



EAST LEAKE  
— ACADEMY —



# Year 9 pathways 2025

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We empower | We respect | We care

Part of  
**DA** Diverse  
Academies





- 04 Welcome
- 06 The East Leake Academy curriculum
- 08 Frequently asked questions
- 10 English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- 12 The balanced curriculum

## Core subjects

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- 15 Combined Science
- 16 English Language and Literature
- 17 Mathematics
- 18 Physical Education

## Optional subjects

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- 22 Art and Design
- 24 Business
- 25 Computer Science
- 26 Design and Technology
- 27 Drama
- 28 Engineering
- 30 Geography
- 31 History
- 32 Hospitality and Catering
- 33 Media Studies
- 34 Modern Foreign Languages
- 35 Music
- 36 Photography
- 38 Religious Studies
- 40 Sport Studies
- 42 Triple Science



As we embark on this pivotal stage of your educational journey, I am excited to discuss the forthcoming GCSE and Level 2 options with you.

Selecting your subjects is a significant opportunity to shape your education in line with your aspirations and interests. This decision will influence your academic trajectory over the next two years and beyond, so it's important to choose subjects that resonate with your passions and career goals.

I encourage you to speak with your subject teachers, who can offer valuable advice based on your strengths. Additionally, we will organise interactive taster sessions to help you explore various subjects before making your final selections. The Year 9 Pathways Evening will provide an overview of the available courses, with insights into content, assessments, and potential career opportunities. I look forward to seeing the exciting paths you will choose in this next chapter of your academic journey.

**Miss England**  
Pastoral Leader for Year 9



Throughout your school career, you have had the opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects. This has helped many students, like you, to gain a clear direction of study that you may want to explore at key stage 4. For others, GCSE and level 2 subject decisions may be less apparent. Either way, I encourage you to speak with your individual subject teachers and form tutor for additional guidance to help you make informed decisions during the pathways process.

As well as allowing a degree of choice, the Level 2 curriculum at ELA is designed to ensure that you have access to the core subjects, as well as a broad educational experience. This breadth of study is important to enable you to have as many options as possible at post 16, following your examinations in year 11.

All subjects in this booklet, including both core and optional subjects, represent a step-up in what is expected from you. Committing to achieve your best in all subjects will be central to this. No subject should be seen as an easy option, because all subjects are challenging in their own way. With universities, apprenticeship providers and employers increasingly looking at the standard of qualifications to inform their admissions or employment decisions, it is important that you have a strong commitment and work ethic towards all your subjects.

Your future career aspirations might play a role in some of your decisions at this stage, but the most important factor should be your interests, strengths, and how much you enjoy a subject. If this is the central motivation behind your decision, from experience we know that this is most likely to lead to success in your chosen qualifications.

Finally, we hope you're looking forward to the opportunities you'll encounter during your qualifications and that this booklet, along with the pathways evening, helps you in your decision-making process. Students, parents or carers should get in touch at any stage if any questions remain about the pathways process.

We look forward to supporting you in achieving your potential in your chosen subjects for year 10 and 11.

**Mr T Jackson**  
Vice Principal



# Curriculum subject options



**You can select several option subjects from the following:**

- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Engineering
- French
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality and Catering (Food)
- Media Studies
- Music
- Photography
- Religious Studies
- Sport Studies
- Triple Science

