

The Thomas Alleyne Academy



Key Stage 4 Options booklet 2016-2017

A guide for parents and students

Founded 1558



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Years 10 and 11

2017-2019

How to use this booklet

- This booklet will provide you with information about the curriculum for students from September 2017.
- To help students make the right decisions in selecting their preferred courses, we offer some guidance on how best to make a choice. We then provide specific details of the courses offered.
- The parents' evening will give you the chance to meet with subject teachers to review current progress and get further advice about key stage 4 courses in option subjects.
- You may also wish to discuss issues with senior staff, form tutors or members of the pastoral team:

Mr M Lewis: Headteacher
Mrs M Cook: Deputy Headteacher
Ms C Tyrwhitt: Assistant Headteacher

Mrs S Jahan: Progress Co-ordinator for Year 9
Ms L Brooker: Student support for Year 9

Introduction

This booklet has been written to aid the selection of the most appropriate courses in Years 10 and 11 for your child.

In Key Stage 4, our curriculum aims are that:

- every student is entitled to follow a challenging and balanced curriculum, appropriate to his or her abilities and needs;
- we provide good progression routes from Key Stage 4 to post-16 education and training.

Guidance and Support

The key to success is by making the right choices. We would suggest that the key questions to ask when choosing a subject are:

- Will I enjoy it?
- Will I be successful at it?
- Will it support my future career plans?

Students will be supported and helped in their search to answer these questions and choose subjects wisely. We will be working closely with parents and students to get the best possible curriculum for every student.

Key Guidance Dates

- Tuesday 10th January 2017 - Year 9 Parents'/Options Evening
- Friday 27th January 2017 - deadline for handing in options form
- Monday 20th February 2017 - individual interviews commence for some students
- April/May 2017 - Options finalised and letter sent home to parents

Who can help?

Name	Role	Email Contact
Mrs M Cook	Deputy Headteacher	cookm@tas.herts.sch.uk
Mrs S Jahan	Head of Year 9	jahans@tas.herts.sch.uk
Mrs L Brooker	Student Support for Year 9	brookerl@tas.herts.sch.uk

Connexions – Careers Drop-in sessions: Thursday lunchtimes (all students welcome)

Summary of the Curriculum

The Core Curriculum

More than half of your curriculum will consist of those subjects which are compulsory for all students.

The core subjects will take up 60% of your curriculum time.

Subject	% of curriculum time	Qualification	Grades available
English Language and English Literature	16	2 x GCSEs	1-9
Maths	14	1 x GCSE	1-9
Science* *Students will have the option to enhance their studies by taking an extra science course in the options	20	2 x GCSEs	1-9
Philosophy for Life	2	N/A	
PE	8	N/A	
Total	60		

Options

The remaining 40% of the timetable is for optional subjects. While we try to give as much choice as possible we cannot guarantee that everyone will get all of the preferences they would like. We will also check the choices made and talk to students if we are concerned that they make be taking on an unsuitable course of study.

Most students at the age of 14 do not have a clear idea about careers therefore we advise most students to take a balanced range of subjects so that they keep options open for the future.

What subjects can I chose?

Students will need to select a maximum of 4 subjects in total, including at least one subject from list A. All subjects are GCSE qualifications unless otherwise indicated.

List A Choose <i>at least 1</i> subject from this list:	List B Choose the remainder of subjects from this list:
Computer Science	Art & Design
French	Business Studies
Geography	Drama
History	Hospitality & Catering
Triple Science	Music
Spanish	PE
	Product Design
	Religious Studies
	Sports Studies (BTEC)
	Practical Learning Opportunities at NHC (Vocational learning course)

Practical Learning Opportunities

Some students may well benefit from a more practical approach to their education. Therefore some students can be provided with a practical learning opportunity (PLO) run at North Hertfordshire College. These courses are run for half a day each week, typically in the areas of: construction, motor vehicle maintenance and hair & beauty and will lead to a vocational qualification.

If opting for a PLO students must choose this option plus 2 more from the subjects offered in school. If you would like to discuss this opportunity further please contact Mrs Cook.

