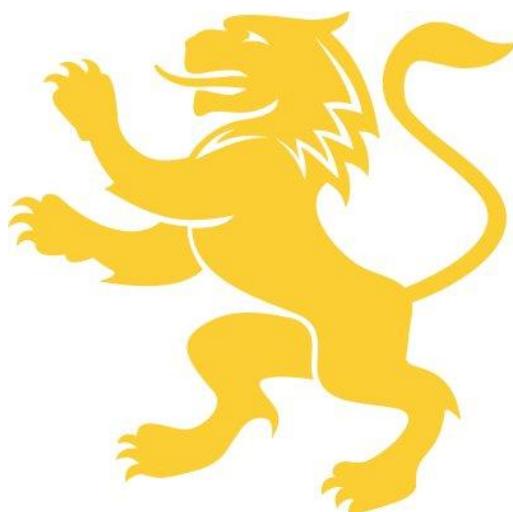


A Guide to Key Stage 4 Courses 2026-2028

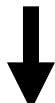


Year 9 Options Process 2025/26: Key Dates

Thursday 5th February: Options assembly for Year 9 students to introduce the options process with Mr Bedford (Headteacher)



Thursday 5th February: Options Booklet available to students and parents through the website

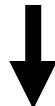


Thursday 5th February: Year 9 Options Evening

Options form goes live on MS Teams at 4.30pm



W.B. 9th February: Students work with mentors and lead adults to consider the subjects they enjoy, are good at and might be interested in at Year 9



Monday 23rd February: Deadline for options form submissions

Subjects

All students must take:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (the Science department will talk with students about the most appropriate route for them)
- Religious Studies
- Core Physical Education (non-examined)
- PSHRE (non-examined)

Languages:

Studying a foreign language is highly recommended for all students. If a different pathway is being considered, students will be asked to provide a clear and valid reason for this decision.

Humanities:

History and Geography are no longer mandatory subjects but recommend the study of History or Geography as a facilitating subject for students wishing to take A levels and progress to higher education (university).

Only in exceptional cases, will we allow students to continue into Year 10 without studying a language or a humanity.

Options subjects:

Students will choose three out of:

- Languages (strongly recommended)
- History (recommended for students wishing to take A levels and progress to higher education)
- Geography (recommended for those for students wishing to take A levels and progress to higher education)
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Engineering
- Film Studies
- Fine art
- Food and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- German
- Graphic Communications
- IMedia
- Mandarin (all students currently taking Mandarin Chinese are expected to take it for GCSE. This is part of the funding agreement for the China Trip).
- Music

- Photography
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Spanish

In class activities – To be completed during the virtual presentation lesson on Thursday 5th February

First step: subjects

You will need to think carefully about:

1. How you learn
2. What subjects and courses you like
3. What subjects might help you in the future (do you need to see Mrs Kang on options evening)?

Which subjects do I like?	Why?

Which subjects do I do well in?	Why?

Which subjects do I struggle with?	Why?

Which new subjects would I like to try?	Why?

Are there any questions I want to ask on options evening?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Second steps: How do I learn best?

It is important to choose subjects that interest and motivate you.

With your parents/carers or a teacher do the quiz below to find out the areas that might suit you best.

I learn best by (tick any that apply):

- Seeing and reading
- Listening and talking
- Being active and doing
- Doing projects
- Doing tests and exams

I learn best by:

A

- Building things
- Being active
- Making and fixing things
- Using tools and machines
- Solving problems

D

- Finding out how things work
- Doing experiments
- Researching and testing ideas
- Designing a new computer game
- Doing calculations

B

- Designing and presenting things
- Writing a book
- Playing in a band
- Changing the way things look

E

- Organising social events and activities
- Buying and selling things
- Running a business
- Entering competitions
- Debating

C

- Helping people
- Sorting out arguments
- Teaching others
- Looks after people
- Doing voluntary activities

F

- Making plans
- Using a computer or calculator
- Arranging things over the phone
- Organising things (eg. Money, systems)

Mostly As

You seem to like **practical** work.

Are there options where you can use your practical skills and learn whilst being active?



Subject ideas:

Design and Technology, Food Technology, Engineering, Physical Education

Mostly Bs

You sound **creative**.

Are there options where you can express yourself and work on new ideas?



Subject ideas:

Art, Photography, Graphics, Languages, Design Technology, Film Studies, Drama, Music, Creative iMedia (ICT)

Mostly Cs

You seem to **get on well with people**.

Are there options where you can find out more about people and how society works?



Subject ideas:

History, Geography, Languages, Psychology, Drama

Mostly Ds

You seem to like **investigating** things.

Are there options where you can use your number and thinking skills to find out more about why things?



Subject ideas:

Science, Geography, Mathematics, Design Technology, Engineering, Computer Science

Mostly Es

You seem to be **enterprising**

Are there options where you can use your energy, communication, number and thinking skills to test your ideas?



Subject ideas:

Business Studies, Computer Science, Languages, Psychology

Mostly Fs

You seem to be **well organised**.

Are there options where you can use your planning, communication and computer skills to find out more?



Subject ideas:

Business Studies, History, Geography, Creative iMedia (ICT), Computer Science, Film Studies

Third Steps: What questions should I be asking?

1. Would the subject/course suit me?
2. What types of assessments am I most successful with?
3. How are the subjects assessed, and will that suit me?
4. How much homework will I get?
5. How do I manage the workload?
6. How much practical work is there?
7. Is there fieldwork? What will this involve?
8. Is there anything I will need for this subject?
9. Who can help answer my questions and/or give me advice?
10. Which teachers should I see at options evening?
11. Do I have any ideas about which subjects I might want to study at sixth form or college?
12. Do I have any ideas about possible careers? Which subjects might help with these?

My research shopping list

With your teacher and your parents/carers, discuss the things you need to find out, and list these below (it would be sensible to take the list to options evening).

To do checklist – before you submit your form

I have:

- Read through this options booklet carefully
- Checked which subjects are compulsory
- Completed the preparation activities with my mentor and parents/carers
- Looked at my progress check to see which subjects I might be best suited for
- Discussed my ideas with my parents/carers
- Discussed my ideas with my mentor
- Discussed options with older students in my mentor group
- Discussed subjects I am interested in with students who are currently taking them
- Asked my teachers if they think I am suitable for their subject
- Researched options subjects carefully
- Seen the relevant teachers at the parents' evening
- Chosen subjects which give me a balanced range of subjects to study and will keep my options open in the future
- Submitted my online options form through the MS Teams link

CORE

SUBJECTS

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Why study English?

English is compulsory throughout your GCSE years. It is, however, a subject allowing you to not only hone your skills of reading, analysis, writing, speaking and listening, but also provide you with the opportunity to unleash your creativity! It, of course, also gives you an excellent grounding for your life outside of school, developing your ability to write formally and present yourself in a confident manner.

What will I study?

You'll study a wide range of authors and texts, including Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* and JB Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* as part of your English Literature course.

To help with English Language preparation, we'll look at a range of different fiction and non-fiction texts to help study for the reading section and give inspiration to your writing.

Who would this course suit?

English really is for everyone.

How will I learn?

As a vibrant team of English specialists we ensure lessons include a wide range of activities including group and pair work, more traditional exam preparation and of course drama opportunities. We pride ourselves on constantly updating our schemes to keep lessons interesting and challenging.

How will my work be assessed?

Examinations	Length	When	Formative unit assessments	Length	When
English Language Paper 1 (Creative Texts); English Language Paper 2 (Viewpoints and Perspectives)	1 hour 45 mins	End of Year 11	Mocks in Year 10 and Year 11. Section B (writing) responses termly.	45 mins	Every term.
English Literature Paper 1 (Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel); English Literature Paper 2 (Modern texts, poetry comparison and unseen poetry)	1 hour 45 mins 2 hours 15 mins	End of Year 11	Mocks in Year 10 and Year 11. Half termly responses to core English Literature texts.	45 mins	Every half term.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Clearly English provides you with many life skills as well as helping you become more critically minded. You'll find yourself 'reading' the world around you: whether it's a film you're watching, a new computer game you're enjoying or perhaps the blog you're reading – English will ensure you think carefully about the way artists put their pieces together. If you're thinking of studying English in the future, it becomes an excellent foundation for careers in education, law, journalism, psychology and many more.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Mr Smith – Director of English - a.smith@finhampark.co.uk

Mrs Beckinsale – KS4 Coordinator – s.beckinsale@finhampark.co.uk

GCSE Mathematics

Why choose GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Mathematics is a core subject because it provides essential skills needed for everyday life, further study, and almost every future career. Mathematics develops the ability to think logically, solve problems, and make informed decisions — skills that employers and colleges value highly.

What will I study?

There are 5 main areas of mathematics- Number, Ratio and Proportion, Algebra, Shape and Statistics. There will be a big emphasis on problem solving and mastery of skills during the course.

GCSE Mathematics- Edexcel 1MA1

Who would this course suit?

All students must sit GCSE Mathematics.

How will I learn?

Throughout the course you will have opportunities to do individual and group work; you will learn key skills for life and the beauty of mathematics in the real world. We will cater for different learning styles and aim for every student to make significant progress and to leave school with the tools they need for success.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Useful in all Science subjects as well as subjects like Geography and Psychology. A level mathematics is a suitable qualification for any student achieving a grade 7 or higher. Any student who does not achieve a grade of 5 may be required to re-sit by their further educational institution. Also look out for post 16 courses such as Core Mathematics that will build upon the GCSE content and help students taking subjects with significant mathematical content.

