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KS4 Options Booklet

For Year 9 Students, Parents & Carers

Remote Options Evening

Wednesday 4th November 5.00 to 5.30pm









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The Options Process

Welcome to your options process. You now have the opportunity to choose those subjects that you will study for the next two years, and possibly into Post 16 and university. These decisions are important for your future, and you should take advice before you make your decisions. This booklet gives you the information you need to start the process. Please take time to read it carefully.

Options - FAQs

1. Why choose options?

Everyone studies a core set of subjects, as well as optional subjects that you choose. You can choose subjects you enjoy, are good at, or that will help you with your future plans for education, training or work.

2. What are the core subjects?

Everyone continues to study English, Mathematics and Science so that you leave school with good literacy, numeracy, and scientific skills. To ensure that you have the wider skills needed for adult life, you will continue to study Physical Education, Citizenship, Religious Education and Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE). Most students will take at least 10 GCSEs, made up of core and options subjects.

3. Will I be able to study every subject I choose?

You will be asked to complete your initial options form by **Monday 23rd November,** where you will choose the subjects you would like to study. After this, we will use the information from all students to create a final options block form that fits as many first-choice subjects as possible, while considering the wider needs of the school. You will then complete and submit this **final options form** during your Progress Review Day on either the **17th or 18th December**. While we aim to give everyone their preferred choices, this may not always be possible. A small number of students may be allocated a second-choice subject instead of a first choice, but we will do our best to match your preferences.

4. What if not enough people choose a subject?

Unfortunately, we cannot offer a subject if too few people opt for it. If this happens, we will work with students and families to ensure you have the best possible available options for you.

5. How can I choose subjects so I keep my options open for the future?

You may not yet know what career you want to follow in the future. This is normal for a Year 9 student. This means it is important to follow a broad, balanced curriculum so you keep as many opportunities as possible open to you.

6. What if I already know what I want to do for a career?

In this case, it is essential that you check with your subject teachers and Miss Thomas, our Careers Lead to make sure your choices will enable you to follow this career pathway at Post 16. Your choices now can affect your career opportunities later so **check now to avoid disappointment later**. Using our online Careers platform **'Unifrog'** can also help facilitate this process.

7. What exams will I take?

Most of the examination courses you will study lead to the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in May – June 2029. A few lead to a BTEC National qualification.

8. Who can help me choose my options?

Read this booklet carefully, then:

- Ask yourself - which subjects do I like most? Which subjects do I do well in? Have I limited my future choices. **Support with this process is delivered as part of your PSHE lessons**
- Talk to your parents and **wider family**: they know you best and have life experience, so may have useful advice.
- Your **Subject Teachers** can tell you whether you have the aptitude, talent, and appropriate level of skills to enable you to succeed in their area.
- You can ask **Miss Thomas**, our Careers Lead for advice.
- Your Form Tutor can give you a good idea of your overall progress to date and help you to see yourself in perspective.

9. What Careers Education/Guidance will I receive?

Careers Education is firmly embedded within all subjects at Fairfield. Every child is on a 5-year Careers Education journey. A large part of this journey is participating in PSHE lessons, where a whole unit is dedicated to 'Careers' for every year group. In Year 10, **ALL** students will participate in Work Experience in Term 6. During Year 9 (Term 6) careers lessons within PSHE, students are supported with finding placements.

ALL students will also receive a 1:1 careers guidance appointment with our Careers Advisor, these are to support the students with the transition from KS4-KS5. These will begin from Term 4 in Year 10.

Useful Websites to help you:

- **Our online Careers Platform (all students have their own log in to access) https://www.unifrog.org/**
- **For finding out more about careers: https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk or www.icould.com**
- **For information about Post 16 course information, please see the Bristol Post16 Directory (updated yearly) located on Bristol Council Website**

10. How many subjects can I choose?

You will have a choice of 3 subjects

11. How do I make my choices?

Good reasons for choosing a subject:

- You are good at the subject
- You think you will enjoy the course
- It goes well with your other choices
- You are interested in the knowledge and skills it develops
- It will give you plenty of choice in the future e.g. EBacc subjects
- You think that you might want to continue studying it after Year 11

Bad reasons for choosing a subject:

- Your friends are doing it – don't pick something just to be part of the crowd
- People say it is easy
- You think it is a good course for a boy or for a girl
- Someone else thinks that it is a good idea, but you disagree
- You like the teacher you have now
- You did not have time to research your options properly

12. When can I leave education?

The government have increased the length of time young people must continue to participate in education. (RPA)

This could mean you continue with:

- Full-time education, such as Sixth Form or College
- An apprenticeship/ Traineeship
- Part-time education or training if you are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

This continues until you are 18.