Making Your Choices

Good reasons for choosing subjects



Build on success:

- Choose subjects in which you feel you will do well.
- Use the information from your snapshot to help you make an informed choice.
- Talk to teachers in your lessons and on parents' evening.



Go for motivation:

- Consider the balance of workload and skills needed across your subject choices.
- Choose subjects which interest you so that you are likely to work hard and do well.



Think about your future career:

- Students' ideas about future careers will probably change; employment opportunities and entry requirements certainly will. This is why we offer a broad curriculum which keeps options for the future open. We want to make sure that your education enables you to adapt to changes during your working lives and respond to future opportunities.
- If you do have an idea about the specific career you want to follow, check out the qualifications you need. Looking online will provide lots of useful information. You could also check the action plan you have completed in PSHE lessons.
- If you would like more careers advice and guidance you are welcome to attend the Connexions careers drop-in session which takes place every Thursday lunchtime. Please see Mrs Swain for more details..



Plan for 16 and beyond:

- You will be expected to stay in some form of education or training beyond the age of 16.
- Some students will stay in school and enter the sixth form, where the courses cater for a range of abilities and interests.
- Some students will continue their education and training at college or with an employer through an apprenticeship.
- **Plan now to make the best of your future!**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much choice of subjects will my child have in Key Stage 4?

All students are able to choose subjects covering 40% of their curriculum time.

2. What are the core subjects?

All students study the common core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Philosophy for Life and PE.

3. What information and guidance has been given to students before they make their choices?

All students have been looking at choices and options in their careers sessions during PSHE lessons this term.

4. Can my son/ daughter access careers advice and guidance?

Careers advice and guidance is available at the Connexions careers drop-in session which takes place every Thursday lunchtime. Any students is welcome to attend.

5. What should I do now?

Read through the information provided in this booklet and discuss your child's choices at home and on parents' evening on **Tuesday 10th January 2017**. Complete the options form and return to the school by **Friday 27th January 2017**.

6. When will my child know if they have got their choice of options?

After students have submitted their options forms we will work hard organising the timetable for next year. We hope to have final options confirmed by **April/May 2017**.

7. Will all students be able to take the subjects they have chosen?

We hope so but cannot guarantee it. We will do our best to ensure most students get their first choices. Staffing and timetable constraints influence these decisions.

8. Does my son/daughter need to know what job or career they want?

It is always helpful to have a goal to aim for but not essential. We have considered progression routes for all our students to keep their options open. The core curriculum covers most choices of courses or careers at post 16.

9. Where can I seek further guidance?

For further information please see the following link:

<https://www.plotr.co.uk/advice/articles/choosing-gcse-options-19-questions-to-ask-yourself/#8>



Subject Information

More details about each subject can be found on the following pages.

Subject	Pages
Art & Design	9
Business Studies	10
Computer Science	11
Design Technology: Hospitality	12
Design Technology: Product Design	13
Drama	14
English Language	15
English Literature	16
Languages: French	17
Languages: Spanish	18
Geography	19
History	20
Maths	21
Music	22
Religious Studies	23
Science	24
Sport Studies	26
PE	27

Art & Design

What is the title of this course?

Art & Design

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Basic Elements

- Drawing
- Painting
- Modelling
- Photography (digital)
- Study of the History of Art
- Collage
- Sculpture
- Textiles

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

You will be given the opportunity to discover where your talents and interests lie, and will be encouraged to develop your artistic abilities and skills in drawing, painting and three dimensional work.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework (60%) internally set, internally marked and externally moderated.

Examination (40%) internally marked, externally set and moderated.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

The training in Fine Art is, by its nature, flexible. It is an essential foundation for any student wishing to take A level Art and for those wishing to continue further education at art school. Skills in the visual arts can lead to employment in many areas, e.g. fine art, graphics, film and video photography, model making, interior design, fashion, ceramics, print making, book illustration, jewellery design and architecture.

Business Studies

What is the title of this course?

Business Studies

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

'Real life' business materials are used in lessons to support the learning of 2 core themes:

Theme 1 - Introduction to small business and **Theme 2** - Building a business.

