

GREAT TORRINGTON SCHOOL



Guided Choices & Options 2026 – 2028



Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

Contents

Welcome	3
The KS4 Curriculum	4
The Core Subjects	4
Pathways & Options	4
Qualifications offered at GTS	5
The Full English Baccalaureate (EBacc)	6
Careers Education and Guidance	7
What Happens Next?.....	8
SIMS Student, SIMS Parent and SIMS Options – selecting your option choices	9
SIMS Student, SIMS Parent and SIMS Options – (continued)	10
SIMS Student, SIMS Parent and SIMS Options – (continued)	11
Pink Pathway Options	12
Green Pathway Options	13
Light Green Pathway Options.....	14
Orange Pathway Options	15
GCSE English Language and Literature	17
GCSE Mathematics	18
GCSE Combined Science	19
Functional Skills Maths, Entry Levels 1-3	20
GCSE Computing Science.....	23
GCSE French (<i>for pupils currently studying French</i>)	24
GCSE Russian	25
GCSE Spanish (<i>for pupils currently studying Spanish</i>)	26
GCSE Geography.....	27
GCSE History	28
GCSE Triple Science	29
GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	31
GCSE Business Studies.....	32
EDUQAS Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering	33
OCR Level 1 / 2 Cambridge National in Child Development.....	34
GCSE Design & Technology.....	35
GCSE Drama.....	36
NCFE Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	37
CNAT Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Creative iMedia	38
GCSE Music.....	39
GCSE Psychology.....	40
GCSE RE	41
GCSE Sociology	42
BTEC Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Sport	43
Guided Choices – a copy for your records.....	44
Notes	45

Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

Welcome

We encourage pupils to take a long-term view of their future and to recognise that any decision they make now may have an important influence on their lives and careers after they have left our school.

Please note that we have endeavoured to include the most up to date specifications for subjects. However, these may change during the year because of changes in Department for Education (DfE) policy or Exam Board changes to specifications.

At GTS, we firmly believe in equity and opportunity throughout a pupil's education. To support this, we offer all pupils access to a full English Baccalaureate (EBacc). There is no expectation for pupils to commit to this. However, if pupils are considering going to University / HE College, they may require the full EBacc to meet the institutions' entry requirements. We have structured our curriculum around a progress and attainment offer that supports pupils in securing breadth within their suite of qualifications.

In September 2026, pupils entering Year 10 will begin their final two-year courses with us. Studying for them will culminate in public examinations that will give them valuable qualifications for further education, training, or apprenticeships. All pupils will continue in some form of education or training until they are 18 and many beyond this. It is important that we make sure that pupils do not make a premature commitment to one route now and thereby cut off important options for the future. At the same time, we want pupils to develop their distinctive and emerging talents.

GTS teaching staff will help pupils, and their parents/carers make the most appropriate choices, bearing in mind the pupil's interests, aptitude, and aspirations. Each course should be carefully considered and the consequences of discontinuing a subject weighed up alongside the benefits of pursuing another. All pupils will follow a broad core of subjects combined with a programme of option courses that can allow a degree of specialisation, if required.

Pupils might choose an optional subject because:

- They like it
- They are good at it
- It will help in a career ambition or links to a career idea
- They think they might want to study it post-16

There are poor reasons for deciding to follow a course, which include:

- They like the teacher
- Their friends are choosing it
- They think it will be easy

Options are only allocated after the 13th March 2026 deadline for selecting options has passed. We DO NOT allocate options on a first come, first served basis.

We will endeavour to give pupils their first choices but if this is not possible, we will talk to pupils and parents/carers about alternatives. Option subject courses will only run if there are enough pupils to make them viable. Subject choices are collated and blocked once all pupil choices have been made to create a viable timetable for the pupils. Where a subject has only one class, there is a chance it will be blocked with another subject that also has only one class (where there are few or no pupils that have chosen both subjects). If you have chosen more than one subject that only has one class, this combination may therefore not be possible.

Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

The KS4 Curriculum

At GTS, all pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum which ensures that all pupils are prepared for whatever pathway they move towards in the future. The curriculum of all pupils includes a **CORE** of compulsory subjects plus a choice of **OPTIONS** (shown below) which allows everyone to pursue interests and develop their particular talents and aspirations.

The Core Subjects

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics
Science	ICT	Physical Education
Religion & World Views	Citizenship & Careers	PSHE

Pathways & Options

There are four option pathways:

- **Pink pathway** – this pathway is tailored to support breadth and academic success, lending itself towards pupils securing the full English Baccalaureate (EBacc) and 9 qualifications
- **Green pathway** – this pathway is tailored to support breadth and success, providing an entitlement to the full EBacc with greater flexibility to choose more vocational subjects within the 9 qualifications.
- **Light Green pathway** – this pathway is tailored to be the same as the Green pathway but with 8 qualifications alongside supported learning time.
- **Orange pathway** – the option offer supports pupils who may prefer a less traditional route through Key Stage 4. This route allows for a maximum of 8 qualifications.

We have included copies of all options pathways for your reference. If you wish to discuss a change in pathway for your son / daughter, please contact Ms Royse: jroyse@gts.devon.sch.uk

Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

Qualifications offered at GTS

All subjects are GCSE unless otherwise stated. GCSE is the main qualification type, but not the only means of assessment at KS4. All public examinations have strict criteria which specify what must be achieved to be awarded a particular grade or pass. Most pupils will follow Level 2 courses in all subjects: these are equivalent to a full GCSE and support access to courses in Further Education.

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) (Level 2)

Courses leading to GCSE will be followed by all pupils. To cater for the wide range of ability taking the examination, some subjects are no longer divided into tiers while some offer different papers to suit different attainment levels.

The nature of GCSE courses demands much from pupils. Pupils are now frequently put in the position of being a scientist, a geographer, a designer etc. and this has meant that a wide range of learning and teaching styles is used.

GCSEs are graded from 9 to 1, where 9 is the top grade, similar to an A**! (A grade 9 is only awarded to the top 2% of all pupils); Level 2 equivalence are grades 9 to 4; Level 1 equivalence are grades 3 to 1.

WJEC Certificates (Level 1 / 2) *

These are vocational qualifications, equivalent to a GCSE, for 14–16-year-olds. Recognised on performance tables, each qualification goes from Level 1 to 2. They provide an excellent foundation for progression to other Level 3 vocational qualifications as well as A-Levels and apprenticeships.

OCR Cambridge Nationals (Level 1 / 2) *

Cambridge Nationals are vocational qualifications, equivalent to a GCSE, for 14–16-year-olds. Recognised on performance tables, each qualification goes from Level 1 to 2. They provide an excellent foundation for progression to Cambridge Technical and other Level 3 vocational qualifications as well as A-Levels and apprenticeships.

Pearson Btec Awarded (Level 1 / 2)*

Btec Awards are vocational qualifications, equivalent to a GCSE, for 14–16-year-olds. Recognised on performance tables, each qualification goes from Level 1 to 2. They provide an excellent foundation for Level 3 vocational qualifications as well as A-Levels and apprenticeships.

Any non-GCSE courses are graded D*, D, M, P (Level 2) and L1D, L1M, L1P (Level 1), where D=Distinction, M=Merit, P=Pass. D*, D, M, P grades are equivalent to a GCSE 4 or higher, Level 1 grades are equivalent to a GCSE 3 to 1.

Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

The Full English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

What is the Full English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself. It is an initiative introduced by Department of Education in 2010, to encourage pupils to study a broad range of core subjects to help them go on to study further and higher education courses. It recognises pupils' achievements across selected academic subjects in getting good passes in GCSEs. The English Baccalaureate covers achievement in English, mathematics, sciences, a language, and a humanities subject. This may provide a wider range of course opportunities post-16.