How will my work be assessed? See below

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
GCSE Mathematics Paper 1 - Non Calculator paper (33.33%)	1.5 hours	Summer 2028	No controlled assessment		
Paper 2- Calculator (33.33%)	1.5 hours	Summer 2028			
Paper 3- Calculator (33.33%)	1.5 hours	Summer 2028			
100% of overall mark			0% of overall mark		
Further Mathematics Paper 1 – Non Calculator (40%)	1.5 hours	Summer 2028	No controlled assessment		
Paper 2 – Calculator (60%)	2 hours				
100% of overall mark			0% of overall mark		

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Your Mathematics teachers or get in contact with:

Mr Pickerill (Director of Mathematics) at kpickerill@finhampark.co.uk

Mr Joiner (Lead on Y9 and Y10 Mathematics) at s.joiner@finhampark.co.uk

GCSE Science

Why choose Science GCSE?

Science is a compulsory course. It helps to explain the world in which we live. It is part of our daily lives and provides technologies that have had a great impact on our society and the environment. Advances in technology and science are transforming our world at an incredible pace. Your future will see leaps in technology that we can only begin to imagine. Being "science literate" will not just be an advantage but is an absolute necessity. A scientifically literate person should be able to question, and engage in debate on, the evidence used in decision-making. Science teaches a wide range of key skills, many of which are essential for everyday life and future careers.

What will I study?

The AQA Science GCSE investigates:

Year 9 - The Fundamental Ideas in Science

Biology - how the functions of life can be carried out by individual cells and whole organisms.

Chemistry - how elements are the building blocks of chemistry, how chemistry is utilised in treating water and what the atmosphere is made up of.

Physics - how energy can be transferred, the use of kinetic theory to explain the different states of matter and understand how waves behave.

Year 10 - Developing Ideas in Science

Biology - how humans and plants cope with disease; how cells respire and plants photosynthesise.

Chemistry - how different types of bonding leads to different chemical structures and how this can affect reactivity.

Physics - how forces play a part in everyday life, that radioactive substances emit radiation and how electrical circuits work.

Year 11 - Applications of Science

Biology - how our bodies respond to changes in the environment to maintain stable internal condition, how genes operate; are inherited and how characteristics evolve.

Chemistry - the rate and extent of a chemical change.

Physics - what a magnetic field is and its uses.

How will I learn?

You will investigate topics using experimental work and interactive online homework. You will also have access to a range of primary and secondary sources, textbooks, ICT, podcasts, online tutorials, the Internet, simulations and your teacher!

There will obviously be some Revision Notes to write to revise from!

How will my work be assessed?

The decision about which route you follow will be determined by your progress and assessment scores at the end of Year 10. Whichever route you follow we will put a strong emphasis on you being actively involved in your own learning. Skills in interpreting scientific information and communicating scientific ideas are strongly encouraged.

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio
GCSE Biology Paper 1 50% Paper 2 50%	1 hour 45 minutes 1 hour 45 minutes	All exams Summer 2028	There is no controlled assessment however there are required practicals integrated into lessons which will be assessed within the examination papers.
GCSE Chemistry Paper 1 50% Paper 2 50%	1 hour 45 minutes 1 hour 45 minutes		
GCSE Physics Paper 1 50% Paper 2 50%	1 hour 45 minutes 1 hour 45 minutes		
GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy Paper 1 Biology 16.7% Paper 2 Biology 16.7% Paper 1 Chemistry 16.7% Paper 2 Chemistry 16.7% Paper 1 Physics 16.7% Paper 2 Physics 16.7%	1 hour 15 minutes 1 hour 15 minutes		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Science qualifications can lead to careers in a huge range of scientific disciplines: Medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacology, food science, environmental sciences, marine biology, agriculture, biochemistry, engineering (genetic, chemical, structural, electrical, electronic, mechanical). There are more people employed in the UK chemical sector and related jobs than in any other sector of the UK economy.

It also prepares you for vocational courses after 16 as it focuses on skills considered as essential in industry: Information handling, communicating ideas, flexibility, teamwork, tolerance, problem solving and evaluating solutions. As well as this, many universities and employers look on the sciences as valuable GCSEs to have, not only because of their versatility, but also because of the logical manner in which scientists think and explain problems with which they are presented.

A good grade in Mathematics GCSE is also important if you want to study any of the sciences at a higher level.

If I want to know more, I should ask ...

Dr Nicolette Uliana n.uliana@finhampark.co.uk

Or any teacher in the Science department.

GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE Full Course Religious Studies

This is a compulsory subject. **All** students will study GCSE RS which focuses on some of the 'big issues' we face throughout our lives. Topics include:

- God and belief – why do people believe in God? Why do others not believe?
- Religion and science – are these two things directly opposed? Can you be religious and a scientist?
- Death and the afterlife – what happens to us when we die?
- Good and evil – why is there suffering in the world? Why do bad things happen to good people?
- Religion and medical ethics – how far should medicine be allowed to go? Are abortion and euthanasia right or wrong? Should we be allowed to clone humans?
- Religion, poverty and wealth – How come there is so much poverty in the world? What can we do about it?

What will I study?

EDUQAS EXAM BOARD

What Does This Syllabus Involve?

You will study the beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom of Christianity and one other religion for the first half of your GCSE. Students also study non-religious worldviews such as Atheism and Humanism.

You can then choose to study 1 or both of those religions in more depth in 1 or 2 of the following ways:

- through studying their practices, ways of life and forms of expression in detail
- through a thorough study of religious texts
- by studying how the teachings of 1 or both religions inform their thinking on philosophical or ethical issues

Why is this subject compulsory?

GCSE RS cover issues that affect all of us, no matter who we are or what we believe. You do not have to be religious to do GCSE RS, just open- minded and willing to think outside the box and look at things in a new way.

How will I learn?

The course itself is taught in a lively and varied way, including lots of discussion and debate on a wide variety of moral issues which affect the individual and the whole world.

Examinations	Length	When
<p>Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World Written examination: 2 hours 50% of qualification Candidates will study the following four themes. All questions are compulsory. Theme 1: Issues of Relationships Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focusing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the identified themes.</p> <p>Component 2: Study of Christianity - Written examination: 1 hour 25% of qualification Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity. This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focussing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.</p> <p>Component 3: Study of a World Faith - Written examination: 1 hour 25% of qualification Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of another religion.</p>	<p><i>3 exams – 4 hours in total</i></p>	<p>Summer 2028</p>

How will my work be assessed?

At the end of the two year course, students will take written exams. There is no coursework involved.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

This GCSE will encourage you to develop skills in thinking, evaluation, discussion and debate. It gives you the opportunity to practise oral skills as well as written ones.

As well as being something that is enjoyable to study and a good way for you to explore some very important issues, Religious Studies is a qualification that is seen as valuable by many different people. Employers or colleges will see that students with this GCSE are able to think and study independently, organise work to deadlines and are mature individuals who appreciate other beliefs and points of view. All manner of careers see GCSE RS as a good qualification to have – from the medical profession to teaching, social work, the police force, journalism and travel to name but a few.

What further study can I move on to?

At Finham Park the Religious Studies department offers Religious Studies at A Level. From there you could take your study as far as a degree in Religious Studies, Theology or Philosophy

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Ms Madden - Head of RE

l.madden@finhampark.co.uk

HUMANITIES

Why choose History GCSE?

History is the study of people – their feelings, attitudes, prejudices and motivation – so you'll understand people better. History opens your mind to different ways of living and different peoples. History is vital because we can only understand who we are – as individuals or as a nation – if we understand where we have come from. History contains examples of almost everything that is interesting or important to us. It deals with those matters which turn us from people who watch events, into people who understand and can influence events. History also contains every scandal, crime and gruesome act of horror and violence imaginable! History teaches a wide range of key skills, many of which are essential for certain jobs and careers.

What will I study?

The AQA History GCSE investigates:-

America, 1840-1895: Expansion and consolidation – why settlers went west and the challenges they faced, the background and aftermath of the American Civil War, the lifestyle of the Indigenous People and the eventual destruction of their way of life by the United States Government.

Conflict and tension, 1918-1939 – attempts at peacemaking following the First World War, the League of Nations and its role in keeping international peace, the rise of Hitler and the origins and outbreak of the Second World War.

Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day – the development of medicine from the Middle Ages to the Modern Day, evaluating the contribution and impact of war, religion, science, technology and key peoples and individuals like John Snow, Louis Pasteur, Florence Nightingale and Alexander Fleming.

Norman England, c1066-c1100 – the causes of the Norman Conquest and what was done to establish and maintain control, life in England under the Normans including the role of religion. As part of this module students will complete a study of the historic environment of Norman England and consider a specific site in depth – we will investigate why certain Norman sites are built the way they are and why they are significant.

This course would suit you if you...

- Are interested in History and people.
- Have an enquiring mind and would enjoy investigating and analysing the events and people who have shaped the world you live in and the way we live our lives.
- Enjoy the opportunity to undertake individual research.
- Are committed to hard work and fun.
- Are interested in being *moved, outraged, surprised, challenged and amused*.

How will I learn?

Investigate topics using a range of resources such as sources and interpretations, textbooks, ICT, podcasts, DVDs, the internet, simulations and your teacher! There will be some revision notes to write to revise from too.

How will my work be assessed?