Studying topics such as:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Understanding external influences on business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making financial decisions

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

You will be taught the theory needed to apply to real business situations, enabling you to learn through practical experiences using activities such as: role play, market research, quizzes, games and case studies. This course will involve a great deal of decision making and hard work. You will need to plan your time and work independently, as well as be highly organised in order to be successful in this course.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Business Studies is made up of 100% external assessment at the end of year 11 via two, 1 hour 30 min exams.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Possible future educational routes include 6th form to study A level Business, college courses at level 3 or an apprenticeship.

Computer Science

What is the title of this course?

Computer Science

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Fundamentals of cyber security
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
8. Aspects of software development

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

Although this course has a theory component, a large amount of your time will be spent computer programming to help you learn the core concepts around creating software applications. It is essential that you are willing to try coding out of lessons as well as when taught in class. Activities are varied with the subject content being taught within a range of realistic contexts, based around the major themes within the specification of web, mobile, gaming and more traditional coding systems. You will benefit from being taught in a practical, 'hands-on' way to gain the most from the specification. For example, algorithms are taught alongside programming techniques as there is a close relationship between them.

How will I be assessed?

80% of your final mark will be assessed through two exam papers. Paper 1 tests computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing along with theoretical knowledge of computer science from subject content 1–4 above. Paper 2 tests theoretical knowledge from subject content 3–7 above. The range of types of questions range from very short to extended answers. The final 20% of the mark is a non-exam assessment (NEA) which assesses a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical programming problem.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering, is growing rapidly.

Typical progression could include: A-Level Computing, BTEC ICT courses at level 3. Careers may include roles such as: Jnior Programmer, Self-employed Application Developer for Android devices, Games developer, Web Designer, Database Administrator, Network Architect.

Hospitality and Catering

What is the title of this course?

Hospitality and Catering

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

A vocational award: Level 1 or Level 2 in Hospitality and Catering

What are the main topics I will be taught?

This course concentrates on the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

Lessons will be theory and practical-based to ensure students acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding they need to succeed. Students will be required to purchase chef whites to be worn in all practical tasks. There must be a commitment required to purchase ingredients for practical tasks. Students will complete a range of practical tasks as well as looking at case studies of the industry.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be externally assessed with an online examination that lasts 90 minutes. You will be graded as follows:

- Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed.

This involves you completing a piece of controlled assessment in school under examination conditions. You will be set a task and will have to safely plan, prepare, **cook** and present nutritional dishes.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

This qualification will help you develop the essential skills to move into employment, training and further education. You could move onto NVQs, BTEC Hospitality and Catering courses, as well as a vast range of employment opportunities.

Product Design

What is the title of this course?

Product Design

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

- The working characteristics of paper, card, textiles, electronic components and resistant materials – wood, metal and plastics, including new materials such as precious metal, clays and shape memory alloys.
- Manufacturing techniques and processes.
- Quality control and other industrial practices will be applied to workshop situations.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and understanding in the field of CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Machining).

Our world is full of products which have been designed to meet the needs and wants of different groups of people. In Product Design you will learn how designers have to make compromises with regard to styling, materials and manufacturing processes as well as taking account of moral, ethical and sustainability issues, and be prepared to sustain a project for a prolonged period of time.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

This course offers you the opportunity to design, make and evaluate solutions to needs arising from real life situations. The products produced may be one-off or batched produced. The main aim of this course is to involve you in designing and making good quality products or prototypes. During the course you will develop your understanding of materials, industrial applications, and systems and control. The project style of work undertaken at Key Stage 3 is continued with a specialisation in paper, card and textiles or resistant materials. This course will involve you in a great deal of decision making and hard work. You will need to plan ahead and be highly organised.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed internally and externally.

In Year 11 all students will undertake a project covering all aspects of designing and making which should result in a product designed to meet a particular need. 60% of the marks are allocated for this project. The remaining 40% of the marks are allocated for a written paper taken in the summer term of Year 11. It should be noted that the specification and assessment may change for examinations taken from 2018 onwards.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education and/or employment with training. You will acquire a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding which will help you to become a better informed consumer in the real world, as well as a successful designer of products which you can be proud of.

