



# Options

## Booklet 2024-25

A guide to the courses and qualifications  
available to Year 10 and 11 students

Dear Parent/Carer

This Options booklet outlines the structure for Key Stage 4 in Years 10 and 11.

At Ormiston Horizon Academy, a range of options subjects are available and we aim to provide all students with the opportunity to study a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. To access a range of qualifications that will support students in engaging with subjects they will enjoy and succeed in, they are encouraged to talk to subject teachers, their personal tutor and our careers advisors to gain a clear understanding of what subject areas they should be considering.

Each student will study GCSE **English Language & English Literature, Mathematics, Sciences and either Geography or History.**

In addition, students should then rank their top two subjects in each block with rank 1 being their preferred choice. Wherever possible, students will be allocated their first or second option choice.

Once the courses commence in September students will **not** be able to change options, due to group sizes and staffing.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss any issues please do not hesitate to contact the Raising Standards Leader for Year 9, Mr Maher, through reception.

Yours sincerely

***N Whiston***

Ms Whiston

Vice Principal

# Your Pathways to Success

Dear Year 9 Student,

Options time is an important point in your education, as it is here that you get to choose some of the subjects that you will study for the next two years. We know that it can be a difficult time because there are a lot of questions that you might have: Which subject is right for me? What if I don't know what I want to do at all? Rest assured that we will help you to make choices about your future learning that are right for you.

This booklet and the options process are designed to make this time less worrying for you and your parents/carers. They will help you to start making decisions about your learning and to choose subjects that suit your aspirations, skills and needs.

Please use all the information available to you: this booklet; advice from teachers; your Personal Tutors and your parents. All of these people know you in some way and may be able to suggest whether they think a subject would suit you as a learner. You will also be working on this in tutor time and may already have some firm ideas.

The deadline for submitting your Options Form will be **Friday 22nd March**. The form should be completed electronically.

<https://forms.office.com/e/mqcX7wjjGK>

We hope that the information allows you to make the right choices that will see you succeeding over the next two years and beyond.



Mr Fitzgibbon  
Principal

Options Form 2024



## What is Key Stage 4?

The curriculum at Key Stage 4 consists of a mixture of Essential Learning and Additional Learning. Students will be able to choose subjects for their additional learning according to their strengths and interests. They will be guided through their choices by subject teachers, tutors and other staff to ensure that their choices are appropriate.

The Key Stage 4 (KS4) curriculum reflects the National Curriculum requirements - [www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-England-secondary-curriculum](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-England-secondary-curriculum) - and the curriculum policy of the school.

We want to offer as much individual choice as we can, so that students can follow courses they need for interest and their future career paths. However, there are also certain constraints and requirements that govern students' choices: the following pages explain what these are.

We urge that all students opt for a broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst all GCSEs have equal status, they do stress different skills and ways of learning. When making choices students must balance their skills and learning styles in order to keep options open for later life, such as choosing college or A level courses.

## Essential Learning: What does everyone do?

All students are taught a core programme which we refer to in this booklet as Essential Learning. These are the subjects and skills that are statutory for all children aged 14-16, with the addition of English Literature, which we feel is important too, and is studied by everyone.

Essential Learning comprises:

- ◆ English
- ◆ English Literature
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Core PE
- ◆ PSHE

# Understanding qualification levels

## What level of qualifications will I study in Year 10 and 11? (These are sometimes referred to as POST-14 qualifications)

When you are in Year 9, you will choose your Key Stage 4 options. The subject qualifications offered will be a mixture of Level 2 GCSE and Vocational Diplomas, for example, English Language and Mathematics are GCSEs and Health and Social Care is a BTEC.

## What level of qualifications will I study when I leave Year 11? (These are sometimes referred to as POST-16 qualifications)

The overall majority of student's progress to Level 3 Qualifications such as a mixture of A-Levels, T Levels and Vocational Diplomas. Some students prefer the Apprenticeship route.

## What level of qualifications will I study if I want to go to University? (These are sometimes referred to as POST-18 qualifications)

University course entry is based on a minimum number of UCAS points. The UCAS points equate to different Level 3 qualifications grades students achieve. Level 2 Grade 4 in both English and Mathematics is also a requirement. For more information on UCAS points <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/entry-requirements/ucas-tariff-points>

## Can I still achieve a Degree without going to University?

Yes! However not all careers offer this route. For more information on Degree Apprenticeships <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships>

## Comparing the Different Levels of Education

|         |   |                     |   |  |   |
|---------|---|---------------------|---|--|---|
| LEVEL 8 | Doctorate (PhD)   |                     |   |  |   |
| LEVEL 7 | Masters Degree (MA)   |                     |   | Any one of these apprenticeships may run into the next, depending on your employer's initial offer.  |   |
| LEVEL 6 | <div>Bachelors Degree</div> <div>BA<br/>(Bachelor of Arts)</div> <div>BSc<br/>(Bachelor of Science)</div> |                     |   | <div>Degree Apprenticeship</div> <div>(This is an alternative to opting for a university degree, and with this option the employer pays for your degree)</div> |   |
| LEVEL 5 |   |                     |   |  |   |
| LEVEL 4 | <div>Foundation Degree</div> <div>FdA</div> <div>FdSc</div>   |                     |   | <div>Higher Level Apprenticeship</div>   |   |
| LEVEL 3 | <div>A Levels</div>   | <div>T Levels</div> | <div>L3 Single Diploma</div> <div>(equivalent to one A level)</div> | <div>L3 Extended Diploma</div> <div>(equivalent to three A levels)</div>   | <div>Advanced Apprenticeship</div> <div>(Typically school leaver)</div> |
| LEVEL 2 | <div>GCSE</div> <div>Grades 4 to 9</div>  |                     | <div>L2 Diploma</div>   | <div>Intermediate Apprenticeship</div> <div>(Typically school leaver)</div>  |   |
| LEVEL 1 | <div>GCSE</div> <div>Grades 1 to 3</div>  |                     | <div>L1 Diploma</div> <div>(Foundation)</div>                       |  |   |

# What Are My Choices?

This booklet takes you through the Core Curriculum subjects (Mathematics, English, Science) which are mandatory and will provide you with a broad and balanced subject base.