Examinations	Length	When
Paper 1: Understanding the modern world (assessing the America and Conflict topics)	2 hours	Summer Year 11
Paper 2: Shaping the nation 2 (assessing the Health and Norman England topics)	2 hours	Summer Year 11
<i>Both papers have equal weighting - there is no coursework/NEA</i>		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

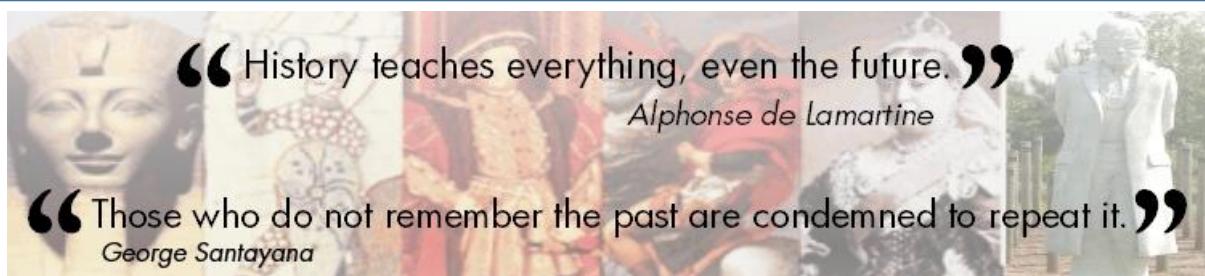
We strongly advise students wishing to take A Level History to have studied History GCSE.

History:-

- Helps you to understand people so it is useful in the 'people professions', e.g. teachers, the Health Service, Social Work and Personnel.
- Teaches enquiry skills which fit jobs which find out information – TV researcher, investigative reporter, market research, and police.
- Enables you to learn how to read documents, ignore irrelevancies, separate propaganda from the truth, and circumstantial from hard evidence – essential for people like lawyers, administrators and politicians.
- Requires extended, logical, reasoned debate in writing which is essential for jobs requiring writing reports, e.g. the Civil Service, Law, Journalism.
- Know about the past which is essential for certain jobs, e.g. Artist, Architect, Designer, Librarian, Archaeologist, Archivist, and Tour Guide.
- Teaches skills such as cause and consequence, change and continuity - essential in any job which requires analysis and strategy, e.g. the Army, Teaching, Advertising, Medicine, Banking and Accountancy.
- Teaches information handling, communicating ideas, flexibility, teamwork, tolerance, problem solving and evaluating solutions – skills regarded as essential in Industry, the Public Services and in research and development teams in Science and Engineering.
- It is also good preparation for A Level – Sociology, Law and Politics, Geography, Philosophy and Law.

If I want to know more I should ask...

Ms Hirst (Head of Department and teacher of GCSE History – k.hirst@finhampark.co.uk) or any member of the History Department.



GCSE Geography

The study of Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. The GCSE course will give you the opportunity to explore, debate and understand some of the big questions which affect and change our world daily. As a GCSE Geography student, you will explore the knowledge and understanding of the world you live in by assessing the dynamic relationship between the natural and human world. In order to do this, you will evaluate the social, economic, environmental and cultural processes that affect our world. You will investigate the components and elements that make up our earth and assess how past, current and future events have shaped or may shape places for both human beings and nature.

If you are interested in understanding why:

- Global events such as the Olympics and COP26 are so important
- The UK imports over 40% of all its food for consumption
- Countries like Haiti are susceptible to continual natural hazard events
- Over 17% of the total Amazon rainforest has been deforested in the last 50 years

Then Geography is the subject for you!

What will I study?

AQA GCSE Geography

<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Challenge of Resource Management• The Challenge of the Living World• Physical Landscapes in the UK (Rivers and Coasts)• Urban Issues and Challenges (Urbanisation, NEE city and HIC city).• Physical and Human geography fieldwork enquiry, geographical skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Challenge of Natural Hazards• The Economic World• Geographical skills• Pre-release exam preparation.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment	Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment	Paper 3: Geographical applications
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards, 3.1.2 The living world, 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK, 3.4 Geographical skills</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))• 35 % of GCSE	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges, 3.2.2 The changing economic world, 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management, 3.4 Geographical skills</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes• 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)• 35 % of GCSE	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>3.3.1 Issue evaluation, 3.3.2 Fieldwork, 3.4 Geographical skills</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes• 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)• 30 % of GCSE• Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before Paper 3 exam

Who would this course suit?

- You are interested in the world around you and would like to know more about how it all works.
- You enjoy problem solving, making decisions and are observant.
- You love to learn outdoors and explore new places.

How will I learn?

We will investigate geographical themes using a wide range of resources such as decision making exercises, textbooks, ICT, DVDs, independent internet research, role playing and practicing for the final exam! We also will be conducting fieldwork at different locations in order to investigate processes that relate to the learning that has taken place in class.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Geography makes you **VERY** employable as you have many skills and know a lot about what is going on in the world. Geography will also help you to be more aware of the everyday life and problems of the people who live around you. When you see newspaper items or television reports about a controversial new development, for example HS2; then your geography course will help you make sense of what is going on. Geography will make you a better, more aware citizen. There are lots of jobs that are directly related to Geography or other careers where employers will want you just because of the skills that you have learnt and the person that you must be to have done Geography.

What can I do that goes with Geography?

GCSE Geography goes well with:

- Art & Design Technology
- Science
- History
- Modern Languages
- Maths
- ICT & Computing

Future careers I could choose:

- Advertising, architecture, cartography, landscape design.
- Agriculture, environmental health, estate management, nature conservation.
- Archaeology, law, libraries, museums, publishing, journalism.
- Business, overseas marketing, leisure and tourism.
- Civil engineering, meteorology, mining, navigation and photography.
- Disaster management, geographical information systems.

You would also be highly eligible for careers in leisure services, sport and recreation management, social and youth work, surveying, transport services, banks, building societies, business, civil service, secretary/PA, police, army, health service and teaching!

If I want to know more I should ask...

- My Geography teacher (**Miss L Beioley, Miss R Jheeta and Miss L Brown**)
- Email - L.beioley@finhampark.co.uk (Head of Geography)

Find us in D block!

MFL

Studying a Foreign Language is highly recommended for all students.

If a different pathway is being considered, students will be asked to provide a clear and valid reason for this decision.

You will continue with the language studied in KS3.

GCSE MFL (French, German, Spanish)

Why choose GCSE MFL

Languages are highly valued in the workplace and give you a lifelong skill. At GCSE, you will continue to learn the language that you have studied at KS3. MFL is a compulsory subject at GCSE.

What will I study?

The topics covered fall into the following three themes and build upon previous knowledge:

People and lifestyle (identity and relationships with others; healthy living and lifestyle; education and work)

Popular culture (free time activities; customs, festivals and celebrations; celebrity culture)

Communication and the world around us (travel and tourism; media and technology; environment and where people live)

Who would this course suit?

Everyone can learn a language. You will improve your communication skills and your understanding of other cultures. In addition, it would be useful to those students who might wish to live or work abroad or to work for international companies.

How will I learn?

You will practise the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a variety of different contexts using up to date authentic materials and engaging resources. You will have the opportunity to complete GCSE style activities and receive regular feedback on your progress.

How will my work be assessed?

The GCSE consists of 4 papers in listening, reading, writing and speaking (teacher examiner) each of which is worth 25% of your final grade. These exams will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

You will be entered at either foundation (grades 1 – 5) or higher tier (grades 3 – 9).

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

A language GCSE will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, analysis and independence. It can be very useful if you wish to travel or live abroad.

A language qualification makes you VERY employable and there are lots of careers in which you can use your skills directly or indirectly such as business, journalism and engineering.

Many top universities expect students to have a GCSE qualification in a language as it is a facilitating subject.

You can move onto studying a language at A Level or university. Many degree courses offer a language option in conjunction with other subjects e.g. Law and French, Engineering and German, Business and Spanish, which include a period of work or study abroad.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Mrs Darby (Head of MFL)

j.darby@finhampark.co.uk

Mrs Staton (Head of French & German)

j.staton@finhampark.co.uk

Miss Malin (Head of Spanish)

d.malin@finhampark.co.uk

GCSE Mandarin

Why choose Mandarin GCSE?

Mandarin is highly valued in the workplace and give you a lifelong skill. At GCSE, you will continue to learn Mandarin that you have studied at KS3. Language is a compulsory subject at GCSE.

What will I study?

The topics covered fall into the following three themes and build upon previous knowledge: Theme 1 Identity and culture: me, family and friends, technology, free time activities, customs and festivals. Theme 2 Local, international and global areas of interest: home, town, neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues, travel and tourism. Theme 3 Current and future study and employment: my studies, life and school/college, education post-16, jobs, careers and ambitions.

This course would suit you if you...

Everyone can learn a language. You will improve your communication skills and your understanding of other cultures. In addition, it would be useful to those students who might wish to live or work abroad or to work for international companies.

How will I learn?

You will practise the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a variety of different contexts using up to date authentic materials and engaging resources. You will have the opportunity to complete GCSE style activities and receive regular feedback on your progress.

How will my work be assessed?

The GCSE consists of 4 papers in listening, reading, writing and speaking (teacher examiner) each of which is worth 25% of your final grade. These exams will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

You will be entered at either foundation (grades 1 – 5) or higher tier (grades 3 – 9).

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

A language GCSE will equip you with a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, analysis and independence. It can be very useful if you wish to travel or live abroad.

A language qualification makes you VERY employable and there are lots of careers in which you can use your skills directly or indirectly such as business, journalism and engineering.