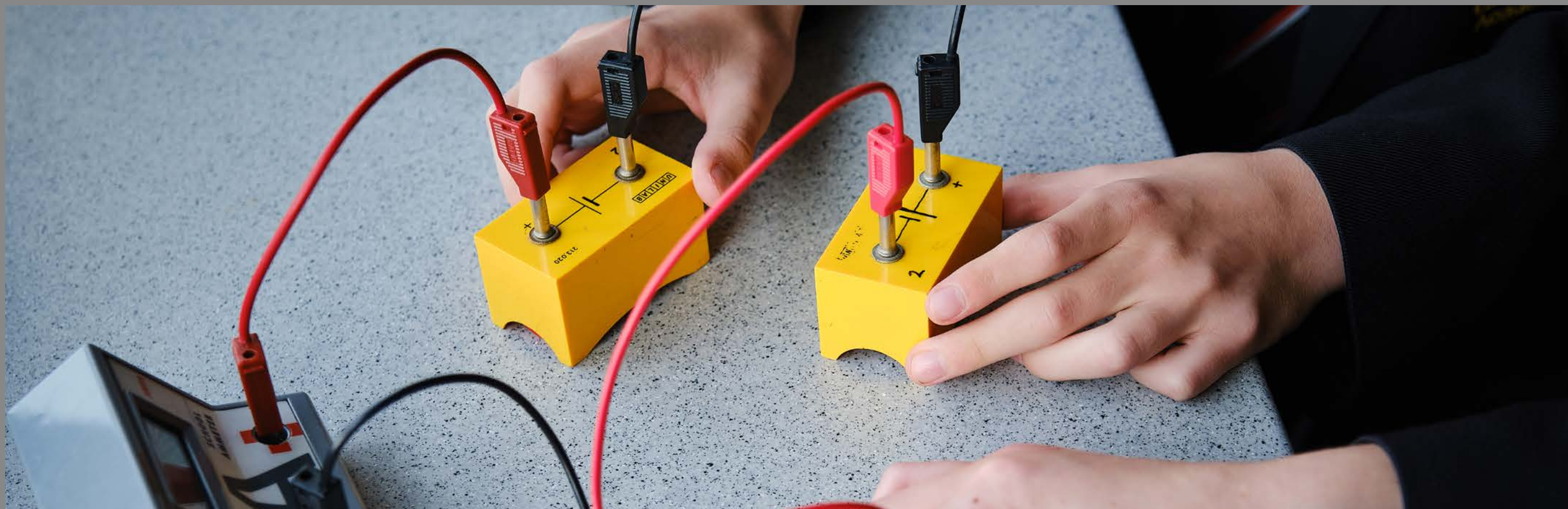
Information about these subjects is found later in this booklet. It is worth noting that, in some cases, it will not be possible to pick subjects up again at A level if you do not choose them in year 10. Please check with the individual subject area(s) to confirm.

Year 9 is an exciting time as it is the first opportunity for you to make choices about your future studies for the next two years. It is important for you to remember that these choices will have the potential to impact on your future university or career choices, therefore this process should be given careful consideration. It is also important that you make your own choices in your best interests as an individual. You should be particularly mindful not to fall into the trap of selecting subjects based on your friends' choices.

All students follow a core curriculum of English language, English literature, mathematics and combined science. In addition to these core subjects all students will have timetabled compulsory physical education lessons as well as compulsory PSHE (personal, social and health education sessions). PSHE is delivered through PDL (personal development lessons), drop-down sessions, and through subject areas.







## What is the best way to choose my subjects?

- Choose subjects you enjoy and are good at. Think about your strengths and how you can achieve your best outcome
- If you have a particular career in mind, find out if studying a particular subject is required
- Research subjects that you have not studied before and find out exactly what is involved by talking to the subject teacher
- Check the examination and coursework breakdown for each subject
- Don't choose a subject based on what your friends are doing - they might be in a different class
- Don't choose a subject because you enjoy being taught by your year 9 teacher - you may have a new teacher next year
- Talk to your teachers, head of year or family for further advice

## How do we personalise or amend key stage 4 options at East Leake Academy?

All students' options at key stage 4 are individual and personalised, and each student should choose the most suitable and beneficial pathway to help them reach their potential. Students' progress is monitored and assessed at regular intervals throughout key stage 4.

## What does the GCSE assessment process involve?

Most GCSEs are examined via a number of final exams in the summer of year 11. However, a few remain a combination of coursework and final examinations, the proportion of which varies between subjects.