After the Core Curriculum subjects, you will have a number of options (depending on your pathway). You will find information about all of the subjects on offer in year 10 and 11.

It is important that you enjoy learning. We want you to pick courses that you find interesting, play to your strengths and develop your skills. You should consider carefully how these choices will affect your future at OHA and beyond. Many courses of study will link directly into post-16 courses.

## How do I make my choices?

| Option: EBACC Choose either Geography or History  |  |                             |  |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Geography   |  | History                     |  |
| <b>In Option A, B &amp; C you are assigned one subject. Please indicate a preference 1, 2</b> |  |                             |  |
| <b>Option A</b>   |  |                             |  |
| Sport (GCSE PE/ Sports Studies)   |  | Psychology                  |  |
| Construction  |  | Drama                       |  |
| Design & Technology   |  | Photography                 |  |
| Art   |  | Religious Studies           |  |
| <b>Option B</b>   |  |                             |  |
| Business Studies  |  | Design & Technology         |  |
| Sport (GCSE PE/ Sports Studies)   |  | Creative iMedia             |  |
| Psychology  |  | Health & Social Care        |  |
| Hospitality & Catering  |  | Art                         |  |
| <b>Option C</b>   |  |                             |  |
| Business  |  | Music                       |  |
| Hospitality & Catering  |  | Performing Arts (Dance)     |  |
| Spanish   |  | Textiles                    |  |
| Statistics  |  | History (second humanities) |  |
| Health & Social Care  |  | Sociology                   |  |
| Triple Science  |  |                             |  |

## How do I indicate my option choices?

Study carefully the subject information that follows and be sure to understand what you are taking on. Discuss your options with your parents/carers and teachers to make sure you are making the right decisions. You and your parents/carers can request an interview to finalise your choices if necessary. Once you have made your final choices complete the option form online.

## Can I change my mind later?

When you have made your choices, numbers have to be balanced in teaching groups and then the timetable is prepared. This is a long process and it cannot be readily changed.

## Will I automatically secure a place on my first choice courses?

Not necessarily, for three reasons:

- The range of subjects offered now, at the planning stage, may have to be modified because of staffing or other constraints. Due to the wide curriculum offer, there is usually one or two subjects that do not attract the necessary number of students to be financially viable. Each year group is different, so at this stage we do not know which subjects are likely not to run. That is why it is very important to think carefully about second choices.
- It may be necessary to limit numbers for safety reasons and for access to equipment.
- Students' levels of attainment and progression in Year 9 will be taken into consideration before confirmation of final choices.

## Which targets will I be set?

Your Minimum Expected Grade will be based on entry levels that you came to the academy with from primary school, as well as your progress in Key Stage 3. This will then be matched with estimates from the Department for Education for students of your ability and we will expect you to match or out-perform students of similar ability nationally.

# Choosing GCSE Options

Your GCSE subject options will be firmly in your sight if you're in Year 9 right now, or coming up to that stage of life.

We all struggle with choices. So what should you bear in mind when [choosing GCSE options](#)? Here are a few pointers:

## Let the choices be yours

You may have already found that many people will have opinions about your choices. You'll receive advice from parents and teachers – do listen but in the end go for what you'd like to do.

You may also have friends suggesting you do the same subjects as them – choose for yourself.

Ultimately we suggest you choose subjects that you will enjoy.

Further down the line when workload is heavy you'll appreciate enjoying a subject and looking forward to rather than dreading lessons. It's very easy to then talk yourself out of taking a subject you love.

Instead ask “Why not?”.

## Think about your future

This is a simple one but very important. It's almost certain that [subjects you take at A Level](#) will have to be part of your options at GCSE.

If you want to go on that far, what subjects do you see yourself taking? This long term thinking also applies to [university](#) and [careers](#).

It can be scary to think that far ahead but spend a little time dreaming. What would you like to do with your life?

## Strike a balance

Choose good [GCSE options](#) that will look balanced.

If you love the Arts, find a subject like History or a language alongside it. The reason for balance is not to please teachers or parents; it's just a way of keeping your options open.

As your school career progresses you may find you have gifts you never dreamed of. Try to not shut too many doors too soon.

## Choose the subject not the teacher

We all know sometimes a relationship with a teacher can be hard.

You may be tempted to avoid a topic because the teacher is one you find difficult. Try hard not to let that put you off.

Similarly you may choose a subject because of a great teacher – but think hard. In the long term teachers will change but its subject that will carry you through.



## Where can I get help and support?

### To arrange a careers meeting

All students in Year 9 and Year 11 will have the opportunity to have a careers meeting with the Careers Adviser.

If you require additional support, please email one of the of the careers team who will be more than happy to help organise an appointment:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>CEIAG Co-ordinator:</b> | Mrs Naylor : <a href="mailto:knaylor@horizonoat.co.uk">knaylor@horizonoat.co.uk</a> |
|----------------------------|---|

### Can my teachers or Personal Tutor help with careers information?

Absolutely! Your teachers know the difference in levels of qualifications and where to find information on jobs in the local area. They can also talk to you about their own experiences such as the different jobs they have had and which college and university they went too.

### Can I speak to the careers team outside of the academy?

Yes! The Stoke-on-Trent Careers Service work throughout the school holidays:

[https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20007/schools\\_and\\_education/148/young\\_peoples\\_careers\\_advice\\_service/1](https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20007/schools_and_education/148/young_peoples_careers_advice_service/1)

# Core Subject

## GCSE English Language

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Gardner

**Contact:** [sgardner@horizoncoat.co.uk](mailto:sgardner@horizoncoat.co.uk)

**Specification:** AQA

### Why is this a core subject?

It is the most commonly-quoted qualification for jobs, courses and promoted posts in the country. That is why it is compulsory.