Many top universities expect students to have a GCSE qualification in a language as it is a facilitating subject.

You can move onto studying a language at A Level or university. Many degree courses offer a language option in conjunction with other subjects e.g. Law and French, Engineering and German, Business and Spanish, which include a period of work or study abroad.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Ms Zhu (Head of Chinese) l.zhu@finhampark.co.uk

OPTIONS SUBJECTS

Fine Art GCSE

Why choose Fine Art GCSE.

Studying GCSE Fine Art at Finham will give you the opportunity to develop personalised creative informed practical portfolio folders over the course. You will develop and present a diverse range of visual work in your folder pages. You will experiment with a variety of traditional and new media artistic processes, tools, and techniques. Students enjoy working with a wide range of artistic materials during the course and all students develop highly creative and personalised work outcomes over time. All project work is directly inspired by deeper lines of enquiry and contextual study of art and artists from different times and cultures. We are a high performing department and the quality of student outcomes reflects this.

What will I study?

EDEXCEL GCSE: Fine Art:

You will respond to set themes of study. The project title theme for all year 10's is 'Structure'.

All work and learning activities are related to a mix of artistic genre's and styles of art from different times and cultures from around the world. You will learn to analyse and personally respond to and visually interpret a diverse range of artists work. You will learn to appreciate specific artistic techniques and styles in context of given themes. You will be taught through workshop style lessons set in a specialist art teaching space. You will engage in and learn to make work in mixed media, drawing, painting and print making.

Who would this course suit? If you enjoy using and combining traditional media and art materials this is the course for you. Students enjoy engaging in artistic techniques and learn best through responding to live technical demonstrations. Students who enjoy practical active learning sequences will thrive on this course. If you wish to develop a strong visual portfolio to show course leaders and vocational training course leaders in further or higher education post 16 this is a strong pathway to opt for.

How will I learn?

You will analyse and respond to the work of artists and designers from a variety of cultures and nations from around the world. Students will learn from other artists by responding to their work through the primary skill of observation.

You will engage in workshop style lesson sequences that are differentiated and varied. You will be encouraged to personally interpret different styles of art by creating images in direct response to different styles of art. You will learn by analysing and comparing artists work from different time frames and cultures. All students will develop an appreciation of how to justify decisions through written commentary, evaluation, and annotation. All written work is in support of your visual outcomes. Students will be encouraged to justify critical comments when discussing their own work and or the work of others.

Day trips, workshops and art residential trips: You will have the opportunity to sign up for and attend gallery workshops. You will have the opportunity to work with artists, and you could experience one of our annual residential art tours to Europe or America. We have visited 5 different destinations over the last 10 years including, Barcelona, Florence, Amsterdam, Paris and New York. This is a great opportunity for all GCSE level art students. This is a great opportunity for all GCSE level art students. Recent destinations visited include Amsterdam and Paris. The next planned residential trip is Barcelona February 2027.

How will my work be assessed? Your work folders will be assessed twice every half term. You will be given regular written and or verbal feedback and all set targets will be related to the 4 art course assessment objectives. You are marked out of a total of 72, and each of the 4 assessment objectives is worth 18 marks.

Coursework (component 1)	Length	When	Component 2 final exam-controlled assessment.	Length	When
Component 1 – End of year 10 final piece - controlled test. Component 1 – end of year 11 Coursework mock exam - controlled test period. Coursework component 1 submission date January 2027.	(10 hrs) (10 hrs)	Summer – July 2027 December 2027	Final exam prep period Final exam duration	10 weeks 10 hrs (2 days)	January to April 2028 April 2028
60% of overall mark			40% of overall mark		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

GCSE level Fine Art will give you the opportunity to go on to study A Level and BTEC diploma level art courses at post 16 level. Many Finham art students after their A levels go on to study art at foundation level, or they go on to specialist degree level courses all over the U.K.

Many of our past Fine Art students are currently studying architecture, Industrial design, interior architecture or design, motor vehicle design, fine art, graphic design, illustration and art history. Popular university choices for our young learners are Coventry, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Plymouth, London, Manchester, Goldsmiths school of design, and Glasgow school of art and architecture amongst many others.

There are 101 or more careers in the visual arts, and this is one of the fastest growing industries in the

If I want to know more I should ask or Talk to Mr. D. Radford, e-mail address: d.radford@finhampark.co.uk
Ms. K Edwards, Mrs. Byrne, and or Ms. Roberts. Visit our GCSE Art subjects course exam board web site:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>

GCSE Graphic Communication

Why choose Graphic Communication GCSE:

Opting for a GCSE in Graphic communication will give you an exciting opportunity to develop visual work outcomes where you will answer personally negotiated briefs by combining text, typography, and imagery. You will learn different methods of visual communication. Students will experiment with photography, photo shop, computer-based design, and hand rendered and illustrative design outcomes. Students can combine a variety of traditional and new media image manipulation tools and techniques. We are a high achieving department, and our results are outstanding. Graphics students enjoy the creative range of ideas they explore on this course.

What will I study?

EDEXCEL, GCSE Graphic Communication in Art & Design:

All work is portfolio based, and all graphic students will create outcomes that will be presented in an A2 size folder. You will also produce 2 to 3 final outcomes over the course outside of your folder in controlled assessment sequences. The theme of study for all year 10 students is 'Structures'.

You will develop work responding to a theme and you will work from specific briefs that will be written related to your personal route of study.

You will study the work of artists, graphic designers, and typographers focusing on the language of graphics and visual communication.

Who would this course suit? Students that enjoy working with varied and exciting combinations of visual art materials and media. Students that enjoy visually communicating ideas with a more technical application and use of new media and image making technologies and software will enjoy all aspects of this course.

How will I learn? You will analyse the work of many Graphic artists, Fine artists, and designers from a variety of cultures, times and nations from around the world. You will respond directly to the work of others by recording images by hand or by using a camera. You will develop your skills of observation, and rendering of images. You will regularly compare how graphic artists and typographers make or create design outcomes.

You will engage in workshop style lesson sequences that are differentiated and varied. You will be encouraged to personally interpret different styles of art by creating images in direct response to different styles of art. You will learn by analysing and comparing artists work from different time frames and cultures. All students will develop an appreciation of how to justify decisions through written commentary, evaluation, and annotation. All written work is in support of your visual outcomes. Students will be encouraged to justify critical comments when discussing their own work and or the work of others.

Day trips workshops and art residential trips: You will have the opportunity to sign up for and attend gallery workshops, you will have the opportunity to work with artists, and you could experience one of our annual residential art tours to Europe or America. We have visited 5 different destinations over the last 10 years including, Barcelona, Amsterdam Florence, Paris and New York. This is a great opportunity for all GCSE level art students. Recent destinations visited include Amsterdam and Paris. The next planned residential trip is Barcelona February 2027.

Coursework (component 1)	Length	When	Component 2 final exam-controlled assessment.	Length	When
Component 1 – End of year 10 final piece - controlled test. Component 1 – end of year 11 Coursework mock exam - controlled test period. Coursework component 1 submission date January 2027.	(10 hrs) (10 hrs)	Summer – July 2027 December 2027	Final exam prep period Final exam duration	10 weeks 10 hrs (2 days)	January to April 2028 April 2028
60% of overall mark			40% of overall mark		

How will my work be assessed? You will receive a mark and grade twice each half term, and you will be given regular written feedback and targets. Related to 4 assessment objectives, you will be marked out of a total of 72 and each of the 4 assessment objectives is worth 18 marks.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future? GCSE level Graphic Communication will help you access A Level and BTEC Diploma courses at post 16 level. We celebrate high levels of success in the art department at GCSE level.

You can study art graphics at all levels at Finham park school and many of our students access a range of different further or higher education courses after their time at Finham. A large proportion of our art students go on to study art on foundation courses, or specialist visual arts degree level courses all over the U.K.

Many of our past Fine Art students are currently studying architecture, Industrial design, interior architecture or design, motor vehicle design, fine art, graphic design, illustration and art history. Popular university choices for our young learners are Coventry, Birmingham, Nottingham, Leeds, Plymouth, London, Manchester, Goldsmiths school of design, and Glasgow school of art and architecture amongst many others. There are 101 or more job careers in the visual arts, and this is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.K.

If I want to know more I should ask ... Talk to Mr. D. Radford, e-mail address: D.Radford@finhampark.co.uk
Ms. K Edwards, Mrs. Byrne and or Ms. Roberts. Visit our GCSE Art subjects course exam board web site: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>

GCSE Photography

Why choose A GCSE in Photography?

GCSE Photography will give you an exciting opportunity for you to develop a creative personalised visual folder of work using techniques and concepts of colour and black and white Photography. All GCSE photography work is now digital with elements of dark room wet photographic practice. We are currently in the later phases of planning to construct a new dark room for the GCSE and A level photography courses. You will respond to set themes through artists and photographers over time. You will be encouraged to combine many photography techniques including hand rendering images, and using image manipulation software tools in Photoshop. We are a high achieving department, and our photographers achieve outstanding results.

What will I study?

EDEXCEL GCSE in Art & Design - lens and light-based media - Photography:

You will be given set project titles and themes to respond to. The theme for Year 10 is Structures'.

All work and learning outcomes are presented in portfolio folders. All photography students will create an A2 size folder of photographic outcomes and experiments responding to the set theme above.

You will study the work of historic, modern, and present-day contemporary photographers. You will learn how to critically analyse and interpret their work through your own image making processes. You will understand the formal elements through photography and you will study contexts, ideas, and meanings behind their work.