## What is coursework?

Coursework includes any work that is carried out and assessed whilst the course is in progress. It is a method of assessing practical work and can count for up to 60% of the overall mark in some subjects. Coursework gives students the opportunity to use skills and techniques they may be unable to demonstrate in an examination.

## What demands does coursework place upon students?

The amount of coursework and its contribution to the final grade varies between subjects. When making choices, students should carefully consider where their strengths lie.

Coursework can take a lot of pressure off the final exam, but it often involves working on a piece of work for an extended period. This means that time must be carefully planned and managed. It can be more challenging if it isn't managed correctly or left until the last minute.

## How are targets set?

Students are issued with target grades at the beginning of year 10 based on calculations made from SATs taken in year 6. Target grades are reviewed by staff and may be adjusted to reflect a student's progress during the academic year and provide an appropriate level of challenge. This is shared with students as an 'expected grade' which they are supported to work towards by the end of year 10. In the autumn term of year 11, 'expected grades' are reviewed by class teachers and an additional grade called a 'stretch target' is issued for each subject.

The 'stretch targets' are more aspirational than the 'expected grades', and students are encouraged and supported to achieve these grades by the end of year 11. Throughout key stage 4, students are regularly assessed across all subjects to ensure that progress in each subject continues to be made.

## Are there any career websites I can visit for further information?

While some students have a clear idea of the career path they would like to follow, others do not. The following websites include information about different careers and some quizzes to help students identify areas of work they may not have previously thought about.

National Careers Service:  
[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

icould: [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

Apprenticeships: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)



The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study at sixth form or college. It can also impact on future careers. It is not a qualification in itself but recognises where students have studied a range of academic subjects. The EBacc is made up of subjects which are considered essential to many degree courses and gives students greater choice of future pathways.

## Which subjects are in the English Baccalaureate?

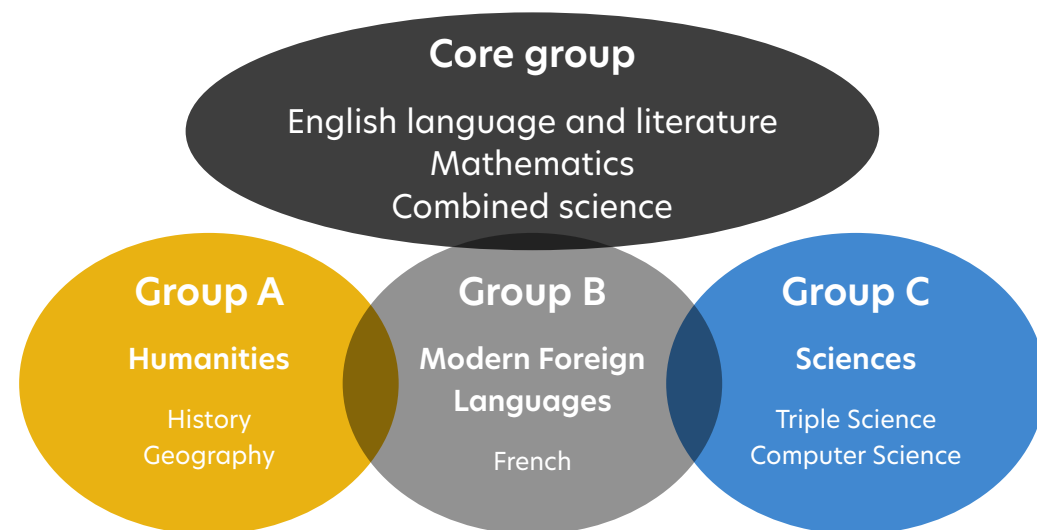
The EBacc is made up of English, mathematics, a humanity, the sciences (including computer science) and a language.

These subjects ensure that students have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects, so that doors are not closed off to them in terms of future progression. For example, for students hoping to go to university, the Russell Group\* recognises 'facilitating subjects' at A level. These are the subjects most likely to be required for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most options open. The subjects they identify are those included in the English Baccalaureate.