### What will I study?

GCSE English Language presents students with challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The texts, which cover a range of genres and types, are used to assess students' ability to understand, analyse and synthesise information.

### What skills are required?

Students need to be able to read independently and give a critical response to the texts they have studied. They will develop their ability to write clearly for different audiences and purposes, and be able to speak and listen in a range of contexts.

### How will I be assessed?

Students take two examinations for English Language which assess their understanding of how writers use techniques to engage readers, and how different writers present a similar topic over time.

### What are the career opportunities?

A qualification in English can lead to a variety of careers including: Administration, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Teaching and many more. English teaches essential communications skills that are valuable and highly sought by employers.

# GCSE English Literature

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Gardner

**Contact:** [sgardner@horizonoat.co.uk](mailto:sgardner@horizonoat.co.uk)

**Specification:** AQA

## Why is this a core subject?

It is the most commonly-quoted qualification for jobs, courses and promoted posts in the country. That is why it is compulsory.

## What will I study?

In English Literature students study *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls* and a range of *Conflict* poetry.

## What skills are required?

Students will need to be able to read independently and give a critical response to texts they have studied. They will develop their ability to write clearly for different audiences and purposes, and be able to speak and listen in a range of contexts.

## How will I be assessed?

Students also take two English Literature examinations in which they will be assessed on their understanding of novels, plays and poems written by British Literary Heritage writers. In addition to this, students will also undertake a speaking and listening qualification for which they can be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction for delivering a speech on a topic that they are passionate about.

## What are the career opportunities?

A qualification in English can lead to a variety of careers including: Administration, Journalism, Law, Marketing, Teaching and many more. English teaches essential communications skills that are valuable and highly sought by employers.

## Core Subject

### GCSE Mathematics

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Vasey

**Contact:** [avasey@horizontoat.co.uk](mailto:avasey@horizontoat.co.uk)

**Specification:** Edecel

All students study Mathematics. It is one of the fundamental subjects underpinning all sciences and technology. We want students to see the learning of Mathematics as a lifelong experience, which will help them to approach situations with confidence. We want them to appreciate that Mathematics will be useful outside the classroom and can also be used to help other GCSEs.

#### What will I study?

In Mathematics the course comprises of six key areas: Number, Algebra, Geometry and measures, Probability, Statistics and Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change. Functional Mathematics is at the core of all the work covered and is reflected in the terminal exam.

#### What skills are required?

Students will acquire and use problem-solving strategies that will enhance mathematical techniques and methods in every day, real life situations. They will learn to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. Students will develop their ability to interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

#### How will I be assessed?

The examination will consist of three papers at the end of the course. One is a non-calculator paper and the other 2 are calculator papers. Grades 1 to 5 are available at Foundation Tier. Grades 4 to 9 are available at Higher Tier.

All papers at both tiers are 90 minutes long and worth 80 marks each.

#### What are the career opportunities?

A qualification in Mathematics encourages students to develop a positive attitude towards mathematics, improve their confidence levels and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives. It prepares students to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices.

# GCSE Science Combined (Trilogy)

**Curriculum Leader:** Mr Llewellyn

**Contact:** [tllewellyn@horizoncoat.co.uk](mailto:tllewellyn@horizoncoat.co.uk)

**Specification:** AQA

Science is a core subject along with English and Mathematics. Science is important because it is useful for everyday life as well as being a compulsory requirement for many college courses. Science helps to explain the wonders of the world and also develops problem solving and thinking skills. Many careers require Science such as Medicine, Marine Biology, Sports Science and Physiotherapy.

## What will I study?

The initial modules of each Science GCSE have a clear focus on scientific literacy, where students consider critically the issues and choices raised by technology and science.

The course then focuses on scientific explanations and models, providing students with an insight into how scientists develop scientific understanding.

Finally students deepen their understanding of science explanations, how science works and the study of elements of applied science, with particular relevance to professional scientists.

## What skills are required?

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Application of number
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Working with others
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Practical skills in analysing, interpreting and evaluation evidence

## How will I be assessed?

Each GCSE is assessed externally by AQA, and consists of six written exams offered at Higher and Foundation Tiers.

## What are the career opportunities?

The skills developed by students who study Science are highly valued by employers and are not just limited to science related careers. A recent survey found that 92% of all firms employed people with good STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills. Achieving good Science GCSE grades also meets the entry requirements of many university courses.

## GCSE Statistics

**Subject Leader:** Mr Shutt

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Vasey

**Contact:** cshutt@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Edexcel

There are two pathways that can be taken dependent upon prior knowledge. The first is foundation which will support students in GCSE mathematics as well. There are a lot of cross over topics and students will gain an extra GCSE. The higher pathway is for students already excelling in Mathematics and wanting to further their mathematical knowledge into more logistical and strategic problems. Both pathways will support students in our ever-growing data heavy world.

### What will I study?

GCSE Statistics incorporates Statistics, Probability, Number and certain elements of Algebra. This covers many of the graphs, diagrams and tables used in business, scientific research and media. Students are encouraged to develop enquiring techniques enabling them to model sets of data, analyse them and justify their conclusions both statistically and in real terms. This course complements GCSE Mathematics, Biology and Geography.

### What skills are required?

GCSE Statistics initially builds on many of the skills studied in key stage 3 and GCSE maths, but takes these mathematical ideas much further and seeks to develop an understanding of their use. Many new skills and statistical methods are introduced and applied to real world situations, including the communication of statistical findings.

### How will I be assessed?

There are two calculator papers at the end of the course. Both are 90 minutes long and worth 80 marks each.

### What are the career opportunities?

A career in statistics is a rewarding and often exciting career. Statisticians work with the data that are all around us and the opportunities for work are endless. Examples of careers in statistics include Medicine, Environmental Statistics, Social Science Research, Teaching and many more.