Who would this course suit?

If you enjoy using a camera, taking photos and you are eager to learn the applications of digital photography and image manipulation techniques then you will love this course. If you want to learn about lens and light - based media, wet photography and dark room photography techniques then opt of GCSE photography at Finham Park School

How will I learn?

You will analyse the work of many photographers, artists and designers from a variety of historic and contemporary cultures. You will respond directly to their work, through the primary skill of recording observations through the medium of Photography. You will regularly compare how photographers take shoots and design or create photographs. You will record written commentaries, evaluations, and annotation in your folder to support and give context to all visual work outcomes. You will learn to develop creative logical work sequences, and you will learn to justify decisions related to research and selection of imagery.

Day trips workshops and art residential trips: You will have the opportunity to sign up for and attend gallery workshops, you will have the opportunity to work with artists, and you could experience one of our annual residential art tours to Europe or America. We have visited 6 destinations over the last 5 years including, Barcelona, Amsterdam and New York. This is a great opportunity for all GCSE level art students. Recent destinations visited include Amsterdam and Paris. The next planned residential trip is Barcelona February 2027.

How will my work be assessed?

You will be assessed up to twice each half term, and you will be given regular written formative feedback and targets related to the 4 course assessment objectives. Your work will be marked out of a total of 72. Each of the 4 assessment objectives is worth 18 marks.

Coursework (component 1)	Length	When	Component 2 final exam-controlled assessment.	Length	When
Component 1 – End of year 10 final piece - controlled test. Component 1 – end of year 11 Coursework mock exam - controlled test period. Coursework component 1 submission date January 2027.	(10 hrs) (10 hrs)	Summer – July 2027 December 2027	Final exam prep period Final exam duration	10 weeks 10 hrs (2 days)	January to April 2028 April 2028
60% of overall mark			40% of overall mark		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Photography at GCSE level can help you access further and higher education courses initially at A Level and BTEC diploma level courses in post 16 education. Our students enjoy the transitions from GCSE to A Level photography at Finham Park School giving our students a strong pathway in their studies in this popular visual arts discipline. This is celebrated through our amazing results at GCSE and A Level year on year. Students go on to study foundation courses, or specialist degree level courses all over the U.K.

Many of our students after year 13 are currently studying Photography at Bristol, Nottingham, Coventry, Bath, Birmingham and Manchester. Our A level students access great photography degree courses in the country. There are 101 or more job careers in the visual arts, and this is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.K.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Mr. D. Radford - e-mail address: D.Radford@finhampark.co.uk

Or Ms. K Edwards, Mrs. Byrne and or Ms. Roberts.

Visit the GCSE Fine Art course exam board web site:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>



Why choose Business GCSE?

In future life, you will either work for a Business, or own and operate your own Business. The GCSE course will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to either start your own business or know how the business you work within – operates. You will become skilled in making decisions, being entrepreneurial, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating effectively and looking for business efficiencies. A GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

All the Business studies rooms are equipped with Internet-linked PCs. You will be encouraged to use them to help carry out your research, learn about real business scenarios and revise mostly via Google Classroom, Seneca Learning and BBC Bitesize.

What will I study?

You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and find out how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn that into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage finances. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved including employees and customers. In year 11, your focus will be on larger businesses and the strategies businesses use to grow and become more efficient and profitable. There will be elements of Marketing, Production, Finance and Human Resources included in the course. You will understand how these different functions work within a business to help achieve its objectives.

There will be a lot of focus on the Finance aspect of a business where you will learn how to create cash flow forecasts, calculate interest payable, analyse break even graphs and calculate profit margins. The course will be challenging with formulas to remember and therefore you need to be able to work with numbers at ease.

The exams will expect you to write essay style answers using analytical skills and be able to conclude your answers with your opinion and to be able to justify it. There is no NEA, so regular revision skills will be needed throughout both years of study.

How will my work be assessed?

Examinations	Length	When
Paper 1 based on Theme 1 – Investigating small business 50%	1hr 45 min	Summer Y11
Paper 2 based on Theme 2 – Building a business 50%	1hr 45 min	Summer Y11
Both papers have equal weighting - there is no NEA		

Who would this course suit? If you enjoy:

- Reading and watching the news and business programmes such as Dragon's Den
- Thinking creatively and making decisions
- Working with numbers to solve business problems
- Learning about the world of business through research, discussion and wider investigation

You'll need to learn and apply your knowledge of key terms for the exam units. You will need to be confident in maths as you will be expected to perform calculations and construct graphs.

You will need at least grade 4 in Maths and English.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

You may decide to study the Business Studies course at A Level. You may choose a similar course at College including things like Accountancy, or you may choose a Business type apprenticeship. The skills developed on the course (giving presentations, gathering research, producing balanced written arguments and financial calculations) will help you in any future job or even to set up your own business. Past students have gone on to study many Business-related degrees such as Management, Marketing, Human Resources and Accounting. Students have also progressed onto Business related apprenticeships with Barclays, Stellantis, Jaguar LandRover and Severn Trent.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Miss Watson (Head of Business and Economics), Mr Newsome or Mrs Gosal.

d.watson@finhampark.co.uk

m.newsome@finhampark.co.uk

a.gosal@finhampark.co.uk

You can visit the EDEXCEL website for more information and the specification:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

Programmes you may be interested to watch to give you a flavour:

The Apprentice

Dragons Den

Shark Tank

Inside the Factory



Why Choose Computer Science?

“Computer science empowers students to create the world of tomorrow”

- Satya Nadella, Microsoft CEO

In a world and society that is becoming increasingly dependent on - and dominated by - the use of technology, the importance of computer science has never been greater.

GCSE Computer Science offers a natural opportunity for students to build on their learning from Key Stage 3 Computing and further develop their knowledge and understanding of this important and exciting subject.

In addition it provides an excellent means of progression on to A Level Computer Science and Level 3 (advanced) Apprenticeships.

What will I study?

We follow OCR's GCSE Computer Science specification and content is divided into two units of study:

Unit 1 Computer Systems	Unit 2 Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming
Systems architecture	Algorithms
Memory and storage	Programming fundamentals
Computer networks, connections and protocols	Producing robust programs
Network security	Boolean logic
Systems software	Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments
Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology	

How will I learn?

The course will aim to build your knowledge and understanding of the topics covered, with a range of approaches being used. Lessons feature a mixture of written work, discussions and practical programming activities.

Who would this course suit?

A GCSE Computing course is suitable for a wide range of students, particularly those who:

- **Enjoy problem-solving and logical thinking:** The course involves breaking down complex problems into smaller, manageable steps.
- **Are curious about how technology works:** You'll learn about the inner workings of computers, networks, and software.
- **Have a creative side:** Programming and designing algorithms allow you to bring your ideas to life.
- **Are interested in a career in IT or a related field:** A GCSE in Computing is a valuable qualification for many tech-related jobs.
- **Want to develop essential digital skills:** The course covers topics like cybersecurity, data analysis, and web development, which are relevant in many industries.

Even if you're not planning a career in IT or Computing, a GCSE in Computing can help you become a more informed and skilled digital citizen. It's a great way to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in any field.

How will my work be assessed?

You will be assessed in end of unit test, practical programming in a variety of scenarios (including numerous programming projects towards the start of Year 11).

Your formal assessment for the qualification is:

Unit	When assessed
Computer Systems (01) – 50% of GCSE (1 hour 30mins)	Y11 Exam
Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (02) – 50% of GCSE (1 hour 30mins)	Y11 Exam

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Mr Bridgeman – j.bridgeman@finhampark.co.uk

Mr Rayamajhi – s.rayamajhi@finhampark.co.uk

Why Choose iMedia?

“Creative iMedia - equipping you with the communication and technology skills needed to succeed in the digital media industry”

Creative iMedia will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector and more widely. You'll design, plan, create and review digital media products to meet client and target audience demands.

What will I study? – 1 written exam and 2 pieces of controlled assessment

R093 (Exam): Creative iMedia in the media industry (Mandatory) –

1hr 30m (written exam)

In this unit, students will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. They will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products.

R094 (Controlled Assessment): Visual identity and digital graphics (Mandatory) –

12/15 hours (50 marks)

In this unit, students will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. They will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate their visual identity to engage a target audience.

R097 - (Controlled Assessment): Interactive digital media – 12/15 hours (50 marks)

In this unit students will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. They will learn to select, edit and repurpose multimedia content of different kinds and create the structure and interactive elements necessary for an effective user experience.

How will I learn?

This course is highly practical. Students will spend a lot of time developing the skills needed to complete practical assessments. The style of this course is a cycle in which you:

- Are taught new skills in small chunks...
- Complete the work required in controlled conditions...
- and then get general feedback on your work in order to improve it

Who would this course suit?

It would suit learners with a “general” interest in IT and Media, rather than those who are keen to understand everything about how a computer works.

Students who enjoy using computers for things like creating websites and working with media such as images and sound, rather than learning how to program, would be suited to this course.

The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- thinking about situations and deciding what is required to be successful
- exploring different options and choosing the best way forward to solve a problem
- exploring and generating original ideas to find imaginative solutions to problems
- selecting the best tools and techniques to use to solve a problem
- appropriate use of media to convey meaning
- use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised way which meet

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

This qualification (OCR Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia) is a full GCSE equivalent, meaning that it will be accepted as one of the GCSE's required to join Finham Park School Sixth Form. Cambridge Nationals will also be accepted by Colleges, other Sixth Forms, Employers or Apprenticeship Schemes, for students seeking alternatives at 16.