What subjects and qualifications will count towards the Full English Baccalaureate?

Full course GCSEs at Grade 5 or above count towards its achievement (strong pass) or Grade 4 or above (standard pass). Six GCSEs are required at Grade 5 or above in English, maths, sciences, a language, and a humanity subject. To secure full EBacc, pupils must sit English literature, but do not need to achieve a grade 5 or 4 to count towards its achievement.

- **English:** GCSE in English Language (pupils must also sit English Literature)
- **Mathematics:** GCSE in Mathematics
- **Science:** To count in the English Baccalaureate either three out of the four single sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science) **OR** Science Trilogy double award must be secured at grade 5 or above.
- **Humanities:** GCSE in History **OR** GCSE in Geography
- **Languages:** GCSE in French **OR** GCSE in Spanish **OR** GCSE in Latin

Careers Education and Guidance

Careers Education and Guidance is a vital component in pupils' progression through the school. GTS works with all pupils to allow them access to a wide range of opportunities for career planning. Careers guidance helps inspire pupils towards further study and enables them to make informed decisions; it prepares all pupils for adult life and the wide-ranging opportunities open to them.

Pupils are encouraged to aim high and fulfil their potential. All pupils have access to a Careers Education and Guidance programme throughout their time at school. This process begins in Year 7 and culminates in Year 11 when pupils make choices for post-16 education. Year 9 pupils are given careful support in option choices to ensure they consider all the GCSEs carefully when making their decision. Year 10 have a wide range of career opportunities, from college taster days to a week-long work experience. Support and guidance are provided as pupils respond to the challenge of the GCSE courses.

In Year 11, pupils are given a comprehensive range of support with their post-16 choices, to ensure pupil chances are maximised for career progression. Pupils are carefully supported in their choices within further education and apprenticeships.

We work closely with local employers, Further Education providers, Universities and the Armed Forces to ensure that pupils have a broad range of experience on which to base their decisions. The annual Future Opportunities Evening is an excellent opportunity for parents and pupils to discover more about the choices available to them.

Each year pupils can visit local Colleges, attend University seminars and employer workshops. Employer links are an essential part of Careers Education, and we have formed close partnerships with key local employers. During Year 10 all pupils undertake a week of work experience.

We do not want any pupil to be prevented from following their chosen career pathway. If a pupil is considering going to University / HE College, please be aware that Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge) and many Russell Group (24 x Universities across the UK) require a modern foreign language qualification to study at their institution.

For further support with careers, please see Mrs Leonard (her office is located within the Library), or visit the Careers section of the school Library.

Additional sources of information to support your child through the KS3 to KS4 transition process:

Please visit our own school website for links to lots of information regarding colleges, apprenticeships and future careers: <https://gts.devon.sch.uk/careers-1/>

Bideford Sixth Form: <https://sixthform.bidefordcollege.org/>

Petroc College: <https://www.petroc.ac.uk/>

Exeter College: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/>

Duchy College: <https://www.duchy.ac.uk/>

(Part of the Cornwall College Group, encompassing Bicton College, Cornwall College, Falmouth Marine School and CCB Training)

West Buckland: <https://westbuckland.com/admissions/>

Shebbear: <https://www.shebbearcollege.co.uk/school-life/sixth-form>

Kingsley: <https://www.thekingsleyschool.co.uk/sixth-form-welcome/>

To apply for an apprenticeship: <https://careerpilot.org.uk/courses/apprenticeships>

Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

What Happens Next?

**The Deadline for completing your Options choices online is
Friday, 13th March 2026.**

- Please read everything in this guide carefully.
- Note the examination requirements and style of assessment.
- Think about your interests and capabilities.
- Listen and talk to teachers:
 - ❖ GTS staff will talk to pupils about their Key Stage 4 courses during February and March.
 - ❖ **There is a 'Guided Choices' Evening on Thursday, 26th February 2026, from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm.**
- You will be advised what pathway your child has been allocated to. You will only be able to select options from this pathway when you choose your options online, using SIMS Options.
- **Options are only allocated after the 13th March 2026 deadline for selecting options has passed. We DO NOT allocate options on a first come, first served basis.**
- We will endeavour to allocate pupils their first choices, but if this is not possible, we will talk to pupils and parents about alternatives. Option subject courses will only run if there are enough pupils to make them viable.
- Once all pupils' options choices are in and have been checked, collated and any queries have been resolved, a letter will be sent home to parents/carers confirming the options that your child has been allocated to.

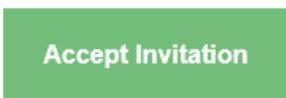
SIMS Student, SIMS Parent and SIMS Options – selecting your option choices

Pupils select their Guided Choices using an online facility, which links through to our SIMS system in school. For this to be completed, pupils will first need to register with SIMS Student. Invitations to pupils will be sent out to their school email addresses after half term. Pupils will have assistance in setting up their SIMS Student account in C1 / C2 during lunchtimes.

Parents who have created a SIMS Parent account will also be able to log in to SIMS Options, using the same sign in method and password as their SIMS Parent account. From here they can choose or amend options on behalf of their child. **We strongly encourage that parents/carers and their child/ren sit together to complete the options selection process.** If you are unable to access your SIMS Parent account or have forgotten your login details, please email help@gts.devon.sch.uk

You're invited to start using SIMS Student so that you can view your timetable and school calendar, receive homework assignments, check attendance and more.

Simply accept this invitation and register within 90 days.



If the button above doesn't work, copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<https://registration.sims.co.uk>

Should you need to enter it, your personal invite code is: **9HM3R4BRKH**

Once pupils have received the invitation email and clicked the green 'Accept Invitation' button they will need to follow the on-screen instructions.

On the 'Activate Your Account' screen, make sure to click the blue button at the bottom that says 'Register with an External Account'.

Username

Invitation Code

Next

Alternatively you may complete the registration using an External Account.

Register with an External Account

Secured by SIMS ID
ESS Hosted Services: [Check Service Status](#)

SIMS Student, SIMS Parent and SIMS Options – (continued)

You'll then be presented with the screen show below, select the 'Microsoft' option (highlighted below in the red ring), and make sure the pupil signs in using their school email address and password.

Register your account for SIMS products

Username

Password

Show Password [Forgot Password?](#)

OR

Finally, pupils should check that their name shows on the 'Registration' page, enter their invitation code again and click the blue 'Register' button. On the final page (shown below) pupils will need to enter their date of birth in the format dd/mm/yyyy and click 'Verify'.

Once you click 'Verify' you may see a coloured bar appear above the 'Registration – Answer Security Questions text', please ignore and then navigate to <https://www.sims-student.co.uk> to confirm the signup has worked.

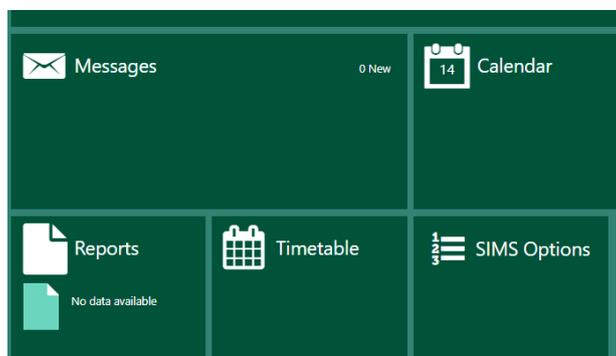
Registration - Answer Security Questions

You are required to provide a second piece of information to confirm your identity.

What is your date of birth? (dd/mm/yyyy)

SIMS Student, SIMS Parent and SIMS Options – (continued)

Upon completing their registration, they are redirected to the SIMS Student Dashboard. SIMS Options should also appear at the bottom of the page.