## Option

### Triple Science: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry & GCSE Physics

**Curriculum Leader:** Mr Llewellyn

**Contact:** tllewellyn@horizontoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

Triple Science allows you to gain three GCSEs in science and you will study each discipline (biology, chemistry and physics) in more details. If you enjoy and have a clear interest in science, want to go onto study Science at AS/A level and beyond, this option will suit you.

#### What will I study?

The initial modules of each Science GCSE have a clear focus on scientific literacy, where students consider critically the issues and choices raised by technology and science.

The course then focuses on scientific explanations and models, providing students with an insight into how scientists develop scientific understanding.

Finally students deepen their understanding of science explanations, how science works and the study of elements of applied science, with particular relevance to professional scientists.

#### What skills are required?

- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Application of number
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Working with others
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Practical skills in analysing, interpreting and evaluation evidence

#### How will I be assessed?

Each GCSE is assessed externally by AQA, and consists of two 105 minute written exams offered at Higher and Foundation Tiers.

#### What are the career opportunities?

The skills developed by students who study Science are highly valued by employers and are not just limited to science related careers. A recent survey found that 92% of all firms employed people with good STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills. Achieving good Science GCSE grades also meets the entry requirements of many university courses.

Students considering this option need a recommendation from the curriculum leads to confirm their place before submission of the options form online.

# Option

## GCSE Geography

**Curriculum Leader:** Mr Cork

**Contact:** lcork@horizontoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

### What will I study?

- ♦ Living with the physical environment
- ♦ Challenges in the human environment
- ♦ Geographical applications
- ♦ Geographical skills

### What skills are required?

Mathematical, cartographic, mapping and statistical skills are embedded in the qualification to develop learners' competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Learners will develop the ability to represent geographical data using a range of cartographical and graphical techniques. They will also develop skills of analysis when interpreting a variety of maps, graphs, photographs and data sets.

### How will I be assessed?

Living with the physical environment: **Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes**

This unit is concerned with the dynamic nature of physical processes and systems, and human interaction with them in a variety of places and at a range of scales.

Challenges in the human environment: **Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes**

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both spatially and temporally

Geographical applications: **Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes**

### What are the career opportunities?

The fact that Geography provides students with an awareness of where they live makes it a desirable subject. Geography is looked upon favorably for careers in accountancy, teaching and areas of planning. It is also very useful in areas of work such as geology, transport networks, travel agencies, National Parks, forestry, agriculture, oil and gas exploration and overseas aid.



# Option

## GCSE History

**Curriculum Leader:** Mr Cork

**Contact:** lcork@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Edexcel

GCSE History will develop and extend knowledge and understanding around specific events/themes in local, British, and wider world history.

By engaging in historical investigations, learners will become more independent, critical and reflective thinkers. As historians, students will develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, interrogate source material and evaluate the interpretations offered on events that have shaped our world as we understand.

### What will I study?

- ◆ Medicine in Britain, c1250-Present *and* Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-18.
- ◆ Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-1088.
- ◆ The American West, c1835-1895.
- ◆ Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

### What skills are required?

**AO1:** Knowledge and understanding of key features and characteristics of the periods studied.

**AO2:** Explain and analyse historical events and periods through addressing second-order concepts such as cause and consequence.

**AO3:** Analyse, evaluate and use contemporary sources to reach supported conclusions on the past.

**AO4:** Analyse, evaluate and make judgments on interpretations of the past.

### How will I be assessed?

**Paper 1:** Medicine in Britain, c1250-Present *and* Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-18. (52 Marks, 30%, 1hr 15mins)

**Paper 2:** Anglo-Saxon and Norman, 1060-1088/The American West, c1835-1895 (64 Marks, 40%, 1hr 45mins)

**Paper 3:** Weimar and Nazi Germany (52 Marks, 30%, 1 hour 20 minutes)

### What are the career opportunities?

History will allow students to develop a wide range of transferable skills which can be applied to many different careers. These include fields such as:

- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Teaching

# Options

## Sport - Sports Studies

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Smith

**Contact:** msmith@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specifications:** OCR Nationals

In our attempt to ensure all students wishing to opt for a PE qualification have a pathway suitable to their needs, we are offering a range of pathways. These include, OCR GCSE PE and Cambridge National Sports Studies. Each course differs in terms of how students are assessed and the weighting of theory and practical.

**Students will simply opt for 'Sport' and the PE staff will use their professional judgement and experience to choose the course which will best meet each child's needs.**

In the OCR sport studies course, students will study four separate units over the two year course. Three of these are mainly practical based with the fourth unit, 'contemporary issues in sport' an examined unit. In the 'Developing Sports Skills' unit, you will be assessed in different sports such as football and netball, in 'Sports Leadership', you will plan, deliver and evaluate coaching sessions and in 'Outdoor Activities', you will learn more about various outdoor pursuits such as climbing, kayaking and orienteering.

The OCR Sport course will appeal to you if you are interested in a career in coaching sport or the leisure industry or perhaps outdoor pursuits; if you have a real passion for sport and being involved in your PE lessons; if you want to get involved in sport but may not necessarily be outstanding practically. This is a route for students who enjoy learning about sport in a practical context.

### What courses are on offer?

OCR National in Sports Studies

### What will I study?

Students explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting values and ethical behaviour, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment.

### How will I be assessed?

Contemporary issues in sport - 70 marks

Performance and leadership on sport and activity - 80 marks

Sport and the media - 40 marks

### What are the career opportunities?

Sports coaching, nursing, armed forces, fitness training, sports therapy, teaching, journalism, sports development, sports media, fire brigade, police force and a wide variety of other opportunities within the sport and leisure industry.