You can find out more information about RPA at:
http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/rpa

More information on Apprenticeships is available at:
http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/About-Us/National-Apprenticeship-Service.aspx

The National Careers Service makes it easy to find information about education, training and work with professional, impartial advice.
The website is https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk



Options timeline 2026/27

Monday 2nd November
Options booklet distributed with form and assembly introducing the options process for all pupils.

Monday 2nd November
Options month focus in for Year 9's. Tutors to show videos from different faculties explaining each course.
Taster sessions begin.

Wednesday 4th November
Remote Options Evening via Teams – 5:00pm – 5:30pm

Wednesday 18th November
Year 9 Parents Evening

Tuesday 1st December
Final options form given to students.

Monday 23rd November
initial forms to be returned.

17th and 18th December
Progress Review days
Deadline for final options form and discussion with tutor

January 2026
School to start processing final option choices.

Term 5
Options confirmation letter to Parents/Carers
Students who do not get 1st/2nd choices given opportunity to discuss.

Term 5
Deadline for return of acceptance letters.

May 2026
Timetable created. Families informed of any necessary option changes.

June – July 2026
Final Timetable created.

Initial Option Choice Form 2026/27

These choices will help us decide the option blocks. This form needs to be completed and handed back to your tutor by **Monday 23rd November.**

Option A Pick **one** 1st choice and **one** 2nd choice.	1st choice	2nd choice
French		
Spanish		
Geography		
History		

Option B Pick **two** 1st choices and **two** 2nd choices.	1st choice	2nd choice
Art – Fine		
Art – Photography		
Art – 3D Design		
Child Development Vocational GCSE Equivalent		
Computer Science		
Dance		
Drama		
Engineering Design Vocational GCSE Equivalent		
French		
Geography		
Health and Social Care Vocational GCSE Equivalent		
History		
Music		
Spanish		
Sports Science Vocational GCSE Equivalent		

Please Note:

- **You may only choose two vocational courses**
- **You must choose three unique first choices and three unique second choices**
- **The final options form will be built around the First and Second choice subjects so please pick carefully. Not all the subjects will run if not enough students choose them as a first or second choice.**

I am interested in studying Additional Maths. I understand this is by invitation and I must get 70% in Maths. If successful, I will attend period 6 every Monday after school.	
I am interested in studying Triple Science. I understand this is by invitation and I must get 70% in Science. If successful, I must attend period 6 every Wednesday after school.	
I am interested in studying German through a period 6 session.	

Student Name: _____ **Tutor Group:** _____

Parent/Carer Signature: _____

Core Subjects

Citizenship

Subject	Citizenship GCSE (AQA exam board).
Type of course	A Full GCSE qualification.
Outline of topics	• Britain and International relations • Laws and Sentencing • Rights and responsibilities • Crime and punishment • Media • Democracy: voting systems, elections, and campaigning • The environment/globalisation • The world of work including trade unions • Government structures including devolved power and local councils • The economy including taxation
Assessment	Two equally weighted written examinations at the end of Year 11 during the examination season.
What you can do next	• A Level Politics • A level Sociology • A Level Law • Career in Law • Career in politics • Civil servant • Teacher
Additional Information	There are opportunities for trips to Parliament and Bristol Crown Court. GCSE results are outstanding and consistently above the National average.



English Language and English Literature

Subject	English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)
Type of course	GCSE, AQA
Outline of topics	All students are invited to follow the English Language and English Literature courses. Students are taught to write in a variety of forms, to read a wide range of contemporary, multi-cultural and pre-20th Century literature and to develop their speaking and listening skills. Grades will be awarded on the new 9-1 scale (as opposed to A*-G). All courses require students to undertake examinations on the following areas of study: • Reading non-fiction and media texts • Writing continuous prose based on a key theme • Studying a novel • Reading Shakespeare • Poetry • Modern drama and poetry
Assessment	**English Language** Exam = 100% Two exams **English Literature GCSE** External Examination = 100% Two exams
What you can do next	An English Language qualification is vital for entry to almost all FE institutions for most courses. Please speak to your English teacher for more information.