Drama

What is the title of this course?

Drama

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

You will be taught to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- different genres and performance styles;
- the ways in which meaning is communicated through drama;
- a range of staging and performance conventions;
- drama terminology and how to use it appropriately;
- how plays are constructed and realised through the study of a published play;
- how to create, interpret and communicate a role or character;
- drama within its social, cultural and historical context.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

GCSE Drama follows on from drama work at Key Stage 3 and will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level. You will look at plays in more detail and look at different ways of bringing a script alive on stage. You will also see live performances of professional plays.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre 40% You will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus. You will also complete a portfolio of your work and an evaluation of the performance.

Component 2: Performing from a Text 20% You will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study two extracts from the same performance text and participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts

Component 3: Written examination: 40% Section A: Set Text A series of questions on a set text
Section B: Live Theatre Review One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Possible progression within education could include: AS or A level in Drama and Theatre Studies, A level Performing Arts or a BTEC in Performing Arts or Performance Design and Technology. The skills developed during this course are useful in fields such as: retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face.

English Language

What is the title of this course?

English Language

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

GCSE English Language is an exciting and diverse course. You will cover three main areas of study: reading, writing and speaking and listening. Each is further broken down into specific areas to provide you with the best possible skills and knowledge.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

Students analyse a range of fiction and non-fiction texts in preparation for examination at the end of year 11. Students develop writing skills for a variety of purposes and audiences, from creative to practical tasks.

How will I be assessed?

100% of the marks are awarded for 2 written exam papers
A separate speaking and listening component must be completed

Speaking and Listening

Students will be asked to give an individual presentation, in front of an audience, and then answer questions. The presentation is required to be audio and visually recorded. Each assessment focuses on a different skills base. These are marked internally. The marks do not count towards the final GCSE English Language grade, but instead will be reported as a separate award.

Written examinations

There are two written examinations:
Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

This is one of the core GCSE subjects and all sixth forms, colleges, universities and employers will look for a good pass in English as an indication of good communication skills.

Most sixth forms and colleges will require a GCSE grade 5 or above to access level 3 courses.

English Literature

What is the title of this course?

English Literature

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

GCSE English Literature is closely linked to GCSE English Language, but further tests and rewards students who enjoy reading and analysing texts. GCSE English Literature will be studied alongside English Language during English lessons and students will receive two separate grades as a result.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

GCSE English Literature involves analysing texts and developing interpretations of prose, plays and poetry, giving students the opportunity to speculate about the writers' intentions. Students also develop their understanding of the historical and social influences surrounding each text studied and many classroom activities revolve around listening to peers' ideas and writing succinct explanations.

How will I be assessed?

Written Examinations

Students will complete two examinations. The questions in both papers are based on a wide range of literary texts studied over the two year course, including pre-twentieth century and modern texts as well as literature that gives the students experiences of different cultures

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th -century novel – worth 40% of final award.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry - worth 60% of final award.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

English Literature is a firm favourite of people with aspirations towards further studies, since a high level of attainment demonstrates a keen mind and inquisitive nature. Due to the combination of analysis and imagination, this is suitable for people who want to progress into more creative subjects.

French

What is the title of this course?

French

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

- Media and culture
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and tourism
- Business work and employment

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

You will learn more about France and countries where French is spoken. You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public and using problem solving strategies. You will work independently at times and also in groups to practice speaking tasks, prepare presentations and create role plays.

How will I be assessed?

In 4 units based on the following skills: Listening, speaking, reading, writing.
You can sit the exams at foundation or higher tier.

Listening examination in June of Year 11 assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the whole GCSE

There are two sections to this paper, one set in English and the other section set in French.

Reading examination in June of Year 11 assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the total GCSE

This exam will also include a translation from French into English.

Speaking is assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the total GCSE

The spoken exam will be conducted with your teacher and will be made up of three parts: role play, picture based discussion and general conversation.