This qualification would be a perfect platform for students looking to enter the IT industry or study any aspect of the subject at Sixth Form. Many students will not wish to pursue IT as a career or an option for further study, but for these students the course will equip them with a range of digital skills that will serve them well regardless of their future plans.

If I want to know more I should ...

See the OCR website for more details on this course:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/creative-imedia-level-1-2-i834/>

You can ask us questions by contacting...

Mr Bridgeman – j.bridgeman@finhampark.co.uk

Mr Parsons – c.parsons@finhampark.co.uk

GCSE Design & Technology

Why choose Design & Technology?

Design and Technology prepares you to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing world. You learn to think and intervene creatively to improve quality of life. We will teach you about the design process and the skills you will need to turn your designs into products. You will be able to give practical solutions to real problems and see how your work relates to real-life. Design and Technology will teach you how to be an independent autonomous learner who can take responsibility for planning and organising your work, and be able to evaluate it in a reflective and critical manner. You will learn how to work practically both individually and with others and have the satisfaction of successfully completing a practical project.

What will I study?

Core technical principles – new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties.

Specialist technical principles – selection of materials and processes, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.

Designing and making principles – investigation, primary and secondary data, environmental, social and economic challenge, the work of others, design strategies, communication of design ideas, prototype development, selection of materials and components, tolerances, material management, tools and equipment and techniques and processes.

Who would this course suit?

If you are interested in the products we use and have thought about how you could design better or more attractive solutions, then you would find this course both useful and inspiring. If you would also like to present your design proposals in a professional manner, then you will find this course equips you with the necessary skills. A comprehensive design and make task takes up a large part of the course and involves careful consideration with regards to time management.

How will I learn?

In Year 10 you will learn and develop a variety of skills by completing a series of short projects. These will enable you to experience the iterative design process from start to finish. During this year, you will also develop your independent learning skills by experimenting with different methods of how to create final outcomes and products. Theoretical work and preparation for the GCSE examination will take place in these 2 years with concepts and content introduced through a variety of practical making lessons, designing and drawing lessons as well as pure theory based lessons. All Design and Technology students complete their Non Exam-Assessment during the course of Year 11 which will include a larger scale manufactured product linked to a design context set by the exam board.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed with 50% Non-Exam Assessment which is a single design and make project. It should take approximately 30 - 35 hours to complete. Students can choose a project from a list set by the exam board. The other 50% of the course is assessed through a written examination at the end of Year 11.

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
Paper 1 50%	2 hours	Summer of year 11	Non exam-assessment 50%	35 hours in lessons	Sept – May of Year 11
50% of overall mark			50% of overall mark		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Students can use this course as a stepping board for numerous career pathways including university degrees, apprenticeships or going straight into work. The course can lead onto careers such as:

Possible Future University Courses:

Illustration, Fashion, Product Design, Civil Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, Performance or Stage Design, Scenography and Costume Design.

Possible Future Careers or Apprenticeships:

Product Designer, Automotive Industry, Aerospace Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Civil Engineer, Architect, Fashion Designer, Web Designer, Stage/Performance Designer, Costume Design, Lighting Designer and Designer.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

For more information visit www.aqa.org.uk and search for the AQA Design & Technology GCSE

Speak with Mr Elliott (Head of Design and Technology) in K15 – r.elliott@finhampark.co.uk

Mr Clarke (Teacher of Design and Technology) in K12 – a.clarke@finhampark.co.uk

Mr Maguire (Teacher of Design and Technology) in K13 – p.maguire@finhampark.co.uk

Mrs Rowse (Teacher of Design and Technology) in K14 – f.rowse@finhampark.co.uk



Why choose Drama GCSE?

Drama is all about helping you to become an expert communicator.

Through practical lessons you will learn how to become a **leader** as you organise your own performances and **direct** your peers. You will develop **research** and **presentation skills** as you explore the world of theatre, and you will learn how to **perform with confidence, projection and skill** to engage an audience.

You will develop your written skills as you **analyse** and **evaluate** a range of **exciting scripts** and explore **thought-provoking issues** such as immigration and social media. You can even choose to learn about the technical aspects of Theatre by designing lighting, sound or costumes for a play.

What will I study?

Year 10-11

Component 1 – You will **devise** and **perform** a piece of Drama about an issue you are passionate about! You will be marked on this practical work and a written evaluation.

Component 2 – You will choose a script that excites you and **perform two extracts** from it. Alternatively, you can select the technical option and present your ideas in either lighting, sound, or costume.

Component 3 – Read and perform a **dramatic script**, planning how you would bring the play to life as an actor, director and designer. You will also join us on a **theatre trip** to watch a live performance. We will then develop your analysis and evaluation writing skills ready for a written exam.

This course would suit you if you...

- Enjoy drama and want to develop your communication skills further
- Have an enquiring mind and would enjoy exploring and analysing play scripts
- Enjoy the opportunity to lead others and develop your team building skills
- Are interested in how to engage an audience
- Are an innovative thinker and want to bring your creativity to life

How will I learn?

In exciting practical lessons, you will create your own plays and bring scripts to life- performing to your class and live audiences.

You will explore current issues and topics you are passionate about in groups, developing your skills as an actor, researcher, team player, designer and project manager.

Going to see live theatre to learn from the experts and see different theatre styles in action.

How will my work be assessed?

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
<i>Component 2 Performance to examiner</i>	<i>2 hours</i>	<i>Year 11</i>	<i>Component 1 Devising Theatre and Portfolio</i>	<i>In lesson time</i>	<i>Year 10</i>
<i>Component 3 Written Exam</i>	<i>1.5 hours</i>	<i>Y11</i>			
<i>60% of overall mark</i>			<i>40% of overall mark</i>		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

We can help you to:

- ✓ Become an **expert communicator** and **public speaker**
- ✓ Show employers you can **work in a team** and have excellent **leadership skills**
- ✓ Develop outstanding **presentation skills**
- ✓ Develop your analytical and evaluative **writing skills**
- ✓ **Create, lead, organise and perform** in plays to a live audience
- ✓ Improve your **problem-solving** skills
- ✓ Become a **creative, innovative** thinker

What jobs can it lead to?

- Drama teaches you the art of communication which is a vital skill for every job out there!
- It also develops your empathy and people skills needed for 'People jobs' such as. teachers, Nurses/Doctors, Social Workers and Personnel.
- Drama teaches enquiry skills suited to jobs like TV researchers, investigative reporters, market researchers, and the police.
- Enables you to learn how to analyse and argue your point in verbal and written work -essential for people like lawyers, administrators and politicians, journalists
- Teaches organisation and leadership skills needed for Teaching, Project Managing, Events co-ordinating, Operations Managers etc.
- Builds knowledge of the theatre both on-stage and back-stage leading to roles such as Actor, Director, producer, lighting/set/sound/costume designer
- We strongly advise students wishing to take A Level Drama to have studied Drama GCSE. It is also good preparation for A Level English, Psychology Sociology and Law.

If I want to know more, I should ask ...

Mrs Spokes or Ms Bartlett J.Spokes@finhampark.co.uk S.Bartlett@finhampark.co.uk

GCSE Music

Why choose GCSE Music?

Music enriches the lives of all people, and studying GCSE Music gives you the opportunity to explore the sounds that shape our world. The course helps you appreciate music more deeply, perform with growing confidence, and create your own original pieces. You'll develop practical skills alongside academic understanding, while learning about Rock and Pop as well as music for Film.

GCSE Music is enjoyable and strengthens important transferable skills that make you more employable. Making music develops creativity, communication, teamwork, resilience and problem-solving, all of which are valued in every career. Music also supports brain development by improving memory, concentration and analytical thinking, helping you succeed across your other subjects. If you already play an instrument, GCSE Music is an excellent way to enhance and extend your skills. However, you do not need to be an instrumentalist to choose this course — enthusiasm for music and a willingness to take part are what matter most.

What will I study?

The Eduqas Music GCSE is made up of 3 different sections:

1. **Performing** (30%) – Perform at least 2 pieces on an instrument of your choice (6 minutes in total). One must be an ensemble piece, the remaining piece(s) can be either ensemble or solo. One piece must be linked to an area of study from section 3 below. You will submit a final recording of your pieces in Year 11. The performance standard required is roughly equivalent to a Grade 3 in voice, or an instrument so you will need to aim to be at this standard by the January end of year 11.
2. **Composing** (30%) – Compose 2 pieces of music (6 minutes in total); one of which must be in response to a brief set by the exam board, the second can be in a style of your choice.
3. **Listening and analysing** (40%) – You will study music covering a range of musical styles and periods, including classical, film music and rock and pop. You will cover two set works (Toto by Africa and Badinerie by Bach) and be tested on some pieces you have not heard before.

This course would suit you if ...

- You love listening to music.
- You enjoy the creative challenge of composing your own pieces of music.
- You are open to learning about different kinds of music and are willing to dig deep into the theory behind various styles of music.
- You are already learning an instrument, love to sing, or are keen to learn an instrument.
- You have the ability to be self-disciplined and committed to practising on your instrument.

How will I learn?

You will learn through a variety of activities that facilitate learning about music for Film, Music Devices, Rock and Pop as well as Music Ensembles using instruments, audio extracts, composition as well as listening.

You will complete mini composition projects in year 10 developing your skills as the terms progress. Listening activities in class help you to prepare for the final exam in year 11 theory tasks will also be delivered that support the foundation skills for the course

How will my work be assessed?