The EBacc is intended to give students greater opportunity to study beyond the vital core of English, mathematics and the sciences.

*\*The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities including Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, Cardiff, Sheffield, Leeds and Manchester.*

## Subject choices



### All students must study:

- Core group
- At least one subject from group A **OR** group B **OR** group C.
- In addition to the above, students should choose another four subjects from those listed on page 6.

### Students wishing to achieve the EBacc suite of qualifications should choose:

- At least one subject from group A **AND** group B.
- In addition to the above, students should choose another three subjects from those listed on page 6.

## Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG)

Students at East Leake Academy have a programme of CEIAG in accordance with the Department for Education's careers information and guidance in schools. This programme, which starts in year 7, is part of their personal development lessons and other curriculum areas. It ensures that all students have the opportunity to recognise their own strengths and interests and take guidance and responsibility for developing employability skills.

Our careers lead, Mr Renshaw, is available to all students for advice and guidance as well as a careers advisor for year 11 students. From year 7, students use Unifrog to discover their interests and strengths, and to help them in making subject choices and future education and careers pathways selections. This online platform can be accessed at anytime by the students. We also have guest speakers who visit the academy to talk to students. We pride ourselves in taking the time to ensure that all our students are educated and informed of their future choices and that they are making choices that are right for them.





# The balanced curriculum

We passionately believe that you should follow your interests and study a broad and balanced curriculum that is right for you as an individual. Particular focus has been placed on the status of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects by employers. At ELA we also believe equally in the importance of the creative arts subjects, humanities, languages and physical education in helping develop well-rounded, well-informed and confident learners.

With this in mind it is important that you select a balanced curriculum and the following criteria should be applied when choosing your options subjects.

## Special educational needs

If you are a student with an identified special educational need, an alternative or reduced curriculum may be offered through consultation. Supported guided study within our learning support centre may also be structured into your timetable from the beginning of your level 2 studies. Your parent or carer will be invited to personally discuss this with the Pastoral Lead for year 9, Miss England during the options process.

## QR code for pathways form:



## Looking ahead - why do subject choices matter?

Many students selecting their GCSEs will already be thinking about how these choices fit in with their plans at post 16 study and beyond. ELA encourages you to be informed and aspirational about what lies ahead. It is never too early to consider the impact of your choices on future pathways.

Whilst enjoying a subject should remain a primary reason for choosing this option, it is still important that you leave future options open.

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities. Many of our students will apply to these universities when they reach year 13. The Russell Group has published a booklet entitled 'Informed Choices' [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk) which includes advice for students regarding post 16 subject choices. This may seem distant for current year 9 students, but we advise you to bear these considerations in mind as you select your key stage 4 courses.

Further advice on what subjects may be required for certain degree courses and apprenticeships can be found by speaking to our careers leader.

## What happens next?

Final choices should be submitted online by 13 December 2024 on the ELA pathways form. Before doing this you should discuss your options with subject teachers, tutors and parents.

We will make every effort to provide the courses outlined within this booklet and to allocate your preferred choices. However, this may not be possible where numbers of students selecting a subject are low or unusual combinations of subjects have been selected. In the unlikely scenario of this impacting you, we will contact you to discuss this in more detail after all applications have been received.

## Next steps

27  
November  
2024

Pathways evening

13  
December  
2024

Deadline for subject choices

Early  
summer  
term

Final confirmation of  
subject choices by letter



- 15 Combined Science
- 16 English Language and Literature
- 17 Mathematics
- 18 Physical Education

## Combined Science

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mr R Buttinger - rbuttinger@eastleake-ac.org.uk

The AQA combined science GCSE has been designed to meet 'world class qualification principles'. It allows students to experience a wide breadth of biology, chemistry and physics and explore practical science in a working scientifically context. The assessment consists of six externally-examined papers – two in each of the three sciences: biology, chemistry and physics, available at either foundation tier or higher tier. Students must complete all assessments in the same tier, during May/June in any single year. This will lead to two science GCSE qualifications.