Mathematics

Subject	Mathematics GCSE
Type of course	AQA Linear GCSE
Outline of topics	All students begin to prepare for the AQA Linear GCSE, which will be taken in Year 11. Each exam can be taken at a Foundation or Higher level.
Assessment	Three one and a half hour papers – paper one: non-calculator and papers two and three: with calculator.
What you can do next	A Mathematics GCSE qualification is vital for entry to almost all FE institutions for most courses. Grades are awarded on the new 9-1 scale.



KS4 PSHE

Our KS4 PSHE (personal, social, health, economic) education program is an extension from our KS3 program of study. PSHE is essential to helping our students develop the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. It makes a vital contribution to health & well-being of our young people. We take a holistic approach to promote healthy bodies, healthy minds, and healthy relationships to our students. Our students become empowered and informed to make decisions regarding the opportunities and challenges of adult and working life.

The program of study is split into three distinctive areas: Health & Welling, Relationship & Sex Education and Living in the Wider World. Students receive one lesson per fortnight to discuss various topic matters. Below is an overview of some of the topics covered

Units	Year 10	Year 11
Relationship & Sex Educations	• Relationships • Sexual Consent • Pregnancy Choices • Abortion • Pornography & Deepfakes • Impact of misogyny	• Fertility • Endometriosis • Domestic Violence • Forced Marriage
Health & Well-being	• Managing Risks – Gang related • Knife Crime & Deviant behaviour • What is Cancer – Breast/ Testicular • Loss/Bereavement • Nitrous Oxide/Drug Spiking	• First Aid – Bleed Kit • Body Image • Stress Management • Illegal Drugs – treatment for addiction • Staying safe – Crime outside school
Living in the Wider World	• Resilience • Transition to KS4 • Post16 Pathways • Money Health – Credit cards/payday loans • Wage Slips • Labour Market Index (LMI) • AI – Future Careers • Taking Risks – Gambling & Addictions • Dealing with loss/ bereavement	• Higher Ed • Apprenticeships • Mortgages/Renting/Credit Score • Budgeting • CV/Apply for jobs

Religious Studies

Subject	Religious Studies B – Ethics, Peace and Conflict
Type of course	Compulsory GCSE Full course - Edexcel
Outline of topics	This course is a challenging and exciting exploration to understanding faith, morality and spirituality in our modern world. Our aim is to make students think not make them religious. **Paper 1 – Religion and Ethics – Christianity** The first half of the GCSE - Unit 1 based on a study of Christianity. This section covers topics such as Christian Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Christian Life and Matters of Life and Death. **Paper 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict - Islam** The second half of the GCSE - Unit 2 based on a study of Islam. This section covers topics such as Muslim Beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Living the Muslim Life and Peace and Conflict.
Assessment	The GCSE consists of two exam papers that are both one hour and 45 minutes long. Paper 1 is worth 50% of the qualification. Paper 2 is worth 50% of the qualification. No coursework is expected. Examination: May of Year 10.
What you can do next	Colleges look to RE if they want pupils to have completed an extended writing GCSE. A range of Humanities A-levels such as A/AS level Religious Studies, Critical Thinking, Philosophy and Sociology. This qualification is very relevant and useful in a number of careers including; Counsellor, community development worker, international aid/development worker, mediator, newspaper journalist, Police officer, youth worker, event management, social work, armed forces and law.
Additional Information	Students are given the opportunity to visit places of worship, meet people of interest and engage in lively debates using multi-media resources. **William Butler Yeats:** "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. **Talk to your RE teacher for more information.**

Science

Qualifications	Students will be given a guided choice in working towards one of the following qualifications awarded by the AQA exam board. This will depend on their aptitude, ability and choice of working style. All exams are taken at the end of Year 11 and there is no coursework element. The GCSE grade is 100% exam based, with key practicals being examined in the six written exams. Grades will be awarded on the 9-1 scale. Either option can lead to A-level studies in any of the Science disciplines providing grade 6 or above is achieved at GCSE level.
Combined Trilogy Science GCSE 2 GCSE grades	**Students will complete a course leading to two GCSEs in science (the minimum UK expectation), a combination of biology, chemistry and physics.** Each subject will cover topics outlined below: **Biology** (2 x 1h 15mins exams) Cells and organisation. Disease and bioenergetics. Biological responses. Genetics and reproduction. Ecology. **Chemistry** (2 x 1h 15mins exams) Atoms, bonding, and moles. Chemical reactions and energy changes. Rates, equilibrium, and organic chemistry. Analysis and the Earth's resources. **Physics** (2 x 1h 15mins exams) Energy and energy resources. Particles at work. Forces in action. Waves and electromagnetism
Triple Science GCSEs 3 GCSE's: Biology, Chemistry & Physics	**Students are encouraged to opt to take this option if they are dedicated scientists. If they then achieve the minimum expectations for this in-depth science course they will be placed in the Triple Sciences class.** If you wish to take triple science, you must attain an **end of year 9 average above 60%.** Triple Science leads to 3 separate GCSE qualifications in biology (2 x 1h 45mins exams), chemistry (2 x 1h 45mins exams), and physics (2 x 1h 45mins exams). The topic areas covered are the same as those above, but all areas are expanded, covering more topic content in more detail. In addition to this, there is one extra physics topic: Space. Committing to the triple science course means attending **compulsory period 6 lessons** every Wednesday after school. **Talk to your Science teacher for more information**