In Eduqas GCSE Music, you are assessed in **three main areas**: performing, composing, and listening.

Performing is worth 30% and simply means playing or singing music confidently on your chosen instrument or voice, either on your own or in a group. Record a portfolio minimum 4 minutes. 1 minute must be in ensemble.

Composing is also 30%, and this is where you get to be creative and write two pieces of your own music in any style you enjoy. Compose one piece of your choice, the second is from a choice of 4 options set by the board that use the four areas of study.

The remaining **40% is a listening exam**, where you answer eight questions about different pieces of music you've studied in class. You'll explore the four areas of study music devices, film music, rock and pop as well as music for ensemble. There are two set works Africa by Toto and Badinerie by Bach. You will learn about genres from pop and film music to classical and world music. Altogether, the course is designed to help you grow as a musician while letting you show off your skills in different fun and practical ways.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

The skills you learn in Eduqas GCSE Music are useful in lots of other school subjects and in future jobs. Music helps you become more organised, focused and confident — all things that make studying easier.

- Performing teaches you to stay calm under pressure, which is great for exams and presentations.
- Composing builds creativity and problem-solving, helping you think of new ideas in subjects like English, Computing, Mathematics, Science and Technology.
- Listening work improves your memory, attention to detail and analytical thinking, which are important for every subject you study.

Employers value the skills above because they show you can work well with others, communicate clearly, manage your time and think creatively. So even if you don't choose a music career, GCSE Music gives you skills and abilities that can help you succeed wherever you go next.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Mrs Sharkey j.sharkey@finhampark.co.uk

Miss Atherton r.atherton@finhampark.co.uk

Mr Davies b.davies@finhampark.co.uk

OCR Cambridge Certificate in Engineering Design

Why choose OCR Cambridge Certificate in Engineering Design?

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.

What will I study?

The Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design encourage learners to communicate and consult with a client to develop a viable and innovative product. Learners will apply practical skills to produce a prototype in the form of a model and test design ideas to inform further product development. Through reflection learners evaluate the prototype, making a comparable outcome against specification points, and assess possible, practical solutions and improvements to their prototype design.

Who would this course suit?

If you are interested in developing knowledge in engineering technology and developing critical thinking, creativity and dextrous skills through engaging practical then this could be the course for you. This course is a mixture of both written assignment work, hand sketching and practical work, which will also include CAD/CAM produced practical pieces. You are not required to make a final product but practical work will be carried out to enable students to learn the theory of the course where applicable.

How will I learn?

This course will enable learners to develop the skills and understanding required to carry out a range of engineering tasks and is based around both practical and written work.

In year 10 students will complete Unit R039 looking at a variable context set by the exam board. The Unit R039 will be completed and handed in before the end of the year and they will then begin work on Unit R040 which will be completed during when the context is released in June.

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment is by the production of a portfolio of work for the units R039, R040 and will consist of written assignments, design work, CAD and manufacturing a final piece based on a working drawing
Unit R038 is assessed by a written examination paper. R039 will be submitted at the end of Year 10 and R040 will be submitted in Year 11

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
R308	40%	1 hour	Summer of year 11.	R039 R040	30% 30% 30 hours for each unit
40% of overall mark			60% of overall mark		

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Due to the nature of the subject, students can use it as a stepping board for numerous career pathways including university courses straight into work or apprenticeships. The course can lead onto careers such as:

Possible Future University Courses:

Civil Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Architecture, Chemical Engineering, Telecommunications, Robotic Engineering, Electric Engineering

Possible Future Careers or Apprenticeships:

Automotive Industry, Aerospace Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Civil Engineer

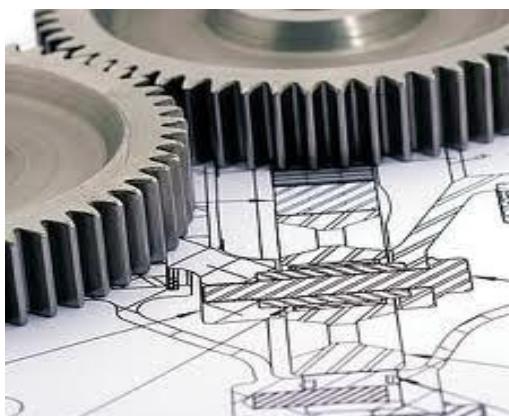
If I want to know more I should ask ...

For more information visit:

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals-engineering-design

Speak with Mr Elliott (Head of Design and Technology) r.elliott@finhampark.co.uk

or Mr Maguire (Head of STEM) p.maguire@finhampark.co.uk



GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Why choose GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition?

A brand new specification now brings a keen focus on every essential element of the culinary arts. If you want to be able to develop classic cooking techniques GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is for you. If you feel that relating complex chemical and biological sciences to everyday foods will benefit your all round studies, then this course is for you. This course brings the essential knowledge and practical skills together in a new rigorous specification that will develop a deep holistic knowledge of cooking and nutrition as well as the scientific principles that underpin all recipes.

What will I study?

The main areas of the new specification will cover

- **Nutritional needs:** Can you produce a meal for a specific dietary group?
- **Diet related health risks:** The biggest killer in this country is diet related illness, how do we stop it?
- **Food provenance:** Where does your food come from? What is involved in producing it?
- **Technological developments in food:** where will we get our protein from in the future?
- **Culinary traditions:** can you master the classic dishes all chefs learn on their way to greatness?
- **The range of factors that influence food choice:** why do we eat what we eat?
- **Food marketing:** an industry worth billions, but how does it work?
- **Food Science:** What is a colloid? Why does a steak on a barbecue taste so amazing? This module will tell you all of that and much much more.
- **Food safety principles:** Have you ever had food poisoning? This element will ensure it never happens to you or anyone you cook for.
- **Cooking skills:** You will improve all aspects of your cooking from organisation, knife skills to presenting dishes that would sit happily in top restaurants.

Who would this course suit?

If you love being in the kitchen, benefit from a disciplined learning environment where every lesson is essential and your effort and skills directly impact not only on the grade you receive but what you eat, then this course would suit you. This course is only for those who care about food; the cooking, the presentation its provenance. An open minded approach to new flavours, ingredients and cooking methods is essential.

How will I learn?

You will combine practical and theory learning. Sometimes cooking entire dishes to learn a skill. Some lessons will involve experimental work. You will be assessed regularly on each area as well as your attitude and application in cooking sessions.

This is a genuinely exciting and investigative cooking course, combining the academic rigour required to succeed in this new GCSE specification with advanced cooking skills that you will have for life.

How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed with 50% Non-Exam Assessment which is split into 2 practical and written non exam assessments. Combined these will take 20 hours to complete and will be carried out in Year 11. The other 50% of the course is assessed through a written examination at the end of Year 11.

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
Written examination – principles of food preparation and nutrition.	1 hour 45 mins	Summer of year 11.	Non exam-assessment: Assessment 1 – The Food Investigation Assessment Assessment 2 – The Food Preparation Assessment	8 hours 12 hours	Sept – May of year 11

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

The course can lead onto university courses, apprenticeships and careers such as:-

Possible Future University Courses:

- Management of Hospitality,
- Food and Culinary Arts,
- Baking Technology Management,
- Hospitality Business Management with Culinary Arts,
- Food and Professional Cookery,
- Patisserie and Confectionery,
- Food Production and Cooking, Nutrition,
- Animal Nutrition,
- Health, Nutrition and Exercise.
- Dietetics
- Sports Nutrition

Possible Future Apprenticeships or Careers:

Caterer, Pastry Chef, Sous Chef, Head Chef, Home Economist, Food Scientist, Dietician, Technical Brewer, Nutritional Therapist, Food Technologist, Teacher, Animal Nutritionist, recipe development for supermarkets and airlines.

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Speak with Mr Elliott (Head of Design and Technology) in K15 – r.elliott@finhampark.co.uk

GCSE Film Studies

Why choose Film Studies GCSE

Film has dominated visual story-telling and entertainment forms in our culture for the past century, and is an area British companies have excelled in, attracting investment and jobs from abroad, especially Hollywood and Europe. **GCSE Film Studies** allows students to develop a critical, questioning approach to films, audiences, and social contexts. Students make a number of films, and by doing so learn vital visual story-telling techniques, which allow them in turn to analyse these techniques in a wide variety of films, dissecting representations and cultural influences. The practical and theoretical aspects of the course go hand in hand.

What will I study?

The EDUQAS Film Studies GCSE investigates:

Hollywood Films – Genre Study (to be confirmed) - (Year 11) – the typical features of films within the designated genre, including camera work, editing and settings, the representations of key heroes and villains and the values they stand for, taught through case studies. The topic also engages with the ways in which these genre conventions have changed over time.

Hollywood Independents - (Year 10/11) – the way in which audience perceptions are affected by critical reviews of Independent Hollywood Films. Taught through a single case study.

Non-Hollywood Films – Narrative and Aesthetics Study (Year 10/11) - the study of differences between Hollywood films and those from other English- and non-English speaking cultures, in the way they represent society, gender and important social ideas. Taught through three case studies.

Creative film-making – (Year 9/10/11) – Students individually create a series of screenplays or sequences for the start of a film from a given brief, using their learning of genre conventions. They plan the sequence, shoot it and edit it into a final product, and then evaluate their best one. These vital film skills are taught at first, but students gradually become much more independent in their film productions as the course goes on.

This course would suit you if ...