Writing examination in June of Year 11 assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the total GCSE

Depending on the tier, you will either be completing two or three pieces of extended writing on the four topic areas, as well as a translation from English into French.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

You will be able to study AS and A2 French courses.

GCSE French will add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV. You will be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad.

Spanish

What is the title of this course?

Spanish

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

- Media and culture
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and tourism
- Business work and employment

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

You will learn more about Spain and countries where Spanish is spoken. You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public and using problem solving strategies. You will work independently at times and also in groups to practice speaking tasks, prepare presentations and create role plays.

How will I be assessed?

4 units based on the following skills: Listening, speaking, reading, writing.
You can sit the exams at either foundation or higher tier.

Listening examination in June of Year 11 assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the whole GCSE

There are two sections to this paper, one set in English and the other section set in Spanish.

Reading examination in June of Year 11 assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the total GCSE

This exam will also include a translation from Spanish into English.

Speaking is assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the total GCSE

The spoken exam will be conducted with your teacher and will be made up of three parts: role-play, picture based discussion and general conversation.

Writing examination in June of Year 11 assessed by Edexcel - 25% of the total GCSE

Depending on the tier, you will either be completing two or three pieces of extended writing on the four topic areas, as well as a translation from English into Spanish.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

You will be able to study AS and A2 Spanish courses.

Your GCSE will add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV. You will be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad.

Geography

What is the title of this course?

Geography

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues

Topics include Hazardous Earth, studying tropical storms and tectonic hazards; Development Dynamics, studying an emerging country and Challenges of an Urbanising World.

Component 2: UK Geographical Issues.

Topics include the UK's evolving physical landscape and the UK's evolving human landscape; there is fieldwork element for both aspects of this component.

Component 3: People and environment issue, focusing on:

- People and the biosphere
- Forests under threat
- Consuming Energy Resources

What types of learning activities will I undertake?

You will experience a wide and varied range of learning opportunities. You will undertake independent research, decision-making exercises and develop your knowledge of places around the world. You will also attend a fieldtrip in order to prepare and develop your understanding of human and physical geography within the UK.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: a single examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, total 37.5% of the qualification.

Component 2: a single examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, total 37.5% of the qualification.

Component 3: a single examination lasting 1 hour 15 minutes, total 35% of the qualification.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

You will be able to extend your studies to AS and A2 Geography; all employers and universities value the broad range of skills provided by Geography.

GCSE Geography provides an excellent preparation for careers in:

- town planning, water and countryside management;
- tourism and recreation;
- ecology and marine biology;
- environmental conservation.

History

What is the title of this course?

History

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

The course requires students to cover four individual units with each unit representing 25% of the course.

Unit/Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment: crime and punishment in Britain 1000 to the present, and Whitechapel (1870-1900).

Unit/Paper 2 (Part 1): Period study, The American West, 1835-1895.

Unit/Paper 2 (Part 2): British depth study, Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-1088.

Unit/Paper 3: Modern Depth Study, Weimar and Nazis Germany, 1918-39.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

The four units studied are designed to develop key historical/everyday life skills. You will need to demonstrate knowledge of key individuals and events. You will have to analyse and interpret evidence, events and outcomes. You will be required to show a balanced understanding of these events and make informed judgments. You will have the opportunity to visit the Jack the Ripper Museum in London's East End.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: a single examination lasting 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 30% of the qualification.

Unit 2: a single examination lasting 1 hour 45 minutes, worth 40% of the qualification.

Unit 3: a single examination lasting 1 hour 20 minutes, total 30% of the qualification.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Students opting for this subject will have the opportunity to develop many of the valuable life skills demanded by employers. Should students wish to extend their learning, these skills are equally valued by schools and colleges and could provide a stepping stone to university.

Mathematics

What is the title of this course?

Mathematics

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Students will learn to demonstrate their knowledge understanding and skills in the following:

AO1 – Recall and use knowledge of the prescribed content

- *‘Know it’*

AO2 – Select and apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts

- *‘Select it’*

AO3 – Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them

- *‘Solve it’*

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

You will use textbooks written specially by the examination board. In addition, we encourage the use of the internet, interactive programmes and extended activities which allows you the chance to develop independent learning. You are encouraged to develop your mathematical potential and apply your learning to everyday situations and real-life problems.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit three exam papers at either Foundation or Higher level.