Optional subjects GCSE / Vocational Options

Art - Fine

Subject	AQA – Fine Art
Type of course	GCSE - This course is aimed at students who enjoy art and want to expand their understanding and practical abilities. Pupils will be encouraged to explore many different materials and techniques and to work independently. Each unit studied will help the student to create their own individual and personal artwork. The main focus of Fairfield's GCSE course is to help students discover and develop their own creativity and vision. Students will be expected to work independently outside of the classroom and when possible attend art clubs. You will annotate your work to show your understanding and analyse the work of other artists. The coursework folder will be selected from the classwork created over two years.
Outline of topics	**Painting in a range of materials**, including acrylics and watercolours. **Drawing** - pencil, charcoal and ink Sculpture Paper and Card Collage and stitch Critical and Contextual investigation of artist work **Printmaking** - linocuts and mono-printing
Examples of projects	**Pattern and painting, photo collage, lino printing, mandalas and self-portraits**
Assessment	Coursework Task (60%), Examination (40%) Pupils will be given three months to create a project of their own choice. Both the coursework and the exam have written elements. Students will be expected to work independently outside the classroom. Attending art clubs and completing flipped learning tasks will be essential to achieving in this subject.
What you can do next	The Fine Art GCSE is the most commonly taught GCSE in UK schools and will be recognised by all sixth forms and HE colleges. At the end of the course pupils will have a portfolio of work that can be used to gain a place on all the creative Art A-levels.
Additional Information	Students taking this course are required to complete a set of summer homework tasks at the end of Year 9 in preparation for the course. **Please Note:** The only requirement for entry to this course is an interest in Art and a wish to develop your creative skills. We aim to develop drawing skills over the course, we welcome any student who has a genuine interest in the subject. **Talk to your Art teacher for more information**

Art - Photography

Subject	AQA-lens based media
Type of course	GCSE
Outline of topics	The photography GCSE is taught by the Art department and aims to develop pupil's visual language. Pupils will be taught how to create effective and imaginative photographs based around different themes. The course uses digital cameras and will teach students how to gather appropriate photographs, selecting and editing their best work. As part of the course students will study the work of past and present photographers to help them develop their own work. Pupils will also use photoshop and other software to enhance and manipulate their images. Pupils on this course will take photographs in school and have opportunities to visit the Botanical Gardens and local areas to take photographs.
Topics/Themes covered	**Portraits** **Double-exposure** **Street photography** **Natural and Man-made** **Textures and Close up**
Assessment	**60% Coursework Work** selected from photographs and photographic sketchbooks created over the two years **40% Final exam** A final project of your choice completed over two months in Year 11
What you can do next	This course leads on to A level photography or to a Level 2 or 3 BTEC qualifications in Photography/Art and Design.
Additional Information	Pupils can apply to borrow a camera across a weekend to complete work outside of lessons. We also provide lunch clubs to allow pupils to access specialist equipment. Students taking this course are required to complete a set of summer homework tasks at the end of Year 9 in preparation for the course. **Talk to your Art teacher for more information**