Once registered for SIMS Student, GTS' ICT team will begin to enable pupils to gain access to SIMS Options, which can be accessed using this link: <https://www.sims-options.co.uk> If SIMS Options does not load immediately, please allow up to 48 hours for the account to be enabled. Pupils and parents/carers can then visit this online portal at home together.

Each child's individual Options choices will be available to them, depending on the Pathway that they have been allocated to. See below for a general example provided by SIMS Options:

A screenshot of the SIMS Options interface. It is divided into two main sections: 'Ebacc Choice' and 'Open Choice'.
Ebacc Choice: Shows 'You have chosen 0 of 1 courses and 0 of 1 reserves from this list'. It lists several courses with 'Reserve' buttons: Computer Science, French, Geography, History, Spanish, and Triple Science. Each course has a note: 'This course is also available in Open Choice'.
Open Choice: Shows 'You have chosen 0 of 3 courses and 0 of 2 reserves from this list'. It lists a wider range of courses with 'Reserve' buttons: Art and De, Catering, Construction, Computer Science, Drama, Design and Technology, FBI, French, Geography, History, Imedia, Music, PE (GCSE), Spanish, and Triple Science. Some courses have notes: 'This course is also available in Ebacc Choice'.
A red circle highlights the 'PE (GCSE)' course, and a red arrow points from it to the 'Reserve' button. Another red arrow points from the 'Reserve' button to the 'Student Comments' section at the bottom.

Click on the subject name to select it as a main choice, or the reserve button to the right of it to select it as a reserve choice. **Please note: you cannot have a main choice and a reserve choice the same.**

Once the choices have been made, click Save at the top of the page. Pupils can add further comments should they wish to. **Please make sure that you tick the 'Parent agree' box.** We strongly suggest that you write down the options that your child has selected at the end of this Guided Choices booklet, to keep as a reference for yourselves.

Pink Pathway Options

English Baccalaureate qualifying subjects are highlighted in blue. As a reminder, to qualify for the full English Baccalaureate, you must take English, Maths, Science, one Humanity subject (History or Geography) and one Language (French, Spanish or Russian)

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Choose one subject from this column	Choose one subject from EACH of these three columns, plus three (in total) as reserve choices		
GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)
GCSE French	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering
GCSE Geography	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies
GCSE History	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development
GCSE Russian	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama
GCSE Spanish	GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology
	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering
	GCSE French	GCSE French	GCSE French
	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography
	GCSE History	GCSE History	GCSE History
	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia
	GCSE Music	GCSE Music	GCSE Music
	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology
	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education
	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian
	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys
	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology
	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish
	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport

Green Pathway Options

English Baccalaureate qualifying subjects are highlighted in blue. As a reminder, to qualify for the full English Baccalaureate, you must take English, Maths, Science, one Humanity subject (History or Geography) and one Language (French, Spanish or Russian)

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Please choose one subject from EACH column, plus four (in total) as reserve choices			
GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)
Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering
GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies
Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development
GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science
GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama
GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology
Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering
GCSE French	GCSE French	GCSE French	GCSE French
GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography
GCSE History	GCSE History	GCSE History	GCSE History
Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia
GCSE Music	GCSE Music	GCSE Music	GCSE Music
GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology
GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education
GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian
GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys
GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology
GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish
Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport

Light Green Pathway Options

English Baccalaureate qualifying subjects are highlighted in blue. As a reminder, to qualify for the full English Baccalaureate, you must take English, Maths, Science, one Humanity subject (History or Geography) and one Language (French, Spanish or Russian)

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Please choose one subject from EACH column, plus four (in total) as reserve choices			
The King's Trust Certificate in Personal Development & Employability Skills	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)
	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering
	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies
	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development
	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Computer Science
	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama
	GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Design & Technology
	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering
	GCSE French	GCSE French	GCSE French
	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography
	GCSE History	GCSE History	GCSE History
	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia
	GCSE Music	GCSE Music	GCSE Music
	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology
	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education
	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian
	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys	GCSE Sciences: Bio / Chem / Phys
	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology
	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish
	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport

Orange Pathway Options

Options 1 & 2	Option 3	Option 4
	<i>Please choose one subject from this column, plus one as a reserve choice</i>	<i>Please choose one subject from this column, plus one as a reserve choice</i>
Pupil Centred Support	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)	GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)
The King's Trust Certificate in Personal Development & Employability Skills	GCSE Business Studies	GCSE Business Studies
	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering	Level 1 / 2 Award Hospitality & Catering
	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 in Child Development
	GCSE Drama	GCSE Drama
	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering	Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering
	GCSE French	GCSE French
	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography
	GCSE History	GCSE History
	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia	Cam. Nat. Level 1 / 2 Award Digital iMedia
	GCSE Music	GCSE Music
	GCSE Psychology	GCSE Psychology
	GCSE Religious Education	GCSE Religious Education
	GCSE Russian	GCSE Russian
	GCSE Sociology	GCSE Sociology
	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish
	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport	Btec Level 1 / 2 First Award in Sport



Core Subjects

GCSE English Language and Literature

All pupils study English Language and English Literature. We follow the AQA syllabus for both these courses. The course the pupils achieve most highly in – either Language OR Literature – is double weighted, meaning that it counts twice in the pupils' progress measures. Both courses are 100% examination.

GCSE English Language overview

- **Paper 1:** Explorations in creative reading and writing
- **Paper 2:** Writers' viewpoints and perspectives
- Spoken Language

In preparation for Paper 1, pupils engage with, and analyse, a range of literature texts to consider how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques. They also write their own creative texts inspired by their study of literature. For Paper 2, pupils study non-fiction texts and develop insights into the ways writers express viewpoints and perspectives on themes and issues that are important to the way we live our lives. They also write their own texts in which they give their own perspectives on relevant themes and issues.

In addition, pupils are also regularly assessed in their use of spoken language in a range of contexts. Every pupil gives a formal presentation and question and answer session as part of the course. This is a separate endorsement and does not count towards their final GCSE Language grade.

GCSE English Literature overview

- Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel
- Modern texts and poetry

Pupils study one Shakespeare play and one 19th Century novel. In the exam they are required to write about an extract from the play/novel and then to write about the play/novel as a whole. Pupils also study one modern drama text and a range of poetry from an anthology produced by the exam board. In the exam, the pupils also have to answer a question on an unseen poem.

Literature set texts

- Shakespeare - *Macbeth*
- 19th Century Novel - *A Christmas Carol* - Charles Dickens
- Modern texts - *An Inspector Calls* - J B Priestley

Preparation

Exposure to a wide range of literature, non-fiction and poetry texts is the very best preparation for the English GCSE courses. Regular reading, both in school and at home, will be enormously beneficial to every pupil. During Year 9, pupils are introduced to some of the texts they will be studying for GCSE; they will also be learning and developing their key skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, which they will need to succeed in these courses throughout their KS4 years.

Language

66%
Grades 9-4
47%
Grades 9-5
2025

Literature

69%
Grades 9-4
49%
Grades 9-5
2025



Emily: After completing her GCSEs at GTS, Emily studied A-Levels in English Literature, Psychology and Art, which earned her a place at the Russell Group University of Bristol. Emily will graduate from her degree in English this summer, and will be working in a school as a Learning Support Assistant during her gap year, before studying a Master's degree in Literature and the Environment in 2023.

GCSE Mathematics

65%
Grades 9-4
41%
Grades 9-5
2025

The programme of study covers topics in number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measures, probability and statistics. The work is a continuation and extension of the topics covered in KS3. Pupils will develop a positive attitude, confidence and competence in Mathematics.

This will be done by developing:

1. Fluent knowledge and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
2. Skills to acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
3. Ability to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.
4. Ability to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.