# Options

## Sport - GCSE PE

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Smith

**Contact:** msmith@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specifications:** OCR GCSE PE

In our attempt to ensure all students wishing to opt for a PE qualification have a pathway suitable to their needs, we are offering a range of pathways. These include, OCR GCSE PE and Cambridge National Sports Studies. Each course differs in terms of how students are assessed and the weighting of theory and practical.

**Students will simply opt for 'Sport' and the PE staff will use their professional judgement and experience to choose the course which will best meet each child's needs.**

GCSE Physical Education allows you to extend your core skills and values learnt during Physical Education lessons at Key Stage 3. For those of you who have excelled in PE lessons and enjoy improving your knowledge of health and fitness, GCSE PE will be the next step to a career in sport, leisure or the fitness industry. GCSE PE is a great knowledge base for A Level study, or a step into the sporting industry. The course will develop key skills, improve knowledge of health and fitness and the human body.

### What courses are on offer?

All students will receive core PE lessons as part of their entitlement however those wishing to study Physical Education in more detail, can opt for this additional GCSE in PE option.

### What will I study?

The GCSE in Physical Education course is comprised of four sections; Physical Factors affecting participation, socio-cultural factors affecting participation, practical performance in three sports and a coursework element. The breakdown of each component is outlined below;

Physical Factors - 30%

Socio-cultural & psychological factors affecting performance - 30%

Performance in physical education - 30%

AEP coursework - 10%

### What are the career opportunities?

Sports coaching, nursing, armed forces, fitness training, sports therapy, teaching, journalism, sports development, sports media, fire brigade, police force and a wide variety of other opportunities within the sport and leisure industry.

# Options

## GCSE Religious Studies

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Mallard

**Contact:** amallard@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specifications:** Eduqas; Route A

Religious Studies will help develop your key skills in communication, working with others and problem solving. It will also give you skills in making decisions about moral problems and help you to become sure about your own beliefs and explain them clearly to others. It will enhance your ability to argue your own viewpoints clearly and concisely, but also learn to understand the viewpoints of others. RS develops learners' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism. It shows the importance of tolerance within the community. It teaches that there are many ways to approach any issue, that different people can believe the same things for completely different reasons and that within religions, or even within denominations, there are often many contrasting beliefs and opinions. It reduces the 'fear of the unknown' and therefore nipping xenophobia, homophobia and racism in the bud and creating a more happy multicultural society. RS has an important role to play in preparing students for life in multicultural Britain and a globalized workplace.

### What will I study?

Religious Studies at GCSE builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed in the lower school. **Component 1** consists of; Relationships, Good and Evil, Life after death and Human rights. **Component two and three** focuses on the beliefs and practices from two religions. It is a popular option which encourages philosophical thought, collaboration and independent working skills and the search for compromise and conflict resolutions. It creates opportunities for students to develop their skills of debate, interpretation, analysis and evaluation. RS has a multidisciplinary nature involving the study of teachings and practices, ethics, social understanding and the skills of developing core skills of literacy. All these are vital skills in a modern workforce where communication, collaboration and cooperation are core skills. Furthermore, RS makes a key and unique contribution to understanding British heritage, values and futures. It provides an excellent opportunity for young people to engage with contemporary contentious issues, developing social, cultural, political, philosophical and historical awareness.

### How will I be assessed?

There is one tier of entry with all students completing the same examination papers.

The course consists of 3 examination papers. Component 1 is 50% of the final marks, Component 2 & 3 are 25% each of the final marks.

### What are the career opportunities?

**Religious Studies is a totally different subject from any other in the curriculum. It can prepare students for any job** that involves working with people and is becoming more popular with the growing need for religious tolerance and understanding in our society. Many students of RS go on to undertake careers in Teaching, Counselling, Social Work, the Armed Forces, the Prison Service, Medicine and Health, Lawyer, Journalist as well as the Civil Service. There is no job or career or apprenticeship that Religious Studies is not relevant to or valued by educational establishments or employers. It shows that you can listen and be tolerant and empathise with people from any ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs or cultural background. As Albert Einstein said 'Science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind'.

# Options

## GCSE Sociology

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Mallard

**Contact:** amallard@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specifications:** AQA

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions. By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to: investigate facts and make deductions; develop opinions and new ideas on social issues; analyse and better understand the social world.

### What will I study?

1. The sociological approach
2. Social structures, social processes and social issues
3. Families
4. Education
5. Crime and deviance
6. Social stratification
7. Sociological research methods

### How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: The Sociology of families and education

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

### What are the career opportunities?

Sociology develops the skills and knowledge that can be taken into future careers such as the police force, law and central government roles, charitable and voluntary organisations, media & marketing or teaching.

## Option

### GCSE Spanish

**Curriculum Leader:** Ms Capper

**Contact:** lcapper@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

Spanish GCSE is a linear qualification and consists of four components; listening, reading, speaking and writing.

#### What will I study?

Topic themes include:

- Me, my family and friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries
- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social and global issues
- Travel and tourism
- Current and future study and employment

#### What skills are required?

- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Focused and determined attitude to learning
- Good literacy skills
- A desire to become a confident linguist

#### How will I be assessed?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students will sit all of their exams at the end of the course and each unit is worth 25% of the final mark.:

⇒ Unit 1: Listening

⇒ Unit 2: Reading

⇒ Unit 3: Speaking

⇒ Unit 4: Writing

#### What are the career opportunities?

- ANY communication based career: a language GCSE demonstrates excellent communication skills and an ability to speak another language is in high demand
- Translation, interpretation, finance, language teaching, international law and public sector roles
- International roles for most careers
- Opportunities within EU and UN institutions
- A language GCSE is useful for any role within the travel and tourism industry

# GCSE Art & Design: Fine Art

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Johnson

**Contact:** kjohnson@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

During the GCSE Fine Art course students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring both 2D and 3D media, techniques and processes. This will include drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, design and 3D media. Due to the fine art nature of the course drawing is a key skill that must be demonstrated throughout the course.