Art - 3D Design

Subject	AQA – Art& Design – Three-dimensional design
Type of course	GCSE
Outline of topics	This course is aimed at students who designing and making 3D outcomes. Pupils will be encouraged to explore many different materials and techniques and to work independently. Each unit studied will help the student to create their own individual and personal artwork. The main focus of Fairfield's GCSE course is to help students discover and develop their own creativity and vision. Students will be expected to work independently outside of the classroom and when possible attend art clubs. You will annotate your work to show your understanding and analyse the work of other artists. The coursework folder will be selected from the classwork created over two years.
Outline of skills covered	**3D printing** **Laser cutter** **Heat press machine** **Sculpture Paper and Cardboard** **CNC router** **Critical and Contextual investigation of artist or designer's work**
Assessment	Coursework Task (60%), Examination (40%) Pupils will be given three months to create a project of their own choice. Both the coursework and the exam have written elements. Students will be expected to work independently outside the classroom. Attending art clubs and completing flipped learning tasks will be essential to achieving in this subject.
What you can do next	This course could lead to a Level 3 course such as A Level Product Design or Art and Design.
Additional Information	Students taking this course are required to complete a set of summer homework tasks at the end of Year 9 in preparation for the course. **Please Note:** The only requirement for entry to this course is an interest in art, design and making things, and a wish to develop your creative skills. **Talk to your Art teacher for more information**

Child Development

Subject	Child Development OCR
Type of course	OCR Cambridge National level 1/2 (vocational GCSE equivalent)
Outline of topics	1 x written exam worth 40%. (Externally assessed) Two controlled assessments worth 30% each (internally assessed tasks).
Assessment	**Component R057: Health and well-being for Child Development** Written paper - 1 hr 15mins OCR – set and marked Learners answer all questions Topics include: • Pre-conception health and reproduction • Antenatal care and preparation for birth • Postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development • Childhood illnesses and a child safe environment **Component R058: Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years** Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Topics include: • Creating a safe environment in a childcare setting • Choosing suitable equipment for a childcare setting • Nutritional needs of children from birth to five years **Component R059: Understand the development of a child from one to five years** Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated Topics include: • Physical, intellectual and social developmental norms from one to five years • Stages and types of play and how play benefits development • Observe the development of a child aged one to five years • Plan and evaluate play activities for a child aged one to five years for a chosen area of development
What you can do next	Students with a qualification in Child Development can progress further in Child Care, Health & Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology as well many other A-level courses. Careers in: • Midwifery • Nursery Nurse/Child minding • Early years practitioner • Primary school teacher/Special needs teacher • Child Psychologist • Social Worker/Councillor Talk to Miss Thomas for more information

Computer Science

Subject	Computer Science
Type of course	GCSE full course (AQA exam board)
Outline of topics & Assessment	**Subject content** 3.1 Fundamentals of algorithms 3.2 Programming 3.3 Fundamentals of data representation 3.4 Computer systems 3.5 Fundamentals of computer networks 3.6 Cyber security 3.7 Relational databases and structured query language (SQL) 3.8 Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy. **This course has 2 sections.** **Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving** **What's assessed?** Computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code, from subject content 3.1 and 3.2 above. **How it's assessed?** Written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE **Questions** A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills. **Paper 2: Computing concepts** **What's assessed?** The content for this assessment will be drawn from subject content 3.3 to 3.8 above. **How it's assessed?** Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE **Questions** A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.
What you can do next	This course supports progress to further study, including A Level Computer Science, Diplomas in Computer Science and Computing.
Additional Information	You must be working at a high level in Maths and be aware of the fundamentals of programming. **Talk to Ms Maljee or Ms Said for more information.**

Dance

Subject	Performing Arts: Dance
Type of course	AQA GCSE
Outline of topics	Dance is an exciting, fun but challenging option at GCSE. Practical classes explore and develop dance technique, choreographic skills and expressive skills whilst widening knowledge of various choreographers and dance styles. It improves confidence and teamwork whilst also developing independence and cultural awareness. Theoretical classes will analyse a range of inspiring professional pieces of dance and develop your understanding of safe practise, choreography and performance. **Performance** - students will increase their physical competence and effectiveness as a performer through the development of expressive, technical, and mental skills. They will learn set dance material from the exam board and from professional pieces of dance. This links together with the written appreciation, developing both practical and written skills. You will have the opportunity to perform at school performances and take part in exciting workshops with professional dancers. **Choreography** – students will explore and develop ideas, thoughts and meaning through movement. Through the use of choreographic principles, effective use of actions, space, dynamics and relationships, students will create a range of different dances. Students can choose their own starting point for their choreography and choreograph in any style they choose. **Appreciation** – students will develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of choreographers and dance styles. They will learn to appreciate the relationship between choreography, performance and production and how these enhance understanding of time, place, character, mood and meaning. Trips to see live dance are an exciting element of the course! **Fundamental skills** - through the practical and collaborative nature of the course, students develop a wide range of skills which will enhance their learning in other subjects and beyond. These skills include teamwork, communication, confidence, problem solving, analytical, evaluative and above all, creativity.
Assessment	60 % Practical coursework – performance (30%) and choreography (30%) 40% 1 written exam – 1.5 hour theory paper
What you can do next	GCSE Dance is usually required to go on to A Level Dance and Performing Arts BTECs and will help students' progress on to most Performing Arts courses. Dance develops a vast range of skills which potential colleges and employers will look for.
Additional Information	Prior dance training is not essential to take this course. You will need: Black leggings, black T shirt, navy hoody **Talk to Miss Thompson or Ms Cambanakis for more information.**