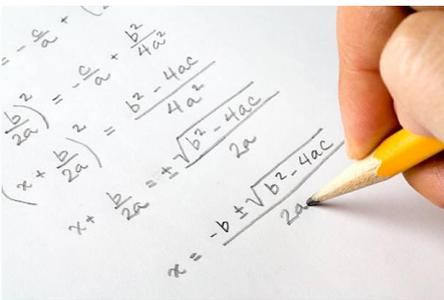
Pupils will demonstrate the ability to apply Mathematics to everyday situations.

Assessment:

Pupils' work is assessed continually during the course by means of internal tests. The GCSE exam consists of three papers and is sat at the end of the course.

Equipment:

You are required to equip and familiarise yourself with the use of appropriate equipment, i.e. protractor, pair of compasses, pen, pencil, ruler and scientific calculator. You will have the option of purchasing equipment from the Maths Office.



Progression:

A good grade at GCSE Mathematics helps pupils access Level 3 courses / A-Levels at college as well as Mathematics A-Level or other Maths based subjects.

Alex: MRICS, Director at AHN Surveyors

Graduated from GTS in 2011.

Now a Chartered Surveyor and RICS Registered Valuer.

Became one of the youngest Chartered Surveyors in the country, aged 23.

Studied at Petroc: A-Levels History, Government & Politics Geography.

University of the West of England.

Bachelor's Degree BSc Hons Building Surveying.

Nominated for the CIOB Undergraduate Dissertation 2016 award against all the other construction students in the year group to compete against other universities.

GCSE Combined Science

All pupils study a minimum of Combined Science GCSE; some pupils will be selected to study GCSEs in the separate Sciences. Pupils follow the AQA Combined Science - Trilogy Syllabus. All courses consist of 100% examination. GCSE Combined Science is taught in timetabled lessons of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

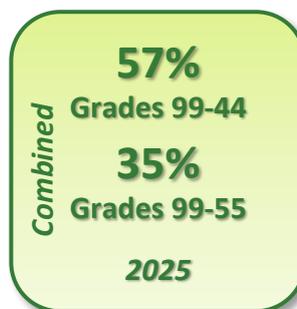
This pathway leads to pupils gaining a **qualification worth two GCSEs**. The course consists of each of the three Science disciplines; Biology, Chemistry and Physics, each of which are examined at the end of Year 11.

Assessment:

This is examined at the end of Year 11, consisting of six x 1 hour 15-minute exams: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. There is no longer any coursework in Science GCSEs; all practical work is examined via the final exam papers, of which there are twenty-one compulsory practicals that are taught to pupils, any of which may appear in the final exam papers.

Where next?

Successful completion of GCSE Combined Science will open up opportunities for further science study at college for pupils. Science based courses e.g. A levels/BTec/T Levels, usually have entry requirements of at least grade 6 and above (depending on the establishment), which can be achieved via the combined science pathway. These college-based qualifications can then lead to higher education opportunities, for example a degree.



Laura: Clinical Nurse Specialist in Cancer Care.

Graduated from GTS in 1993.

The subjects that helped me most are maths, English and Biology

If you want to become a nurse, be prepared to start at the bottom and work your way up. You will need a university degree in nursing.

My Tips are: never stop learning - I am currently learning how to become a nurse prescriber, which means I will be able to decide which medicines will help the patient best. I am also working towards a master's degree after being a nurse for 21 years.

Functional Skills Maths

WHAT is the subject about?

Entry Level Functional skills qualifications are designed to enable pupils to develop confidence and fluency in maths. They equip pupils with the skills needed to get the most out of education, work and everyday life and to help them function more confidently, effectively and independently.

WHY have I been offered this subject?

To help support your progress in your post-14 options. These subjects help to build up your basic numeracy. These are skills essential for success in all GCSEs/vocational qualifications.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Throughout the course. For Functional Skills, Entry Levels 1 – 3:

- Pupils complete two sections: Section A = 25% of the qualification and is without a calculator; Section B = 75% of the qualification and is with a calculator.
- Externally-set, on-demand assessment, internally marked and externally verified.
- The qualification is graded Pass/Fail.

A Pass at Entry Level 3 Functional Skills will enable progression to Level 1 Functional Skills and GCSE.

- Pupils complete two sections: Section A = 25% of the qualification and is without a calculator; Section B = 75% of the qualification and is with a calculator.
- Externally-set, on-demand assessment.
- The qualification is graded Pass/Fail.



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You will be given all the support you need to succeed.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This will help with your transition to college. These courses can be built on to become Level 1 Foundation learning and traineeships.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mrs Whiterod will discuss this option with you and your parent/carer.



**DREAM
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**

EBacc Option Subjects

GCSE Computing Science

51%
Grades 9-4

32%
Grades 9-5

2025

WHAT is the subject about?

From traffic lights to space shuttles, self-driving cars to mobile phones, friend's requests to the speed that an electron can travel down a length of copper wire. Computing Science is the study and development of all computer based technology, with a focus on networking, cyber security, computer systems and programming (Python, SQL).



WHY should I choose this subject?

Computing Science is the fastest growing industry in the world, from software developers designing the latest apps and games to technicians designing multi-million-pound systems and cyber security experts

protecting people online. A GCSE in Computing Science is attractive to any employer that uses computing systems.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

At the end of the course there are two written exams. The first paper is designed to assess your computational thinking and programming skills. The second paper assesses your knowledge of computing concepts.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Mathematics and Science.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

There are a wide range of further education courses from A levels in Computing Science, Gaming Design, Web Development etc. as well specialising within this field at degree level and higher-level apprenticeships.



WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mr Bryant



Harry: left GTS in 2013 and now works as a Sales Coordinator, based in London.

I use a variety of skills, including IT, for creating itineraries and contacting customers and other members of staff, mathematics for costing, English for itinerary writing, and interpersonal skills to be able to work well with colleagues as well as with customers.

The subjects that help me most are Maths, English, IT, Business, Geography

If you want to become a Sales Coordinator, expect to work, and get some good core qualifications and work-related experience as it is a competitive role. Ideally you need a degree in a relevant subject, such as Tourism, Business or Geography. As well as your core GCSEs and a post-16 course, such as a BTEC or A-Levels

My Tips are: Work hard to get the best start, but also enjoy yourself.

GCSE French (for pupils currently studying French)

73%
Grades 9-4

59%
Grades 9-5

2025

WHAT is the subject about?

- Igniting curiosity, and instilling a sense of appreciation and respect, of different languages and cultures enabling you to better understand the world around you and your place in it.
- Learning a range of strategies which focus on enabling you to cope with, to understand and to manipulate language in a variety of contexts. Ensuring you can use them effectively in real life situations as well as for academic purposes.
- Developing the knowledge, confidence and desire to use your linguistic skills and cultural capital in your future life. Moreover, to be lifelong learners of language and culture.

GCSE (AQA) French builds on the skills and knowledge learnt throughout KS3 covering a wide variety of topics across three themes:

- ❖ Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- ❖ Theme 2: Popular culture
- ❖ Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

These themes are further subdivided into six modules:

Year 10	Module 10	Home Life
	Module 11	My Neighbourhood
	Module 12	Yesterday and Tomorrow
Year 11	Module 13	Holidays vs Reality
	Module 14	Out and About
	Module 15	What matters to me

WHY should I choose this subject?

