills you get from geography are widely sought-after by many different employers. Jobs that lend themselves to the skills you will learn in Geography include environmental consultant town planner tourism officer international aid/development worker.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA specification code 8035

History

What will you be learning?

History is a valuable subject to study at GCSE, both for the increased understanding you acquire of the world and for the transferable skills developed during the course.

Unit 1 Thematic Study; Crime and punishment through the ages and Whitechapel

Unit 2 Period Study and British Depth Study: Elizabethan England and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Unit 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany - 1918-1939

The department offers the Edexcel specification which includes a thousand-year study including medieval and modern modules; from the development of crime and punishment through time to the growth and expansion of power in medieval England and the conflict between Capitalism and Communism. It allows you to gain insight into why important figures in history acted in the way that they did; to recognise cause and consequence and evaluate sources. This improves the ability to critically assess information in order to judge the level of truth being presented and encourages the development of valuable skills such as reasoning and debate.

Method of Assessment

Unit 1 Examination 1 hour 15 minutes (30%) Unit 2 Examination 1 hour 45 minutes (40%) Unit 3 Examination 1 hour 20 minutes (30%)

Progression Opportunities

History GCSE teaches essential life skills such as decision making, evaluation, teamwork and a greater awareness of world issues. It can then be studied as an A level where knowledge and understanding will be further developed with independent learning. It is a subject that freely combines with all other subjects through its disciplines rather than its content. The wide range of skills taught within its framework has long been recognised by employers in a wide variety of fields, including Law, Journalism, Tourism, the Armed Forces, Museum services, Accountancy and in the world of business.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

Edexcel Specification code H10

Latin

Latin has played a definitive role in shaping the languages, literature and thinking of the western world. Learning Latin affords students an excellent basis for the acquisition of other European languages as well as helping them to understand structures and conventions in their own language, leading to greater cogency and sophistication in their writing.

The study of Latin also encourages an ordered and analytical approach, logical thinking and a level of intellectual rigour that is widely valued. The Latin GCSE comprises elements of both language and literature.

What will you be learning?

If you choose Latin GCSE you will continue to study the Cambridge Latin Course until the conclusion of Book IV; in reading more about our hero, Quintus, and the plots and schemes of our anti-hero, Salvius as he aims to fulfil his ambitions of a senatorial career, you will develop your language skills, broadening your Latin vocabulary and gaining a thorough grounding in grammar and syntax.

We commence our study of Latin literature by reading work by prose and verse authors. The texts change regularly, but will cover authors such as Virgil, Catullus, Pliny, Tacitus and others. Although lightly adapted at times for GCSE purposes, these texts remain largely the same texts that the Romans would have read.

Method of Assessment

At the end of Year 11 students take three examination papers:

The compulsory component, **Latin language**, counts for 50% and includes both translation and comprehension exercises.

There will be a prose literature paper - texts change every 2 years

There will be a verse literature paper - texts change every 2 years

This course caters for a wide variety of interests, linguistic, literary and historical, which makes it an excellent complement to a range of other subjects. If you take GCSE Latin you will be encouraged to extend your knowledge and understanding of the classical world by participating in a planned visit to Pompeii and Herculaneum as well as local visits to York (Eboracum) and Chester (Deva).

Qualification

GCSE Latin J2820

Awarding Body: OCR

Modern Foreign Languages

French and Spanish

A modern language GCSE is of huge importance in our globalised world, and you will also develop many other transferable skills, such as problem solving and communication skills.

What will you be learning?

The GCSE course has been devised with the intention of developing the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing in meaningful situations. Grammar and traditional ways of teaching will be used in conjunction with modern technologies. The course is rewarding and will empower you to achieve your full linguistic potential.

Lessons incorporate the four skills areas and the topics covered will allow you to build on and develop Key Stage 3 knowledge. They include amongst others, festivals and celebrations, holidays and life at home, relationships, healthy lifestyles, celebrity culture and social media, school and future plans. Cultural visits to Normandy and Barcelona are also offered.

Method of Assessment

At the end of the two-year course you will complete a final examination in each of the four skill areas of Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. These examinations are equally weighted and worth 25% of the final grade.

Progression Opportunities

Post GCSE, our pupils can progress to A-levels, both in French and Spanish. In an increasingly global market, competence in at least one foreign language is essential. We believe that everyone is capable of acquiring a second language. Learning a third language also becomes a lot easier, because language learning skills are transferable.

Within the UK and particularly in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, employers are very keen to find well qualified young people with a good knowledge of European languages.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA specification code:

French 8652; Spanish 8692

Music

GCSE Music is a practical subject in which you will be encouraged to develop your abilities in performing, composing and understanding music.

What will you be learning?

A considerable amount of lesson time is spent on individual composing assignments. You will study the techniques of composition and put them to use in your own work. This involves working on your own instruments and making use of electronic keyboards, as well as music specific software such as Logic and Sibelius.

The music studied is drawn from four Areas of Study:

- AOS1 – Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
- AOS2 – Popular Music
- AOS3 – Traditional Music
- AOS4 – Western Classical Tradition Since 1910

You are also required to learn two study pieces: Beethoven's *Symphony* No.1 (Movement 1: Adagio Molto – Allegro con brio) and a free choice set work based on one of the three remaining AOS. Throughout the course you will need to develop your skills in musical performance both individually and as part of a group. You will be expected to practice regularly in preparation for the practical examinations and to listen to a wide range of music. You will also be expected to have regular formal tuition in your instrument(s).