### Method of assessment

There is a paper 1 and paper 2 for each science subject – biology, chemistry and physics

#### Paper 1 – written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

- Foundation and higher tier
- 70 marks

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

#### Paper 2 – written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

- Foundation and higher tier
- 70 marks

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



### Topic areas covered

**Biology:** cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, and ecology

**Chemistry:** atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemistry of the atmosphere, and using resources

**Physics:** forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter, and atomic structure

### Recommended reading

Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision – AQA GCSE 9-1 Combined Science Higher All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice – ISBN: 978-0-00-816086-9

Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision – AQA GCSE 9-1 Combined Science Foundation All-in-One Complete Revision and Practice – ISBN: 978-0-00-816085-2

### Where can this subject take me?

- Healthcare and nursing
- Environment and conservation
- Forensic science
- Engineering
- Telecommunications
- Nuclear physics



# English Language and Literature

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mr K Ferguson – kferguson@eastleake-ac.org.uk

All students study English language and English literature at GCSE and will be entered for an external exam at the end of year 11. Students of all abilities will have the opportunity of gaining a good grade at GCSE and will be encouraged to reach a personal peak of academic development.

The English language course is particularly demanding and it is imperative that students apply themselves from the outset by taking responsibility for their own progress.

The English literature course will develop students' understanding and appreciation of a range of challenging classic texts.

## Method of assessment

In English language there are two external exams, each is 1 hour and 45 minutes. Students will be equally assessed for reading and writing skills including technical accuracy in their use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

All students will be required to sit two English literature exams, leading to a separate GCSE qualification. This will involve the study of texts including Shakespeare (Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth); 19<sup>th</sup> century novel (Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde or A Christmas Carol); modern drama (An Inspector Calls); and a selection of poetry.

There is also a separate speaking and listening assessment. A sample of year 11 students will have their presentation video recorded as part of the exam board's moderation process.

## Topic areas covered

English language: comprehension and inferential reading skills, creative fictional and non-fictional writing, and technical accuracy.

English literature: a Shakespeare play, 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, modern drama and a selection of poems.

## Recommended reading

Students purchase set texts for annotating. The English faculty offers the opportunity of purchasing CGP revision guides at a discounted price.

## Where can this subject take me?

- Law
- Journalism
- Teaching
- Advertising and marketing
- Editing
- Publishing
- Librarian
- Sales and retail

# Mathematics

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mrs C Reeves - creeves@eastleake-ac.org.uk Miss S Eastwood – seastwood@eastleake-ac.org.uk

All students study mathematics in years 10 and 11. Students study the AQA linear GCSE course. This course consists of three exams at the end of the course. A calculator may not be used for paper 1 but is required for papers 2 and 3. Students of all abilities will have the opportunity to gain a good grade at GCSE and will be encouraged to reach their full academic potential.

The mathematics GCSE is a demanding course and includes problem solving skills and application of mathematics in context. It is vital that students apply themselves from the start of year 10 and take responsibility for their own progress as well as reviewing topics from previous years that they need to improve.

In year 11, we offer the AQA level 2 further mathematics certificate to our high attaining students as well as GCSE mathematics. The further mathematics certificate offers students the opportunity to explore higher topics of mathematics and bridges the gap between GCSE and A level as well as potentially raising the attainment of students.

The mathematics GCSE will equip students with the skills that they will need for future pathways, critical thinking and mathematical acumen.

## Method of assessment

Students will be assessed on a half termly basis, depending on their year group, and will undertake mock GCSE exams in years 10 and 11. It is vital that students review and revise their work throughout the course to enable students to develop their skills and gain the highest grades possible. The course is assessed via three exams at the end of year 11.

## Topic areas covered

Number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability, and statistics.