It is through the understanding of other languages and cultures that we come to understand our own better. Moreover, the process of learning another language leads to the acquisition and development of key skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and independent thinking. Further to this, the ability to speak another language provides opportunities for both future study and employment that are not available to those who only speak English. In a fast-changing world, businesses, colleges, and universities consider knowledge of a foreign language to be an essential skill.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are four exams at the end of Year 11: Listening; Speaking; Reading; Writing. Each exam contributes 25% of the overall mark. There is the option of taking either foundation tier (grades 1-5) or higher tier (grades 4-9) but must enter at the same tier for all four skills, with the decision usually being made after the Year 11 Mock Exams.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn a language, discover more about other countries and the ability to work independently.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The opportunities are endless for linguists! Colleges, universities and employers place great value on language skills. French has especially strong links with careers in: law; politics; charity work (NGOs non-governmental organisations); medicine; hospitality and catering; fashion. However, speaking a foreign language will undoubtedly give you an advantage in every career path.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Mounce, Mrs Miller, Mr Anderson or Mrs Savage



Catherine: Graduated from GTS in 2014.

When leaving GTS, I continued to pursue my love of languages. At Exeter college, I chose to do an A-Level in French, alongside Biology, Geography, Environmental Science and Chemistry. I then went on to complete a degree with 1st class honours at Harper Adams University in Agriculture with Animal Science.

I now work for Torch Vets as a member of the Veterinary Client support team.

Catherine says, 'Having a language is very handy and it also looks good on your CV'.

**New
Course**

WHAT is the subject about?

- You will learn how to read, write and speak Russian
- You will explore the rich and fascinating history, geography and culture of Russia

GCSE (Edexcel) Russian will build on the knowledge of languages and grammar that pupils have developed in Key Stage 3 Spanish or French. We will learn the vocabulary and grammar so that will enable you to talk with Ukrainians or Russians.

During the course we shall explore five themes:

Year 10	Identify and culture
	My local area
	School life
Year 11	Future aspirations
	An international dimension

***This course is
designed for
beginners.***

WHY should I choose this subject?

I became fascinated with Russia during the Cold War, when I was keen to know more about our enemy at the time. There is a similar situation today. You should choose this subject if you would like to know more about the language and culture of Russia and gain a deeper understanding of what is shaping the situation in Europe today. You might also have a Ukrainian friend, whose language, history and culture you would like to understand more. Many Ukrainians have Russian as their first language and share a cultural heritage with the country.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are four exams at the end of Year 11: Listening; Speaking; Reading; Writing. Each exam contributes 25% of the overall mark. There is the option of taking either foundation tier (grades 1-5) or higher tier (grades 4-9) but must enter at the same tier for all four skills, with the decision usually being made after the Year 11 Mock Exams.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You must enjoy learning languages and be resilient when faced with the challenges that the Russian language throws at us.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The opportunities are endless for linguists! Colleges, universities and employers place great value on language skills. Russian has especially strong links with careers in business; politics; charity work (NGOs non-governmental organisations); and of course, Mi6. However, speaking a foreign language will undoubtedly give you an advantage in every career path.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Stanier

***Already a fluent
Russian speaker?***

***Do not choose this
as an option.***

***Speak to Mr
Stanier about
sitting the exam
during Year 10
or 11 as an
additional GCSE.***

63%
Grades 9-4

50%
Grades 9-5

2025

WHAT is the subject about?

- Igniting curiosity, and instilling a sense of appreciation and respect, of different languages and cultures enabling you to better understand the world around you and your place in it.
- Learning a range of strategies which focus on enabling you to cope with, to understand and to manipulate language in a variety of contexts. Ensuring you can use them effectively in real life situations as well as for academic purposes.
- Developing the knowledge, confidence and desire to use your linguistic skills and cultural capital in your future life. Moreover, to be lifelong learners of language and culture.

GCSE (AQA) Spanish builds on the skills and knowledge learnt throughout KS3 covering a wide variety of topics across three themes:

- ❖ Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- ❖ Theme 2: Popular culture
- ❖ Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

These themes are further subdivided into six modules:

Year 10	Module 10	Home Life
	Module 11	My Neighbourhood
	Module 12	Yesterday and Tomorrow
Year 11	Module 13	Holidays vs Reality
	Module 14	Out and About
	Module 15	What matters to me

WHY should I choose this subject?

It is through the understanding of other languages and cultures that we come to understand our own better. Moreover, the process of learning another language leads to the acquisition and development of key skills such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving and independent thinking. Further to this, the ability to speak another language provides opportunities for both future study and employment that are not available to those who only speak English. In a fast-changing world, businesses, colleges, and universities consider knowledge of a foreign language to be an essential skill.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are four exams at the end of Year 11: Listening; Speaking; Reading; Writing. Each exam contributes 25% of the overall mark. There is the option of taking either foundation tier (grades 1-5) or higher tier (grades 4-9) but must enter at the same tier for all four skills, with the decision usually being made after the Year 11 Mock Exams.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn a language, discover more about other countries and the ability to work independently.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The opportunities are endless for linguists! Colleges, universities and employers place great value on language skills. Spanish has especially strong links with careers in: charity work and (NGOs non-governmental organisations); engineering; travel and tourism; marketing and PR; sales. However, speaking a foreign language will undoubtedly give you an advantage in every career path.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Mounce, Mrs Miller, Mr Anderson or Mrs Savage



Drew: Graduated from GTS in 2018.

After school I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do but I ended up doing A-levels at Petroc, studying English Lang., Economics, Accounting and Spanish. When I left college I got in touch with local apprenticeship provider, Group Training and Development. It didn't take long for me to be hired by ETC, an electronics calibration house in Bideford, where I have since been completing a four-year apprenticeship and working full time.

The apprenticeship has been great because it has meant I can pay my own bills while I learn practical and meaningful skills on the job and earn relevant qualifications. Last year I achieved a Distinction in a Level 3 Engineering Technologies course, run by Petroc and also gained a Year 2 Apprentice of the Year Award from GTD. Since then, I have been studying for a Level 4 HNC in Electrical Engineering with Teesside University! I aim to complete my apprenticeship within the next year and move on to bigger things again.

GCSE Geography

57%
Grades 9-4
41%
Grades 9-5
2025

WHAT is the subject about?

The key to understanding Geography is that it is happening all around us, all the time, and that we are a part of it on a local, national and global level. To study Geography is to study the world: unlocking the opportunity to learn about its natural processes; the many, diverse ways people live on this planet and our complicated relationship with the world we inhabit.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Most of the teaching is done in the classroom. Year 10 will focus on physical geography (paper 1). We study a diverse range of topics that include Coasts and Rivers, Natural Hazards, Climate Change and Natural Ecosystems.

Year 11 focus on human geography (paper 2). In Year 11 topics include: Urban Change in Bristol and Rio, Levels of Development, Changing UK Economy and Resource Management.



Paper 3 assesses pupils' fieldwork. To prepare, pupils will conduct two pieces of field work. Year 10 go to Westward Ho! to study coastal processes. Year 11 go to Bristol Harbourside to investigate urban regeneration. In addition, 12 weeks prior to the exam, the pupils are given a

pre-release booklet about a certain topic in Geography. They must study this booklet as they will be asked questions about it in Paper 3.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Three x 1 hour 30-minute exams:

- Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment
- Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment
- Paper 3 – Geographical Skills and Applications

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

As in any subject, having good literacy skills is essential. Numeracy skills are also important for working out calculations and completing graphs. Some of our topics overlap with science.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Geography opens a world of opportunities. Having a good understanding of the world around us is becoming increasingly important for many businesses and industries as they strive to become more ethical and sustainable. Geography is seen as an important subject if you intend to study A levels, T levels, go to agricultural college or apprenticeships.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Abbott or Miss Silcox



Katie: Graduated from GTS in 2014.

Currently a Graduate Environmental Consultant for RMA Environmental Limited. Specialising in Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Planning, Flood Risk Assessment, Land Contamination, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment.

Bath Spa University BSc. Physical Geography studied key modules in River management, included a placement at Gatwick Airport where I worked as part of the Environmental Health and Safety Team, achieving the Biodiversity Benchmark Award.