Method of Assessment

You will complete two compositions during the course which last for a combined time of 3 minutes. One composition is in response to a brief set by the examination board and the other is free choice. Composing is 30% of the final GCSE grade. You are expected to perform on instrument or voice, both individually and as part of a group. Assessed performances take place in Year 11. You must play for a minimum of 4 minutes with one minute minimum as the group piece. Performing is 30% of the final GCSE grade. You should be around Grade 3-5 standard on your instrument by the time the performance is recorded. The written examination takes place in the form of a listening test, with questions based on recorded musical extracts and your study pieces. The examination is 40% of the final grade.

Progression Opportunities

This course prepares you for the study of A-level Music in the Sixth Form. You could also consider a Foundation Course in Music. Career opportunities include: Music Producer, Songwriter, Music Therapist, Session Musician, Record Producer, Background Singer, Radio DJ, Conductor, Recording Engineer, Music Teacher, Booking Agent, Composer (including film music and gaming).

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA Specification code 8271

Physical Education: GCSE

What will you be learning?

You will undertake a range of practical activities in the role of player/performer. You will be required to show advanced skills in progressive drills and demonstrate these in the full context of the activity. You will undertake analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. You will also have theory lessons to cover the following areas of study:

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

- Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training, Use of data

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

- Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being, Use of data

You must have a genuine love of exercise and sport and be participating in extra-curricular sport clubs to be really successful in this subject. If you are an active sports person and want to develop your knowledge of these topics you will find this course interesting and engaging.

Method of Assessment

Written examination paper 1 – 1 hour 15 minutes (30%) Written examination paper 2 – 1 hour 15 minutes (30%) Both papers include a mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

Non-examination Assessment (40%) Your practical performance will be assessed in three different physical activities, in the role of player/performer. One must be a team activity, one an individual activity and a third in either a team or individual activity. You will be assessed on your analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Progression Opportunities

GCSE PE is an ideal stepping stone to courses such as A-level PE, BTEC Sport or a Sports Studies course. You could go into a job related to sport and PE such as a physiotherapist, sports coach, sports management, personal trainer or PE teacher. Whatever future career you pursue, PE develops transferable skills like teamwork, confidence, leadership, time management and social skills; all highly desirable by employers today.

Qualification

GCSE

Awarding Body

AQA Specification code 8582

Science – Separate Sciences

What will you be learning?

Taking Separate Sciences (also known as Triple Science) is also an option available at the Read School. This uses an option block to provide extra time to deliver three GCSE's in science opposed to the two offered in the statutory course.

In the Separate Science GCSE courses there are a total of 25 modules - 7 Biology, 10 Chemistry and 8 Physics. There are higher and foundation tier examination papers.

Method of Assessment

All assessments will be in the Summer of Year 11.

Biology

Unit	Title	Duration	Weighting	Total Mark
1	Biology topics 1 - 4	105 minutes	50%	100
2	Biology topics 5 - 7	105 minutes	50%	100

Chemistry

Unit	Title	Duration	Weighting	Total Mark
1	Chemistry topics 1 - 5	105 minutes	50%	100
2	Chemistry topics 6 - 10	105 minutes	50%	100

Physics

Unit	Title	Duration	Weighting	Total Mark
1	Physics topics 1 - 4	105 minutes	50%	100
2	Physics topics 5 - 8	105 minutes	50%	100

Progression Opportunities

If you achieve a high grade in a Separate Science GCSE you can progress to A-level sciences.

Qualification

Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). This option leads to 3 different GCSE grades.

Awarding Body

AQA Specification codes:

Biology 8462F/8462H; Chemistry 8463F/8463H; Physics 8463F/8463H

Statistics GCSE & Further Maths Level 2

What will you be learning?

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data. It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences.

Further Maths Level 2- This qualification fills the gap for high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at Level 3. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to the GCSE Mathematics, rather than as a replacement.

It is the intention that pupils will either take just statistics or for very able students both courses and gain 2 separate qualifications but it will only count as 1 option block.

Method of Assessment

Statistics –

- Two Papers both 1 hour 45 mins and both worth 80 marks. The course is assessed by examinations only. Both papers include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle (SEC) question. Pupils will be entered for either Foundation or Higher Tier.

Further Maths -

- Two Papers both 1 hour 45 mins and both worth 80 marks. Paper 1 is non calculator and paper 2 is a calculator paper. The course is assessed by examinations only. A mix of question styles, from short, singlemark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Progression Opportunities

Both qualifications will encourage pupils to appreciate the elegance and beauty of mathematics for its own sake as well as beginning to realise its fundamental importance in understanding and shaping our world. Now more than ever we see the importance that Statistics plays in the modern world. Success in these courses will open many doors in terms of further education courses and careers such as data analysts, actuarial science, biomedical sciences, geographical modelling.

Qualifications

GCSE Statistics and Level 2 Further Maths

Awarding Body

AQA Specification code 8382 (Statistics) and 8365 (Further Maths)