Critical Studies is an important aspect of the course and students are required to write critically about the work of artists and their own work.

## What will I study?

During the initial phase of the course students will develop skills and confidence in using both 2D and 3D techniques. They will then use their skills and critical studies in producing two projects towards their coursework portfolio.

In Year 11 students will be set an external task by the examination board. They will be given time for research and experimentation before 10 hours under examination conditions to produce a final outcome.

## What skills are required?

A good drawing ability when recording from observation is a necessity.

Writing is a compulsory element, therefore students must be willing to express their thoughts and ideas both visually and through writing.

Students must be prepared to work independently at home to develop artwork. It is an advantage for students to have their own art materials

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio of work worth 60% of final grade

Component 2: Externally set assignment worth 40% of final grade

## What are the career opportunities?

Creative industries such as Fine Artist, Ceramicist, Fashion Designer, Photographer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Web Designer, Beautician, Product Designer, Advertising Creative,

# GCSE Art & Design: Photography

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Johnson

**Contact:** [kjohnson@horizoncoat.co.uk](mailto:kjohnson@horizoncoat.co.uk)

**Specification:** AQA

During the GCSE Photography course students will experience a variety of digital photography techniques and processes. They will develop knowledge of the camera and its capabilities, understand the formal skills in photography and experience both traditional and new technologies including image manipulation using ICT.

Critical Studies is an important aspect of the course and students are required to write critically about the work of artists and their own work. Recording ideas using drawing techniques is also part of the course.

## What will I study?

During the initial phase of the course students will develop their technical skills in using a camera, lighting and importance of composition. They will then use their skills and critical studies to produce two projects towards their coursework portfolio.

In Year 11 students will be set an external task by the examination board. They will be given time for research and experimentation before 10 hours under examination conditions to capture and develop their final imagery.

## What skills are required?

An interest in Photography and enjoyment of drawing.

Writing is a compulsory element, therefore students must be willing to express their thoughts and ideas both visually and through writing.

Students must be independent learners and willing to take their own photographs both in and outside of school. It is an advantage for students to have their own digital camera and access to ICT at home.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio of work worth 60% of final grade

Component 2: Externally set assignment worth 40% of final grade

## What are the career opportunities?

Photography based careers include fashion, documentary Fine Art, Publication, Wedding photographer. It could also be a benefit in creative industries such as Fine Artist, Ceramicist, Fashion Designer, Photographer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Web Designer, Beautician, Product Designer, Advertising Creative, Community Arts Worker, Art Teacher, Art Therapist.



## GCSE Art & Design: Textiles

**Subject Leader:** Miss Haynes

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Elson

**Contact:** selson@horizontoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

The course is designed to encourage students to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. Students will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities covered during the course. Outcomes could be a range of products made from natural, synthetic and blended fibres.

### What will I study?

In Years 10 and 11 students will develop a range of Textiles skills, that allow students to produce work that counts towards their overall GCSE grade. They will also produce a major practical piece during their time on the course.

In Year 11 students will be set an external task by the examination board. They will be given time for research and experimentation, before 10 hours under examination conditions to produce a final outcome.

### What skills are required?

- ◆ An interest in Textiles and Fashion
- ◆ Good practical skills
- ◆ Good design skills
- ◆ A knowledge of textiles products

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio of work worth 60% of final grade

Component 2: Externally set assignment worth 40% of final grade sat in year 11

### What are the career opportunities?

Fashion designer, Fashion buyer, Stylist, Merchandiser, Visual merchandiser. Trend forecaster, footwear designer, Garment technologist, Textile print designer, Quality control (QC).

## Level 1/2 Vocational: Hospitality & Catering

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Elson

**Contact:** selson@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Eduqas

The course is designed to encourage students to be able to develop and make a range of food products, using a variety of ingredients and techniques. Students will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities covered during the course. Students will look at areas of the Hospitality sector, safety and hygiene practices for Food products. They will also be taught about Food nutrition and peoples dietary needs.

### What will I study?

Students will be able to develop skills in all key areas of Food through undertaking a variety of practical tasks. Activities will focus on areas such as investigation, and development, as well as production planning and Food tasting.

In year 10 students will learn a range of cooking techniques, including how to present the food and study areas of the Hospitality sector. Students will then in year 11 complete the NEA project based on a set exam board brief and sit their externally set written exam.

### What skills are required?

- ◆ An interest in Food.
- ◆ Good practical, organisational and hygiene skills.
- ◆ A participation in KS3 Food Technology lessons.
- ◆ Contribution towards the ingredients for the practical tasks .

### How will I be assessed?

Eduqas Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering:

- ◆ Externally set Controlled Assessment (Which includes creating a two course meal and producing a written folder) worth 60% to be completed in year 11
- ◆ Externally set written exam worth 40% sat in year 11

### What are the career opportunities?

A range of careers include being a chef, nutritionist, dietician or a job in the hospitality and catering sector.

## Design & Technology: Product Design

**Subject Leader:** Miss Collis

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Elson

**Contact:** selson@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Edexcel

The course is designed to encourage students to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. Students will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities covered during the course. Practical outcomes could be a range of products designed to meet an externally set design brief.

### What will I study?

In Years 10 and 11 students will use the skills that they have learned to work towards a final major project based on a set design brief.

NB – Students are expected to know CORE elements within the Design and Technology family such as Fabrics, Systems and Metals. Then specialise in Timbers for the main unit.

### What skills are required?

- ◆ An interest in Product Design.
- ◆ Good practical skills.
- ◆ Good drawing skills.
- ◆ A basic understanding of products and how they work

### How will I be assessed?

- ◆ Externally set Controlled Assessment (Which includes the manufacture of a practical piece and a folder) – 50%
- ◆ Externally set written exam – 50%
- ◆ Edexcel GCSE Design and Technology (9-1)

### What are the career opportunities?

Product Designer, Architect, DT Teacher, Engineer, Technician, Graphic Designer. Trades such as an Electrician, Plumber and Joiner.