Drama

Subject	Drama
Type of course	Full GCSE - exam board Edexcel
Outline of course	• Component 1 – Devising Drama • Component 2 – Performance from Text • Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practise
Sample topics	Physical theatre; Theatre practitioners; Acting techniques; Understanding style, genre and creative intent; An Inspector Calls text; Socio-Political theatre; Shakespeare; Set, Costume, Sound and Lighting design; Live Theatre visits and a performance from a stimulus on contemporary, global topics.
Assessment	• Component 1 – Devised practical performance to an audience and a written devised portfolio (40%) • Component 2 – Practical performances of two extracts from a performance script (20%) • Component 3 – Written exam on a set text (An Inspector Calls) and a Live Theatre evaluation
What you can do next	Drama GCSE is an excellent foundation for any further training in Performing Arts, including as a performer, designer (Sound, lighting, set, costume) or director. The creative industry is the third biggest in the UK. This includes; TV and film, theatre, video games, digital marketing, designers, fashion, publishers, museums and galleries, musicians, writers, artists, architects, advertisers and many more. Drama is an excellent subject for so many careers. Creativity can take many forms and is highly prized in many different industries and professions, as it leads to innovation and new ways of solving problems. The skills learnt in drama teaches you empathy, observational skills, social awareness, collaboration, organisation, problem-solving, independence and self-confidence.
Additional Information	Students have the opportunity to undertake a number of theatre trips throughout the course, along with professional workshops. They also have the opportunity to purchase a GCSE Drama T-shirt or Hoodie. Talk to Ms Day for more information





Engineering Design

The following subjects are available:	Engineering Design
What qualification will I get?	OCR Level 2 Cambridge National in Engineering Design
What skills and qualities do I need?	A track record of Safe working practices in an Engineering Workshop and a keen and focused attitude. A flare for design and creating prototypes.
What will I study? Assessment	Engineering Design course helps students understand the processes of engineering design and how market requirements inform client briefs. Through practical activities they develop skills in computer modelling and model making and how to communicate design ideas effectively. 1 hour 15 minutes Written Paper (R038) & 2 controlled assessment projects as detailed below (R039 & R040). • R038 Principles of engineering design • R039 Communicating designs • R040 Design evaluation and modelling Engineering design is a process used to identify market opportunities and solve problems which contribute to the development of new products and systems. This qualification is aimed at learners who wish to study the processes involved in designing new engineered products and the requirements of a design specification. Through research and practical activities, learners will understand how market requirements and opportunities inform client briefs and will use practical skills such as drawing, computer modelling and model making to communicate design ideas. This course is ideal if you are interested in STEM subjects, a career in business or any Engineering sector. Many of the skills and subject content is cross transferable and will link well to A Levels Business, Engineering & Science, Level 3 BTECs and apprenticeships. FHS has a strong network of Post 16 links and industrial opportunities we can support you with such as Burgess Salmon, UWE & Bristol University.
What can I go on to do at 16?	Post 16 academic programs such as BTECs L3 & apprenticeships and practical skills college courses will all recognize the Design and Manufacturing course and provide a good follow-on course for trades and vocational training courses. The qualifications are also able to compliment more academic further education courses is students intend in perusing qualifications in Engineering subjects.
What are the local job prospects in this area?	Locally there are high numbers of good-quality engineering employers e.g., Rolls Royce, Airbus and BAE Systems. Work experience placements are being developed every day and can even be a focus of your investigation for your coursework. **Talk to Mr Pryke and Ms Sullivan for more information**

Geography

*Choosing this subject along with a language option counts towards the EBACC.