- Watch a lot of films
- Are interested in film and culture
- Are visually creative (in production design, filming, editing or special effects)
- Are interested in story-telling, and what makes a good story
- Have an enquiring mind and enjoy analysing the ways in which films create meaning and tell stories
- Are organised and good at undertaking individual research
- Are good at planning / executing independent creative projects over extended periods of time
- Have strong analytical and written skills

How will I learn?

Investigate topics using a range of case study films, videos, podcasts, the internet, and your teacher! Google Classroom will be central to all of your learning resources.

Independent “flipped learning” so you can work at your own pace and at your own level: The course suits students who are self-motivated and work well independently.

Practical exercises which get progressively more difficult after initial skills-learning, and result in long-term film projects.

How will my work be assessed?

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
Paper 1 – Exploring Hollywood Films 35%	1 ½ hours	Summer Year 11	Film creation (Screenplay or edited production, and evaluation)	20 hours in lessons 30%	Year 10/11
Paper 2 – Non-Hollywood Films 35%	1 ½ hours	Summer Year 11			
70% of overall mark				30% of overall mark	

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

We advise students wishing to take A Level Film or Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media to have studied Film GCSE.

Film Studies:

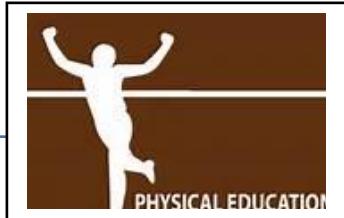
- Helps you develop practical and creative skills which help in all creative professions such as acting, design, film, TV, video games design, set design, writing, marketing, and business
- Teaches project management skills such as planning, execution, and team work required in industries such as engineering, STEM and any media industries
- Helps you to understand audiences and production processes, so it's useful in marketing professions, advertising, business
- Teaches written enquiry skills which fit jobs which find out information – Journalism, researcher, market research, and teaching or lecturing.
- Requires extended, logical, reasoned, analytical debate in writing which is essential for other subjects such as English, Sociology, Psychology, History, Geography, and Science
- Teaches ICT skills, communicating ideas, flexibility, teamwork, problem solving and evaluating solutions
- Gets you in touch with film professionals through trips, external speakers from industry, and the [Finham Film Festival](#). Our students perform among the best in the country, and the festival allows them to gain exposure among professionals from the film industry, so there is a healthy element of competition in our termly film-making!

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Mr Gunn

m.gunn@finhampark.co.uk

<https://finhampark.com/film-studies/>



Why choose Physical Education GCSE?

Physical Education provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how to live a healthy and active lifestyle, enabling them to make informed choices about their own physical development. Students can choose from a variety of roles and activities in which to participate in physical activity. Students will learn how to analyse and evaluate performance and suggest effective plans for improvement.

What will I study?

Students will be assessed in a variety of different sporting activities. In theory lessons students will be studying various aspects from the OCR course, including: anatomy and physiology, psychological benefits of exercise and methods of training.

This course would suit

Students choosing GCSE PE **MUST** do at least one competitive sport outside of school. Full details of what sports can be assessed can be found below.

How will I learn?

In Year 10 students will still have four lessons of core PE over the fortnight. Those who choose to study GCSE PE will also have an additional five lessons, which will consist of two theory (classroom based lessons) and three practical based lessons. As the course progresses, students will do more theory and less practical lessons.

How will my work be assessed?

In practical activities students will be assessed for each sport completed out of 20. Students will be assessed in three sports (one team, one individual and one team or individual sport). Students will also complete a piece of coursework based on their chosen sport, which will focus on their practical and theoretical understanding.

At the end of each term students will complete progress tests in both theory and practical elements. All final assessments will be completed in year 11, which includes two one hour exams.

Examinations	Length	When	Controlled assessment / Coursework / Portfolio	Length	When
Exam One: Applied A &P & Physical Training	1 Hour		Practical Sport (3 different sports) - 30%	Over two years	In year 10 & 11
Exam Two: Socio-cultural influences, Sports psychology, Health, fitness and well-being	1 Hour	In year 11	Coursework - 10%		
60% of overall mark		40% of overall mark			

If I want to know more, I should ask: Mr Amos – Head of PE m.amos@finhampark.co.uk

TEAM SPORTS

INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

You will need to pick 3 sports

1 team, 1 individual and 1 team or individual

Acrobatic Gymnastics (cannot be assessed with gymnastics).

Football

Badminton (cannot be assessed with singles)

Basketball

Cricket

Dance (cannot be assessed both as a team or individual)

Figure skating (cannot be assessed with dance or as both a team or individual)

Gaelic football

Goal football

Handball

Hockey

Ice hockey

Hurling

Lacrosse

Netball

Rowing (cannot be assessed with kayaking, canoeing, sculling or as both a team and individual sport)

Rugby League (cannot be assessed with Rugby League)

Rugby Union (cannot be assessed with Rugby League)

Sailing. (Please see your PE teacher for further information)

Sculling (Please see your PE teacher for further information)

Squash (cannot be assessed with singles)

Table Tennis (cannot be assessed with singles)

Tennis (cannot be assessed with singles)

Volleyball

Water polo

Other sports including: Blind Cricket, Camogie, Goalball, Hurling, Powerchair football, wheel chair basketball, wheel chair rugby, Inline roller hockey & Fusal

Athletics or Cross Country

Badminton (cannot be assessed with doubles)

Boxing

Canoeing (cannot be assessed with, canoeing, sculling or as both a team and individual sport)

Cycling (Track or road or BMX)

Dance (cannot be assessed both as a team or individual)

Diving

Equestrian

Figure skating (cannot be assessed with dance)

Golf

Gymnastics

Ice Skating

Kayaking (cannot be assessed with, canoeing, sculling or as both a team and individual sport)

Rock Climbing

Sailing (Please see your PE teacher for further information)

Sculling (Please see your PE teacher for further information)

Skiing (cannot be assessed with snowboarding)

Snowboarding (cannot be assessed with snowboarding)

Swimming (cannot be synchronisation)

Rowing

Squash (cannot be assessed with doubles)

Table Tennis (cannot be assessed with doubles)

Tennis (cannot be assessed with doubles)

Trampolining

Windsurfing (Please see your PE teacher for further information)

Other Sports including: Boccia, Polybat

GCSE Psychology

Why choose Psychology GCSE

Psychology is the study of human behaviour and the human brain – why we do the things we do. So if you are interested in people, and want to learn more about what makes us tick – then Psychology will be a good choice for you. Psychology is partly a Science – it looks at experiments that Psychologists have done, what they were trying to find out, and how successful their experiments have been. So we also ask you to devise and carry out experiments, to see what you can find out about people's behaviours and minds. But Psychology is also an opportunity to discover how unpredictable and amazing human beings are, and to explore further how much our brain controls us... or how much we control our brain.

What will I study?

Psychology follows the Edexcel course, which has 2 examinations. The new syllabus will study the following themes:

Unit 1

Topics – Development, Memory, Psychological problems, the Brain and Neuropsychology, Social Influence

Unit 2

Topics – Research methods, Criminal Psychology, Sleep and Dreaming

Who would this course suit?

Students who are interested in people! Why we do what we do, and why we behave and think. If you are interested in how people work, then this could be the subject for you!

Students who enjoy Science.

Students who enjoy thinking creatively and thinking of imaginative responses.

Students who have a good memory – there's lot of content!

Students who are determined and like a challenge. Psychology is new to you all!

How will I learn?

Students will learn *about* Psychology – they will investigate famous experiments and Psychologists, and will evaluate their findings and how accurate they think they are. You will also find out about the different *types* of Psychologists and what 'being a Psychologist' actually means.

We will ask you to devise, conduct and write up experiments – to come up with hypotheses, gather data effectively, and conduct experiments using a variety of participants.

We will ask you to debate and discuss many varied topics, such as illusions, dreams, memories, violence, phobias, fear, obedience, ethics, upbringing and senses.

Examinations	Length	When	Length	Controlled	When
<i>Paper 1 55% of final mark</i>	<i>1 hr 45mins</i>	<i>Summer Yr11</i>		<i>No controlled assessment in this subject</i>	
<i>Paper 2 45% of final mark</i>	<i>1 hr 20 mins</i>	<i>Summer Yr11</i>			

How will my work be assessed?

Assessment will be ongoing throughout Year 10 and Year 11, where students will be introduced to real GCSE questions and will become familiar with the layout and demands of GCSE exams.

There is no controlled assessment and final grades will be assessed through 2 exams at the end of Year 11.

How can I use this course after Year 11 / in the future?

Psychology is a hugely popular subject in KS5 and many of our Sixth Form students continue to study Psychology at University.

If you choose this, it shows that you are interested in people and human behaviour. Psychology relates well to other Social Sciences subjects such as Law and Sociology, as well as other subjects such as Humanities and some aspects of Science.

Psychology study gives you skills of analysis and perception, and a better understanding of human beings and why we may behave the way we do. This means that any career involving interactions with people, could benefit from Psychology. This could involve almost any career – but often Psychology graduates may find themselves working in areas such as teaching and social work, and the separate disciplines of Psychology itself, such as:

- Educational Psychology
- Sports Psychology
- Clinical Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Occupational Psychology
- Counselling Psychology
- Forensic Psychology

If I want to know more I should ask ...

Miss Middleton, Miss Ali or Mr Ratcliffe - d.ratcliffe@finhampark.co.uk, l.middleton@finhampark.co.uk, a.ali@finhampark.co.uk