Higher level covers grades 4-9

Foundation level covers grades 1-5

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Maths is a key qualification and will be looked at by all employers, colleges and universities. The skills are particularly useful for careers and courses in science, engineering, surveying, actuarial work & accountancy, to name but a few. In addition, there are many practical applications of the mathematics taught, for example in building, hairdressing and sports.

Most sixth forms and colleges will require a GCSE grade 5 or above to access level 3 courses.

Music

What is the title of this course?

Music

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

The three main areas are: Performing, Composing and Listening & Appraising

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

In the classroom:

- You will learn about all sorts of music, eg classical, jazz, pop/rock, film soundtracks, video game music, music from other countries/cultures.
- You will sometimes work independently and sometimes in a group.
- You will learn how to compose your own musical ideas and use music writing software.

Outside of the classroom:

- One-to-one lessons with a specialist tutor on your chosen instrument or voice will prepare you for your solo and ensemble performances.
- Music Theory homework will help you to become confident at reading and writing music.
- You should be prepared to join an extra-curricular music group such as choir or orchestra, or start your own band/group.

How will I be assessed?

Performing (30%) – You will record solo and group performances throughout the course. Final recordings will be done and submitted to the exam board in Year 11.

Composing (30%) – You will write your own compositions throughout the course. Final compositions will be created and submitted to the exam board in Year 11.

Listening & Appraising (40%) – you will sit a listening exam in Year 11 where you will listen to extracts of music played on a CD and answer questions about the music.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

GCSE Music is a solid foundation for AS and A Level Music or Music Technology. It is also good preparation for further musical study, for example BTEC Performing Arts. You could then progress to a Music or Arts degree at university and follow a music-related career, eg session musician, conductor, composer of music for TV or adverts or video games, radio producer, radio researcher, music librarian, music critic/journalist, teacher, music therapist, music publisher or editor, arts administrator, publicist, A & R manager, work for a record label, sound technician, event organiser...

Religious Studies

What is the title of this course?

AQA Religious Studies Specification A: Christianity and Islam

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Component 1: Teachings and beliefs of Christianity and Islam.

Component 2: Of the six study themes that are offered, we will focus on the following four study themes:

Theme A - Relationships and families.

Theme B - Religion and life.

Theme C - The existence of God and revelation.

Theme E - Religion, crime and punishment.

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

The components are designed to increase and develop your awareness of the diversity both within and between the religions studied. In addition, you will develop an understanding of the links between faith and ethics. Other opportunities include:

- hearing survivor testimony;
- visiting The Jewish Museum in Camden;
- visiting the Sacred Texts workshop at The British Library.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: a single exam, lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes, total 50% of the qualification.
Component 2: a single exam, lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes, total 50% of the qualification.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Studying GCSE Religious Studies will help you develop your awareness and understanding about a number of relevant, controversial issues that are often a cause of conflicting opinions. It will help you develop your enquiry skills, express your opinions and learn to accept the views of others if contradictory to your own. All these are valuable life skills that are sought after by employers, schools or colleges, or for students who wish to extend their education.

Science

What is the title of this course?

GCSEC Science:

Most students will study AQA Combined Science: Trilogy

Triple Award Option:

This is as an option for students who may wish to go on to study Sciences at post-16. Students follow three courses: AQA Biology, Chemistry and Physics

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

Core and Additional Science GCSE:

2 GCSE grades 1-9

Triple Award Option:

3 GCSE grades 1-9

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Biology

1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology
8. Key ideas

Chemistry

1. Atomic Structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using Resources

Physics

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics (physics only)

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

All science courses involve practical work, written tasks, research tasks, use of ICT, discussion and debate, problem solving and investigation. The practical elements of Science work is all assessed through the completion of required practicals which are tested in the unit exams. These skills are also embedded throughout the curriculum we teach.

How will I be assessed?