Exeter college A-Levels in Geography, Environmental Studies, Geology, Law & World Development

GTS 11 x GCSEs, including As in both Mathematics and Statistics

Also Achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and 35-mile Ten Tors Challenge

59%
Grades 9-4
42%
Grades 9-5
2025

WHAT is the subject about?

The GCSE course is divided into four sections:

1. Medicine through Time, c.1250-Present
2. Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
3. The American West, 1835-1895
4. USA: Conflict at home and Abroad 1954-75 (Including the struggle for Civil Rights and the Vietnam War)



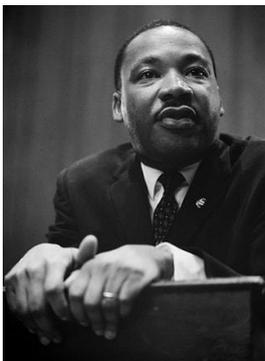
WHY should I choose this subject?

The course is varied, and you will develop useful skills, understanding and knowledge. You will cover diverse topics from William the Conqueror and the Battle of Hastings to Martin Luther King and the struggle for civil rights, and much more!

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will be assessed in three exams:

1. Medicine through Time, c.1250-Present (1hr 15 mins)
2. The American West, c.1830-c.1895 AND Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-c.1087 (1hr 45 mins)
3. USA: Conflict at Home and Abroad, 1954-1975 (1hr 20 mins)



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Reading and writing is at the heart of history, so you must have good literacy. An ability to learn and remember facts is also crucial but most of all you must enjoy History!

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

You could use History skills in careers related to politics, journalism, law, film and media and many more.

WHO do I need to speak to? Mr Cloke, Mr Stanier, Miss Cox



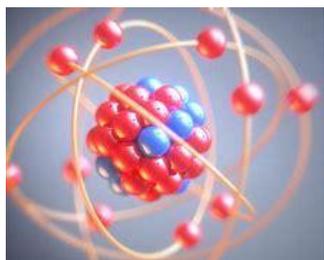
Keeley: Graduated from GTS in 2013.

I studied History, Art & Design, Health and Social Care, R.E. at GCSE as well as maths, English Lit. and Lang. and Sciences. Loved school and loved learning and was really pleased with my results.

Went on to A-Levels in English Language, Photography and Sociology.

I joined the council when I was 18, somewhat influenced by my mum as she is a long-standing Town Councillor, but also by my passion to do something good for my town. Started my two-year term as Mayor when I was 22 and enjoyed every second. Council work is all about working together and I guess I love that we can play a part in making decisions for our town, albeit small decisions that mostly involve influences from the powers above us. We are the closest level of local politics to the people of Great Torrington, so we are there to make sure their views are noted and heard.

GCSE Triple Science



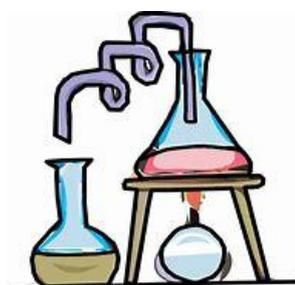
WHAT is the subject about? Science, Science, Science!!

All pupils study a minimum of Combined Science GCSE; some pupils may opt to study Triple Science. We follow the AQA Syllabus for all science courses. Triple Science includes the same material covered in the Combined

Science modules, but with about 30% extra content to extend the pupils' studies.

WHY should I choose this subject?

This pathway is designed to meet the needs of pupils who are considering an academic pathway in the future, and likely to include A-level study in science disciplines. This involves more science learning than the Combined Science option. The demand of this course is that of three singular GCSE subjects and so requires dedication and organisation.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

All Science courses consist of 100% examination. For Triple Science you'll do six 1 hour 45-minute exams; two for biology, two for chemistry and two for physics. There is no coursework in any Science GCSEs; all practical work is examined via the final exam papers, of which there are twenty-eight compulsory practicals (across the disciplines) that are taught to pupils, any of which may appear in the final exam papers.



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn about all things biology, chemistry and physics!

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This could lead to further education in science at college, though you could do this with good grades (6+) in combined science.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss Neve-Scott or any of the science team

Biology

100%
Grades 9-4
100%
Grades 9-5
2025

Chemistry

100%
Grades 9-4
100%
Grades 9-5
2025

Physics

100%
Grades 9-4
100%
Grades 9-5
2025



Katie: Graduated from GTS in 2015.

Studied Biology (A), Chemistry (A) and Physics (B) at Petroc College. Studied Animal Science BSc at the University of Nottingham, graduating with a First Class with Honours. Currently studying for a Master Degree in Animal Nutrition part-time at the University of Nottingham.



**DREAM
BELIEVE
ACHIEVE**

Option Subjects

GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)

67%
Grades 9-4

43%
Grades 9-5

2025

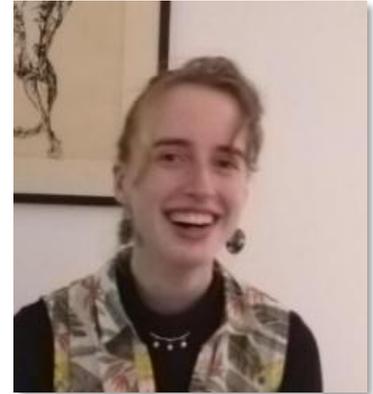
WHAT is the subject about?

This course is designed to stimulate and develop thinking processes and decision making and to develop manipulative skills using a wide variety of materials. The department strives to create interesting project work that is enjoyable and creative with elements of critical and contextual research. The aim is to empower pupils to become independent thinkers and creative individuals.



WHY should I choose this subject?

Because you are enthusiastic, self-motivated and interested in the subject. You will be working in an inspiring environment where you are keen to explore your creativity. Homework is an integral part to the success in this subject.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

We follow the AQA specification:

- Unit 1: Portfolio work (Controlled Assessment) 60%
- Unit 2: Externally set task 40% unlimited preparation time and 10 hours of sustained focused study.

Charlotte: In 2019, I graduated from The Bartlett School of Architecture with First Class Honours and was awarded the Bartlett Medal. Since graduation, I have exhibited at the Venice Biennale and worked in Architecture firms across London and New York, including Rem Koolhaas' OMA. I am currently completing an MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Cambridge as my final step to becoming fully qualified. My Master's research is under-taken in Tokyo, where I am exploring augmented reality applications as new infrastructure for the emerging Metaverse.



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Self-expression, creativity, vision, dreams, wonder and a sense of the world. Time commitment is essential.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Advertising, Interior Design, Photography, Architecture, Textile Design, Teaching.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mrs Harman, Mrs Witney

Taking Art GCSE was the highlight of my school career. Mrs Kevern's endless support, creativity and enthusiasm helped me develop huge confidence and formed the start of a life-long passion for the subject. The subject is versatile and encourages exploration into a range of mediums. These skills are transferrable to numerous careers, creative or not - I cannot recommend enough!

WHAT is the subject about?

- Businesses in the real World and the key issues they face
- Marketing techniques
- Finance
- Setting up your own business
- Managing and dealing with people



WHY should I choose this subject?

This GCSE provides a fantastic introduction to the World of business, from working in or starting your own small business, to operating in a multi-national company. You will also look at how businesses generate cash for further investment and different types of investment for businesses and individuals.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two exams at the end of the course:

1. Business operations – how businesses work and their core functions.
2. Marketing and Finance – from entrepreneurs to large multi-nationals, the critical role of these two functions.



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn about the world of work. You should be outward-looking and keen to learn about the endless opportunities available to you.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The possibilities are literally endless. You would have a working knowledge of all types of business which would make you an asset to any company.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mr Anderson

EDUQAS Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering

70%
Level 1 Dist. +
35%
Level 2 Pass +
2025

WHAT is the subject about?