## Option

### Level 1/2 Vocational: Construction

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Elson

**Contact:** selson@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Eduqas

The course focuses on the development of underpinning knowledge of the Construction industry. You will gain an understanding of the essential aspects of the industry covering principal topics of health and safety and sustainability along with an insight into trades such as painting and decorating, brickwork, plumbing and electrics.

#### What will I study?

In Year 10 students will carry out tasks that support their practical skills for three construction areas and study areas in the Construction industry including Safety, trades and planning building projects. During year 11 students will produce their NEA project and sit their externally set exam.

#### What skills are required?

- ◆ Good practical skills.
- ◆ Good problem solving skills.
- ◆ Planning skills
- ◆ An interest in a career in the Construction Industry.

#### How will I be assessed?

Eduqas Level 1/2 Constructing the built environment:

- ◆ Externally set Controlled Assessment (Includes three Construction areas and production of a written folder) worth 60% to be completed in year 11
- ◆ Externally set written exam worth 40% sat in year 11

#### What are the career opportunities?

Construction could take you into a number of exciting career paths such as architect, civil engineer, quantity surveyor, building surveyor, project manager, builder, plasterer, joiner, painter and decorator, tiler, foreman.

# Option

## BTEC Dance

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Taylor

**Contact:** jtaylor@horizontoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Pearson BTEC

### What will I study?

This qualification is the BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance Pathway) Level 1/Level 2

#### **Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts**

In this component you will develop an understanding for the requirements of being a performer in dance across a range of performances and performance styles. You will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of skills and techniques. You will broaden your knowledge through observing and practically exploring existing performance work.

#### **Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts**

In this component, you will develop dance performing techniques. You will have the opportunity to specialise as a performer or designer in dance. You will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will use existing dance performance and recreate them applying relevant skills and techniques. Throughout your development, you will review your own progress and consider how to make improvements.

#### **Component 3: Responding to a brief**

In this component, you will have the opportunity to respond to a brief. You will be given a brief that outlines the performance and design requirements and that asks you to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using a stimulus. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas for a workshop performance and apply your skills and techniques to communicate your creative intentions to your audience.

### How will I be assessed?

This is a practical course which is supported by theory. Component 1 will be internally assessed, evidenced via camera and teacher observation. Component 2 is externally assessed.

**Component 1: internally assessed assignments - 30%**

**Component 2: internally assessed assignments - 30%**

**Component 3: externally assessed - 40%**

Students will have their workshop performance filmed and sent off to the exam board for marking. Students will capture their ideas on planning, development and effectiveness of the production process in a written log under supervised conditions over a period of 3 hours.

### What are the career opportunities?

BTEC Dance provides a suitable foundation for further study within the industry through progression on to further qualifications. This course will be perfect for students who want to develop subject specific skills and communication skills of all kinds. The course will allow them to develop their theory and performance skills or follow the teaching pathway.

# Option

## GCSE Drama

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Rushton

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Taylor

**Contact:** mrushton@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

The course represents a comprehensive and creative scheme that allows students to gain relevant skills, knowledge and understanding of Drama that can be applied to the required work in the assessment units.

The course is designed to cover all the main requirements that contribute to the Drama form and allows students to appreciate what is needed to communicate meaning through Drama.

### What will I study?

**Component 1 (theory):** Understanding Drama 40% of the GCSE

This is a written exam paper taken at the end of the course. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre by studying one play from a choice of six. The paper is divided into three sections and carries a maximum of 80 marks. We also give students the amazing opportunity to watch Wicked The Musical to write their live theatre review which is fully paid for by the academy.

**Component 2 part 1:** Devising Drama (theory) 30% of the GCSE

Students produce a written log to accompany their practical performance. The written log is worth 60 marks and can be a maximum of 2,500 words.

**Component 2 part 2:** Devising Drama (practical) 10% of the GCSE

Students must work collaboratively as members of a performance group taking the role of a performer. Performers will create a performance devised from a stimulus. The practical piece holds a maximum of 20 marks.

**Component 3:** Texts in Practice (practical) 20% of the GCSE

This unit introduces students to the content of plays written for the theatre. They will learn how to interpret a play in various ways and understand how a play works in performance. They will perform extracts from an existing play.

### What skills are required?

Students will work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas. They will consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities and develop a basis for their future role as active citizens in employment and society in general, as well as for the possible further study of Drama.

### How will I be assessed?

The is both a theoretical and practical course. Assessment is continuous throughout and students will build a working portfolio within the first year of the course and will complete the written exam during the second year of study. Component 1 and 3 are externally assessed, component 2 will be internally assessed, evidenced via submission of coursework and performance to a camera.

Component 1: 80 marks, 40% of GCSE

Component 2: written log 60 marks and practical 20marks, 40% of GCSE

Component 3: 40 marks, 20% of GCSE

### What are the career opportunities?

GCSE Drama provides a suitable foundation for further study within the industry through progression on to further qualifications. This course will be perfect for students who want to develop subject specific skills and communication skills of all kinds. The course will allow them to develop their theory and performance skills or follow the teaching pathway.

## Level 1/2 BTEC: Music

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss J Taylor

**Contact:** jtaylor@horizontoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Pearson

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice (603/7055/5) is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

### What will I study?

**Component 1: Exploring Musical Products and Styles** Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles. Students will learn about 6 different styles of music and will engage with performance, composition and listening.

**Component 2: Musical Skills Development** Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement. There will be lots of opportunity to rehearse individually, in bands and whole class workshops.

**Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief** This component will allow you to work to your strengths and interests and apply the skills that you have learned throughout your course in a practical way. You will focus on a particular area of the music sector that excites and appeals to you and respond to a music brief as a composer, performer or producer.