Subject	GCSE Geography – Full course
Type of course	AQA
Outline of topics	The GCSE consists of three exam papers. **Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment** **Section A – The Challenge of Natural Hazards** Natural Hazards, Tectonic Hazards, Weather Hazards, Climate Change. **Section B – The Living World** Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, Hot Deserts **Section C – Physical Landscapes in the UK** UK Physical Landscapes, Coastal Landscapes in the UK, River Landscapes in the UK. **Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment** **Section A – Urban Issues and Challenges** Urbanisation **Section B – The Changing Economic World** Economic Development **Section C – The Challenges of Resource Management** Resource Management Energy **Paper 3 – Geographical Applications** **Section A – Issue Evaluation** Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving **Section B – Field Work** Two separate Geographical Enquiries taking place outside the classroom.
Assessment	Paper 1 is worth 35% of the GCSE. Paper 2 is worth 35% of the GCSE. Paper 3 is worth 30% of the GCSE. All three will be examined in Year 11.
Is Geography for you?	**Geography is for you if you are:** • Interested in the world around you • Keen to study a subject which will keep your options open at AS/A2 and in further education • Interested in up-to-date topical issues (Climate Change, Flooding, Settlement Change, Fair Trade, Urban Regeneration, Population, Migration)
What you can do next	Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment. Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting. The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop. Because geographers learn about human and population development, geography can be useful for jobs in charity and international relations too. **Talk to your Geography teacher for more information**

Health and Social Care

Subject	Health and Social Care OCR Cambridge National.
Type of course	OCR Cambridge National levels 1 and 2 (**vocational** GCSE equivalent).
Outline of topics	• Job Roles in the NHS and health services • Working with children in a childcare facility. • Maintaining a healthy lifestyle including diet, exercise, substance use and relationships • Looking at public services • Understanding the principles that underpin the care industry including their individual codes of practice.
Assessment	Students will complete three assessments. One external written examination worth 40% of the qualification and two internally assessed coursework pieces worth 30% each. Coursework one is completed in year 10 and coursework two is completed in year 11.
Career options:	**Careers in:** • Nursing • Midwifery • Nursery Nurse/child minding • Primary school teacher/special needs teacher • Medicine/Doctor/GP/Surgeon • Paramedic • Pharmacist • Care worker • Social Worker/councillor
Additional Information	We have the fantastic opportunity to visit, and be visited by, Health and Social Care services and professionals. This is to support the vocational aspect of the qualification. Results have been outstanding for a sustained number of years. Uptake at GCSE is popular for this course. **Please talk to Miss Edmunds for further information.**

History

*Choosing this subject along with a language option counts towards the EBACC.

Subject	GCSE History Full Course - AQA
Type of course	GCSE full course
Outline of topics	The GCSE consists of two exam papers. **Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World (50%)** **Section A: America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality** American people and the 'Boom', Bust – Americans' experiences of the Depression and New Deal, Post-War America, **Section B: Conflict and Tension in Asia, 1950-1975** Conflict in Korea, Escalation of conflict in Vietnam, The ending of conflict in Vietnam. **Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation (50%)** **Section A: Britain: Health and the people: C1000 to Present Day** Medicine stands still, The beginnings of change, A revolution in Medicine, Modern medicine. **Section B: Elizabethan England, c1568-1603** Elizabeth's court and parliament, Life in Elizabethan times, Troubles at home and abroad, The historic environment of Elizabethan England.
Assessment	Paper 1 is worth 50% of the GCSE. Paper 2 is worth 50% of the overall mark. Both will be examined in Year 11.
What you can do next	AS and A Level History, Politics, Law, Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics, Economics, English. History equips you with excellent decision-making skills and improves written communication.
Additional Information	History is an excellent foundation for a variety of jobs. It helps you understand the origin of modern social and political problems and teaches you how to think and process information. **Talk to your History teacher for more information**

Additional Mathematics

Subject	Mathematics
Type of course	OCR FSMQ (Free Standing Mathematics Qualification)
Outline of topics	We run this course in parallel with our GCSE Mathematics programme. Additional Mathematics is for our high achievers to ensure they achieve their maximum potential. They will have the opportunity to sit this qualification in Year 11.
Assessment	One two-hour paper (calculator).
What you can do next	This qualification is marked in a similar manner to A Level Mathematics. Moreover, the qualification awards UCAS points. Learners generally progress onto A Level Mathematics and/or Engineering/ Physics. **Talk to your Maths teacher for more information**