The course offers a unique opportunity to gain knowledge of the hospitality, catering and food industries and develop practical skills. You will plan and make dishes considering healthy eating guidelines and catering for a range of diets. You will learn about; the function of ingredients and the importance of hygiene, safety and sustainability within the catering industries; the hospitality industry roles and influences on the industry and how external influences affect business outcomes.



WHY should I choose this subject?

Anyone with an interest in food who is keen to learn the skills and knowledge required for a career in the health, applied science or food and hospitality sectors.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Assessed through controlled practical task (60%); you will research, plan, make a range of dishes from a selection of set topics. The examination and assessments for this are all completed at the end of Year 11, with a final written exam (40%).

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

It is essential that you have shown a key interest in cooking and science at KS3, can work hygienically, safely and complete written tasks well.



WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Level 3 Catering/Hospitality courses and Apprenticeships; Degrees in Food Science, Nutrition, Food Teacher etc.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Ms Fisher, Miss Jameson

OCR Level 1 / 2 Cambridge National in Child Development

**New
Course**

WHAT is the subject about?

This qualification aims to introduce pupils to the study of the sector and gain an understanding, skills and knowledge for caring for children under the age of five years. It is a vocational qualification equivalent to GCSE, and its content allows pupils to apply their knowledge and understanding to vocationally relevant scenarios. It is assessed through a final exam and coursework over the 2-year period.



WHY should I choose this subject?

You are interested in how children grow and develop and are considering a career in childcare.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This qualification is assessed through coursework and a final exam in June of Year 11. The NEA which is made up of two units is equal to 60% of the grade and the exam contribute to the remaining 40% of the grade. RO57 – Health and wellbeing for child development RO58 - Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years RO59 - Understand the development of a child from one to five years.



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The curriculum has strong links with...

Citizenship – sex education, safety

Computing – internet safety

Biology/Science – human development, reproduction

Sociology – families, parenthood

Psychology – Psychological theories

Sport/PE – physical development – use of fine and gross motor skills

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The content of this qualification has been developed in consultation with further education organisations to ensure it supports progression towards study at post-16. It also supports pupils choosing to progress directly to employment as the transferable knowledge, understanding and skills will give successful pupils an advantage in applying for a range of entry level roles, industry training programmes and Apprenticeships in childcare/nursery nursing.

The qualification will help pupils to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Childcare sector.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Ms Royse

GCSE Design & Technology

48%
Grades 9-4

36%
Grades 9-5

2024

WHAT is the subject about?

Design and Technology is the inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which prepares all young people to live and work in the designed and made world.

WHY should I choose this subject?

You must have a keen interest in Design and Technology and the ability to be creative. If you want to investigate how and why products work and what makes them fit for purpose, then Design and Technology is for you. The subject opens the door to a wide range of careers and whatever you choose the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

A non-examined assessment will represent 50% of your final mark. The other 50% is from an external examination in Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

If you enjoy problem solving, creating products and evaluating, then you will enjoy this course. You will also need to demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding in relation to Design and Technology.



WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The subject provides a route into a number of Level 3 courses and supports a wide range of career paths, including Engineering, Architecture, Product Design, Graphic Design.

Tom: Tom was always interested in computing and design at school and after completing his GCSEs, Tom continued his studies at Petroc College by taking a L3 Diploma in Engineering. After College he went on to secure an apprenticeship with Lely Centre Devon & Cornwall as a Service Engineer.

Lely specialises in robotic milking systems and automatic feeding systems and look after some of the largest robotic farms in the country.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Ashby, Mr Ward

GCSE Drama

53%
Grades 9-4

47%
Grades 9-5

2025

WHAT is the subject about?

GCSE Drama is mainly a practical subject, which explores devised performances and scripted plays. There are three components which explore these.

WHY should I choose this subject?

This subject develops life-long work skills such as teamwork, effective communication, confidence, leadership, creativity and planning.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

After exploring the practitioner, Stanislavski, Component 1 requires you to work together collaboratively to create a devised performance to create a Naturalistic performance. In Component 2 you will work in groups to prepare and perform a short play from National Theatre Connections. Component 3 is a written exam which explores productions of Macbeth and Hamilton.

There is an expectation to attend after school rehearsals in Year 10.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Drama, English, Modern Foreign Language, Physical Education, History, World Views, Religious Education.



WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

A-Level Drama, A-Level Theatre Studies. Performing Arts BTEC or any career path where you need skills to communicate and work effectively with others.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mr Pluckrose



Eva-Theresa: After leaving GTS, she studied a BTEC Diploma in Performing Arts at Petroc College, for which she gained a Triple Dist.*. Eva was accepted at London College of Music (LCM) where she studied a BA HONS in MUSICAL THEATRE. When Eva graduated, she was picked up by a Musical Theatre agent in London. Her first Professional job was playing Cinderella in a UK Tour. In January 2021, Eva was cast in a new musical, RUMI: THE MUSICAL, and in November 2021 she made her West End debut on the London Coliseum stage for the same show - a world premiere!

*“Although I only highlight the glitz and glam of it all here, I must mention that your studies and careers will never be easy-peasy. You must keep working at your craft, don’t give up. **Work hard and be kind - always.** Please be accepting of others and accept that school and studies is NOT a competition. I was one of very few in my year group who had these interests; focus on YOU and support your peers.”*

Eva would like to thank all the hard-working staff at GTS and thank you to Mr Pluckrose!

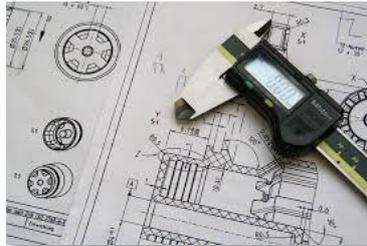
NCFE Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Engineering

**New
Course**

WHAT is the subject about?

This vocational course allows pupils to explore many aspects of engineering, providing insight into engineering careers. It also aims to equip pupils with practical skills so they can safely use a wide range of tools and materials - useful for everyday life, an apprenticeship or further education.

Year 10 pupils develop their subject knowledge and practical skills by completing a range of projects and written tasks.



WHY should I choose this subject?

If you have particularly enjoyed the practical element of Design & Technology during Key Stage 3 and enjoy mostly working with metals, then engineering would be a suitable option choice.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The qualification has two assessments externally set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment and one written examined assessment. Only one attempt at each assessment is permitted.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn about Metal Work, Engineering, 2D Computer Aided Design. The course also includes a wood joining module.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?



Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the engineering industry through a

variety of occupations that are available within the industry, such as in technical writing or technical sales, or as an engineer in one of the many different sectors across the industry, such as pharmaceuticals, aerospace or construction.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mr Ashby

CNAT Level 1 / 2 Certificate in Creative iMedia

20%
Level 1 Merit +
12%
Level 2 Pass +
2025

WHAT is the subject about?

If you're interested in the digital media industry, developing a wide range of skills across a variety of units using industry standard software, including image editing and comic creation, then you should



definitely consider Creative iMedia as one of your possible options.

WHY should I choose this subject?

We cover a wide range of digital media skills and knowledge. Future employers look for staff

to have formal digital media qualifications with up-to-date skills.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Split across three aspects, two large, controlled assessments and an end of course exam. Controlled assessments cover all aspects of digital media including planning, digital graphic creation and reviewing final pieces.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

ICT, English and Art.



WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

You could pick from an even wider range of creative digital media related subjects at college or university.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mrs Bryant or Mr Bryant

Ryan: Graduated from GTS in 2010.

My Job is: making kids TV shows for Youtube, Netflix and Amazon for a production company.