Each GCSE course is comprised of unit examinations worth 100% of the course.

Core and Additional Science:

Students will sit a total of 6 exams. Each exam lasts 1 hour 15 minutes.

Triple Science option:

Students complete a total of 6 exams. Each exam is 1 hour 45mins in length.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

Good GCSE grades in science are needed for a number of careers.

Students who are successful at either GCSE route can go onto study sciences at A-Level and beyond. This can lead to careers in a range of fields, including: medicine, veterinary science, sports science, forensic science, environmental science, astronomy or engineering.

Sports Studies

What is the title of this course?

NQF BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Sport
Sports Leaders Level 1 Award

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

BTEC qualification/GCSE equivalent

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Fitness for Sport and Exercise
Practical Sports Performance
The Sports Performer in Action
Leading Sports Activities

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

Lessons will be a mixture of both practical and theory. Theoretical lessons will be either taught or will be used to complete coursework. Practical lessons will be based around different sports or will be focussed on a theoretical topic, for example 'heart rate recovery times after exercise'.

The Sports Leaders Award will involve 30 hours of coaching younger learners at TAA or a local primary school.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a range of assignments and exams:

- Fitness for Sport and Exercise unit – 1 hour exam
- Practical Sports Performance unit – 3 assignments
- The Sports Performer in Action unit – 2 assignments
- Leading Sports Activities unit – 3 assignments

All assignments are coursework based and students must pass all the assignments and the exam in order to pass the whole course. All assignments are marked using a Pass, Merit or Distinction criteria.

The Sports Leaders Award will be passed if 30 hours of coaching is completed and assessed by a member of staff.

What are the possible progression routes once I have this qualification?

- BTEC Nationals in Sport – equivalent to A levels
- Sports Leaders Level 2 Award

Careers in fields such as: the sports and leisure industry, Sports administration and management, Coaching, Physiotherapy, Sport Science, Sports Analyst, Personal Training, Teaching or Police, Fire Service or Armed Forces.

PE

What is the title of this course?

GCSE PE and Sports Leaders Level 1 Award

What level of qualification will I gain at the end of the course?

GCSE 1-9
Sports Leaders Level 1 Award

What are the main topics I will be taught?

Applied anatomy and physiology
Movement analysis
Physical training
Health, fitness and well-being
Sport psychology
Socio-cultural influences

What type of learning activities will I undertake?

Lessons will be a mixture of both practical and theory. Theoretical lessons will be taught, used for exam revision or used to complete the Personal Exercise Programme. Practical lessons will be based around different sports in which the ability and knowledge of the performer will be assessed. The Sports Leaders Award will involve 30 hours of coaching younger learners at TAA or a local primary school.

How will I be assessed?

Two exam papers – scientific and social 60%, Practical Performance 30% and Performance Analysis 10%

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems. Written exam - 1 hour and 45 minutes, 90 marks, **36%**

Component 2: Health and Performance. Written exam - 1 hour and 15 minutes, 70 marks, **24%**

Component 3: Practical Performance. Practical assessment and rules tests - 90 marks, **30%**

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme. Coursework - 20 marks, **10%**

The Sports Leaders Award will be passed if 30 hours of coaching is completed and assessed by a member of staff.

The Thomas Alleyne Academy GCSE Option Choices 2017



Student's Name:

Form group:

Core GCSEs

All students take GCSEs in: English Language, English Literature, Maths, and Combined Science

List A

Choose **at least one** subject from this list:

- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Triple Science *

*Choosing Triple Science means students will complete separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Please complete this list in order of preference.

Option Choice 1:

Option Choice 2:

Option Choice 3:

Option Choice 4:

Reserve Choice 1:

Reserve Choice 2:

List B

Choose the remainder of subjects from this list:

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Drama
- Hospitality & Catering
- Music
- PE (GCSE)
- Product Design
- Religious Studies
- Sports Studies (BTEC)
- Practical Learning Opportunities at NHC

Any additional comments/information:

This is a sample copy of the options process form and should not be filled in. The actual form to be completed will be given out at the parents' evening on Tuesday 10th January 2017.