Modern Foreign Languages

*Choosing this subject along with a humanities option counts towards the EBACC

Subject	The following specifications apply to: French, German and Spanish
Type of course	GCSE French AQA 8652 - GCSE German AQA 8662 - GCSE Spanish AQA 8692
Outline of topics	Compulsory topics will be linked to people and lifestyle, popular culture, and communication and the world around us. Papers will include short translations from and into the target language. There will be a mixture of English and target-language questions in the exams along with authentic stimuli in the reading paper, and a focus on phonics and reading aloud in the target language on the speaking exam. All final exams will take place at the end of year 11 with mock exams taking place in year 10 and 11.
Assessment	**Paper 1: Listening 25% of the marks at Foundation and Higher tier (externally assessed)** **Paper 2: Speaking 25% of the marks at Foundation and Higher tier (externally assessed)** **Paper 3: Reading 25% of the marks at Foundation and Higher tier (externally assessed)** **Paper 4: Writing 25% of the marks at Foundation and Higher tier (externally assessed)**
What you can do next	AS and A Level in the above languages. BTEC in Travel and Tourism, public services, hospitality & catering. Apprenticeships in leisure, travel & tourism, retail & commercial enterprise, health, public services, education & training.
Additional Information	Languages also provide the essential life skills of communication and multi-tasking. They can increase your confidence and prove to employers that you are open to new challenges. Languages provide you with the essential edge to compete in a global economy. Native speakers can be entered for the GCSE and do not need to choose it as an option. At Fairfield we are committed to entering KS4 students in a GCSE of their native language, providing there is an exam qualification available for that language. Previously, students have sat an exam for Arabic, Cantonese, German, Greek, Italian, Mandarin, Panjabi, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, French, Bengali and Turkish. If your child is interested in pursuing this opportunity, please click on the QR code below.

Community Language GCSE - YEAR 9 Declaration of Interest 2024



Music

Subject	Music
Type of course	Full GCSE - OCR Syllabus
Outline of topics Sample topics	Three components: • Understanding music – Listening Exam. • Performing music. • Composing music. World Music, (African, Israeli, Greek etc.). Pop Music, (Pop, Dance, Rock, Blues, Jazz, etc.). Classical Music, (Concerto Through Time), Film & Computer Game Music.
Assessment	**Component 1 – Understanding Music** – 40% - Listening exam on Areas of Study and Listening & Understanding. Externally examined. **Component 2 – Performing Music** – 30% - Students perform 2 pieces of music for assessment – 1 solo and 1 ensemble piece. Minimum of 4 minutes total. **Component 3 – Composing Music** – 30% - Composition 1 – Composing to a given brief (4 briefs released by OCR each academic year). Composition 2 – free composition. Both of these pieces of coursework are marked by the teacher.
What you can do next with the GCSE	Music is at the very heart of all cultures around the World. It is an expressive art that can portray with sounds the emotions that are part of the human experience. There are many career paths that lead on from a formal Music education at GCSE level. Playing an instrument and developing an understanding of Music can bring rewards such as lifelong enjoyment and satisfaction. Music is a vibrant and essential cornerstone of society, necessary for forming and expressing our cultural and personal identities, beliefs and values.
Additional Information	Students will have the opportunity to perform at and attend a number of extra-curricular activities throughout the course of the GCSE. There is a great feeling of being part of a team at GCSE where all are welcome. Having prior experience in an instrument/singing /DJ'ing /rapping /production is important in order to support coursework requirements. **Talk to your Mr. Roderick for more information**





Sport Science

Subject	Sport Science
Type of course	OCR Cambridge National Certificate Level 2 (vocational GCSE equivalent)
Outline of topics	60% Coursework 40% 1Hr 15 min Written Examination
Assessment	**Component R180: Reducing the risk of Sport Injuries and dealing with common medical conditions** Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour 15 mins – 70 marks (80 UMS) Learners answer all questions **Component R181: Applying Principles of Training: fitness and how it affects skill performance** Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated 80 marks (80 UMS) The set assignment contains 5 practical tasks **Component R182: The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this** Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated 40 marks (40 UMS) The set assignment contains 3 practical tasks
What you can do next	Students with an OCR Cambridge National in Sport Science can go forward to Level 3 sport studies courses, physiotherapy, coaching awards, public services courses, as well AS and A-level courses.
Additional Information	**Students need to be achieving a level 5 or more in Science and Maths. Students will have to have demonstrated a high level of participation across key stage three in at least 2 different activities.** **Talk to Mr. Goodchild for more information**







Fairfield High School

Achieving Excellence