The subjects that helped me most are English Language and Media - that was the first time I held a camera and edited anything close to being a short film or a music video. Art and Drama for the more creative side of things, and maths helps a lot with all the finances and logistics. ICT also gave me a good understanding of a lot of the programs I use every day.

I went to college and university and did a degree in Film Production and Cinematography; that helped me advance more quickly, but a lot of people also didn't go to university or studied something unrelated! A lot of people start as a runner and work their way up.

GCSE Music

41%
Grades 9-4

24%
Grades 9-5

2025

WHAT is the subject about?

GCSE Music is mainly a practical subject, which explores performance, composition, musical forms, ensemble, Film and Popular Music. There are three components which explore these.

WHY should I choose this subject?

You will be able to transfer the skills you learn to all other subjects. But not only this, the skills you develop will transfer into all future careers.



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Component 1 requires you to perform a piece of prepared Music and Component 2 explores your skill in composition. You would be expected to gain experience of performance and composition by taking part in school concerts and musicals. Component 3 is a written exam which explores musical forms and devices, music for ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music.



Caitlyn: Graduated from GTS in 2013.

Studied at Middlesex University, where she received a BA in Film/Cinema/Video Studies.

Videographer and Photographer, working in the music industry; for FC Malaga City Academy, Spain; for Exeter City Football Club.

Now working for herself as a freelance videographer and photographer.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Maths, English, Drama, and ICT. You must be able to play at least one instrument or sing to a reasonable level. Moreover, you need to have a desire to improve.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

A-Level Music, A-Level Music Technology, Music BTEC Diploma, Music Production, Music Performance BTEC Diploma, Freelance Musician or Sound Engineer and many other jobs within the Creative Industries.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Wickenden, Mr Pluckrose, Mrs Ward

WHAT is the subject about?

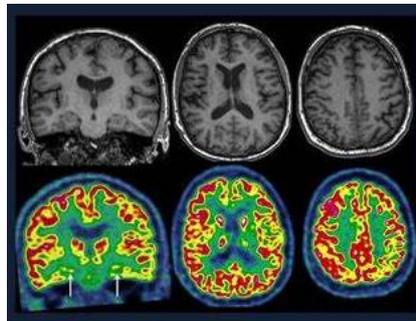
This engaging and effective qualification introduces students to the fundamentals of psychology, developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills. The course is split into two parts:

Cognition and behaviour

1. Memory
2. Perception
3. Development
4. Research methods

Social context and behaviour

1. Social influence
2. Language, thought and communication
3. Brain and neuropsychology
4. Psychological problems



WHY should I choose this subject?

Choosing AQA Psychology is a great way to learn about how people think, feel, and behave, while gaining skills that are useful in everyday life and future careers. The course covers fascinating topics like why we obey rules, how memory works, what causes mental health issues, and even how the brain affects behaviour. You'll get to study real-world problems, learn how to conduct experiments, and develop skills like critical thinking and communication.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

At the end of the course. There are two papers, each 1 hour 45-minutes long with contain a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Biology, English, History and Maths.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

You'll develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills that are highly valued by employers. Understanding how people think and behave can help in careers like healthcare, education, social work, marketing, business, and law. It also lays a strong foundation if you want to pursue further studies in psychology or related areas, making it easier to enter professions like counselling, clinical psychology or human resources.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mrs Knight

36%
Grades 9-4
36%
Grades 9-5
2025

WHAT is the subject about?

Component 1 - Religious Belief and Practice: An in-depth study of two religions

Component 2 - Thematic Studies

- Religion and Life
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice
- Religion, Relationships & Families



WHY should I choose this subject?

Opportunity to examine a range of interesting and controversial issues. If you have strong opinions, this is the subject for you!



WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Two exams, both at the end of Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You need to be literate and be willing to justify your own views. An interest in moral issues and a mature empathy with different situations is essential.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

A/AS Level Religious Studies, Philosophy & Ethics, Degree Level courses. The knowledge, understanding and skills learned at GCSE are useful in a huge range of careers and help you make sense of the adult world.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Sparrow, Mrs Richardson

WHAT is the subject about?

Sociology looks at our society and asks why different organisations in it work how they do. You will study key areas of society and ask questions about who these areas benefit. We will ask questions such as, should private schools exist? Why do certain groups get stopped more by the police? Is poverty unavoidable in society? And what are the positive and negative aspects of marriage and divorce.



For each of the topics you will look at key sociologists who have either Functionalist, Marxist or Feminist viewpoints and understand the research they have completed to come to their views.

WHY should I choose this subject?

The course is varied, and you will develop useful skills, understanding and knowledge. The course gives a strong understanding of how your society works around you and will ask you to work hard to analyse, evaluate and construct ideas on fascinating topics.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This course is 100% final exam at the end of Year 11. It comprises of two papers:

Paper 1 - (Families and Education) – 1 hour 45-minutes (50%)

Paper 2 - (Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification) – 1 hour 45-minutes (50%)



WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn about and be inquisitive about the society in which we live.

Reading and writing is at the heart of sociology, so you must have good literacy. An ability to learn and remember facts and various sociological perspectives is also crucial.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The skills outlined are transferable to a wide range of situations, subjects and careers in the future. Employers and colleges look favourably upon the subject as demonstrating academic ability and thinking skills. Pupils can continue with the subject to A-level or use the skills and knowledge learnt to travel down another pathway or career.

Career routes: Any job, which includes contact with people could benefit from GCSE Sociology. Careers in teaching, law, social work, government, armed forces, police, medical profession and childcare are just a few where sociology is highly valued.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mrs Richardson

BTEC Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Sport



WHAT is the subject about?

Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- investigating provisions for sport e.g. facilities and equipment.
- planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions.
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.

This will be delivered and assessed through classroom and practical elements.

WHY should I choose this subject?

The subject is for learners who have interest in exploring the sport and physical activity sector by looking at different providers, equipment, technology and impacts on participation. It provides the opportunity to learn about anatomy and physiology and the long-term effects on the body from regular participation in sport and physical activity. The course also allows learners to develop the skills to plan and deliver effective sports activity sessions.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

To be successful in this course it is essential that pupils can work independently and will take responsibility for completing the tasks. There are three components to the course:

- **Component 1:** Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity
- **Component 2:** Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance
- **Component 3:** Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessments which are delivered through Pearson-set assignments (each component comprises of approximately 4 tasks). These assignments are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. The assignments are released at set times through the year and must be completed within a set time frame under supervised conditions. These windows are in December/January and May/June.

Component 3 is an external assessed exam comprising of multiple choice, short and extended answer questions.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The most important thing is a desire to learn about Sport and Physical Activity. PE, English, Science and being competent in the use of Microsoft programmes such as Word and PowerPoint.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Level 3 courses or apprenticeships within the PE, Sport or Coaching/Teaching sector and then to university study.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information? Mr Cooke, Mr Rhymer, Mr Bolton, Mrs Frickleton, Mrs Robertson-Neave or Ms Miller-Marshall



Jake: Graduated from GTS in 2011.

Formerly of Dolton, Jake took up golfing whilst at GTS and quickly realised he was quite good at it! With a lot of hard work and dedication he moved from local to national tournaments culminating in him being called in to the England A and England Elite golfing teams.

In 2019 Jake was ranked as the number 1 amateur in the United Kingdom and then went on to win, arguably, his biggest tournament to date, the St Andrews Links Trophy.

The England international has now turned pro and has won several tournaments through Europe, Turkey and the USA, regularly mixing it up with the best in the sport!

Guided Choices 2026 - 2028

Guided Choices – a copy for your records

Name _____ Tutor Group _____

Pathway

Pink

Green

Light Green

Orange

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Option 1 Reserve choice

Option 2 Reserve choice

Option 3 Reserve choice

Option 4 Reserve choice