### How is the course assessed?

The three components in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the music sector, and specialist skills such as applying musical knowledge to music performance, music creation and music production at Levels 1 and 2. Each component of the course is internally assessed during a supervised 12 hour assessment window after core knowledge has been taught. These assessments then get sent off to Pearson to be verified.

### What are the career opportunities?

Careers could include: Performance- i.e. Session player/Music Business, Agent, Manager/ Music Technology – Sound/Light Engineer/Music Education – Teacher, Lecturer etc

## Level 1/2 Vocational: Creative iMedia

**Subject Leader** Miss Marriott

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Elson

**Contact:** [lmariott@horizonoat.co.uk](mailto:lmariott@horizonoat.co.uk)

**Specification:** OCR

The Creative iMedia qualification equips students with the wide range of knowledge and skills needed to work in the creative digital media sector. They start at pre-production and develop their skills through practical assignments as they create final multimedia products.

### What will I study?

Students will study:

R093 - Creative imedia the media industry - In this unit you will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. You will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. You will learn how media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. You will learn to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products.

R094 - Visual identity and digital graphics - In this unit you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience

R097 - Interactive digital media - In this unit you will learn to design and create interactive digital media products for chosen platforms. You 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

### What skills are required?

Learners who are taking this course should normally have followed the KS3 Programme of Study in Computer Science and have a range of Computing skills which they will find supports this course.

### How will I be assessed?

With one externally set exam R093 - Creative imedia the media industry - 1 hour 30 mins worth 40% of the final grade

Two coursework units worth 60% of the final grade

R094 - Visual identity and digital graphics

R097 - Interactive digital media

### What are the career opportunities?

Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia are media-sector focused, including film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and have IT at their heart. This qualification is useful to students intending to follow Level 3 courses in media and IT. Examples include Cambridge Technical IT or Media courses, Media Studies and the Apprenticeship Framework



## Option

# GCSE Business Studies

**Subject Leader:** Miss Lowe

**Curriculum Leader:** Miss Elson

**Contact:** jlowe@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Edexcel

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to know and understand business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society. To apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts. Investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced and structured arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of business. To develop and apply quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

## What will I study?

You will study the following topics based around the two end of year 11 exams:

Paper 1 - Enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective and understanding external influences on business .

Paper 2 - Growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions and making human resource decisions.

## What skills are required?

This qualification builds on the analytical skills needed to spot business opportunities and widens students' perspective of money management and the external environment including interest and exchange rates. The course offers a unique set of life skills that students can use on their path to adult life. Students should be encouraged to keep up-to-date with business news so that they can use real life stories to further their knowledge.

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two externally set exams in year 11

Paper 1 - Investigating small business - 50% of the final grade

Paper 2 - Building a business - 50% of the final grade

## What are the career opportunities?

Can lead to further study at Level 3, such as A level Business, which prepares them to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.

## Option

# GCSE Psychology

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Harris

**Contact:** jcharris@horizonoat.co.uk

**Specification:** AQA

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and how it influences our behaviour. It is about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today. With the increasing prominence of mental health and related issues, psychology has never been more important.

The course introduces students to the fundamentals of Psychology; looking at how and why people do things, and the evidence behind these claims. This course in particular focuses on how thought processes influence behaviour and how social context can affect a person's behaviour.

Psychology is both fascinating and relevant in today's society and encourages students to develop their skills in critical analysis, communication and independent thinking. Students will gain a sound knowledge of scientific research, ethical considerations and the design of relevant research. You will also be encouraged to think about the diversity of human experience.

## What will I study?

### **Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour.**

Memory, Perception, Development and Research Methods

### **Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour.**

Social Influence, Language, Thought and Communication, Brain and Neuropsychology, Psychological Problems (Depression & Addiction)

## What skills are required?

Candidates must have an interest in people and why people behave the way they do. They must be able to analyse text and theories, and also question why.

Due to the nature of the course, good English, Maths and Science skills are also desirable.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment is 100% examination. There are two examination papers each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

The examination questions include multiple choice, short answer questions and essay based questions.

## What are the career opportunities?

Psychology would allow you access to study a range of subjects at College and University, such as: Psychology, Sociology, Global Studies, Forensics, Criminology and Law.

Career opportunities include– Clinical psychologist, Counselling, Forensics, Teaching, Healthcare, Personnel, Management, Law, Criminal justice, Social work and many more that require both interaction with the public and an understanding of societal issues.

## Option

### Level 1/2 BTEC: Health and Social Care

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Walters

**Contact:** nwalters@horizoncoat.co.uk

**Specification:** Pearson

Health and Social Care is an exciting vocational BTEC award that is based on real life. Topics covered are relevant to the world of work, in particular the care sector. Students taking this option need a mature and responsible attitude towards learning as independent study and research into social issues such as drugs, poverty and personal relationships are an important part of the curriculum. As a subject discipline, Health and Social Care (HSC) combines elements of sociology, biology, nutrition, law, and ethics.

Study of this subject at KS4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study. There are also strong opportunities for post-16 progression in this sector.

#### What will I study?

Students will complete 3 components (units):

- ◆ Human Lifespan Development (30% - internally assessed as coursework)
- ◆ Health and Social Care Services and Values (30% - internally assessed as coursework)
- ◆ Health and Wellbeing (40% - externally assessed as a 2hour exam)

Qualification of the award is reliant upon completion of all controlled assessments – coursework and exam components.

#### What skills are required?

- ◆ An interest in Health & Social Care sectors
- ◆ Ability to work independently on assignment briefs and research tasks
- ◆ Good practical skills
- ◆ An ability to organise time and controlled assessment in order to meet strict deadlines
- ◆ Ability to complete **written** assessments

#### How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of internally and externally assessed units. Building on the rigorous assessment standards expected of BTEC qualifications, the new BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care includes an externally assessed synoptic paper (exam) making up 40% of the award. There are also two internally assessed coursework components that are completed under controlled conditions. The coursework tasks, require thorough planning and commitment to meeting strict deadlines.