## Recommended reading

AQA GCSE Mathematics (Foundation or Higher), Oxford University Press.

We recommend and sell a revision guide for the appropriate tier of entry.

## Where can this subject take me?

A GCSE in mathematics is vital for any career or educational steps taken after year 11.

Some occupations in which mathematics would be used include: accountant, actuary, banker, computer programmer, builder, doctor, economist, engineer, investment manager, lawyer, laboratory researcher, numerical analyst, nurse, scientist, statistician, teacher, systems analyst and the space/ aircraft industry.



# Physical Education

EXAM BOARD	Not applicable
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Non-examined
ASSESSMENT	Effort and engagement scores
CONTACT	Mr C Davidson - cdavidson@eastleake-ac.org.uk

At the end of year 9 students are offered two pathways: recreational and competitive. Students have the opportunity to opt in to a pathway of their choice for the academic year. Each pathway contains a variety of tailored activities to suit individual needs. The focus of physical education (PE) in key stage 4 surrounds engagement and effort. We want to ensure that all students have a fun and enjoyable experience through physical activity whilst fully taking part in lessons.

The curriculum offers a more diverse range of sporting opportunities including the introduction of new activities including tchoukball, boxercise, aerobics and Zumba. Students will also have access to the fitness suite during this time.

### Example pathways of activities in key stage 4

**Fantasy football**

**Rugby**

**Hockey**

**Basketball**

**Softball**

**Futsal**

**TchoukBall**

**Basketball**

**Handball**

**Ultimate frisby**

**Dodgeball**

**Softball**

**Boxercise**

**Fitness suite**

**Basketball**

**Handball**

**Dodgeball**

**Rounders**





# Optional subjects

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# Art and Design

EXAM BOARD	OCR
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	Coursework and set projects
CONTACT	Mrs H O'Hara - hohara@eastleake-ac.org.uk

When students have completed their year 9 course in art they will have developed a range of skills using different materials. GCSE art and design will nurture a student's creative skills by encouraging imagination, problem solving, research and independent learning.

The art department welcomes all students who are enthusiastic and will work with commitment and passion for the subject. We recognise that students have individual strengths and build on these, providing support and guidance to meet the needs of every student.

Students may opt for GCSE art as they wish to continue with the subject at A Level and possibly degree level. Art and design is a great option for any student who has enjoyed their art lessons during key stage 3 and would like to develop their skills further in a creative environment.

Creativity is vital to our economy – the creative industries constitute one of the fastest growing sectors with around 2.8 million employed in the UK, that's 9% of UK jobs. A future in the arts is not the only reason to take the subject at GCSE – many choose art and design as they find it enjoyable and rewarding and will therefore achieve a GCSE qualification in a subject they find stimulating. The course also enhances invaluable transferrable skills which are useful and relevant in other areas at GCSE and beyond.

## Method of assessment

The course consists of two units, a portfolio of coursework and an externally set project.

Unit 1 – portfolio of work on the theme of natural form. Set and marked by the academy and moderated by the exam board. 60% of final grade.

The portfolio is selected from work undertaken during the course. This portfolio must show evidence of the following four objectives:

- investigations into the work of artists, taking inspiration to develop ideas in individual work
- drawings from observations, showing originality of ideas using relevant materials
- experimentation with a wide variety of materials and techniques, evaluating own work as it progresses
- produce a final piece of work which links the above objectives together and also refers to the work of other artists

Unit 2 – externally set project. Question papers issued from 1st January. Marked by the academy and moderated by the exam board. 40% of final grade.

After making a choice from one of the given starting points, students must respond by producing a body of work similar to their portfolio, which must again show evidence of coverage of all four objectives.

## Topic areas covered

We begin with a project based on footwear. This unit provides students with an opportunity to be introduced to a range of materials and techniques and to extend their skills in all areas of the subject. The assessed GCSE unit of work is based on images from natural form. In the final GCSE exam, the students have a choice of starting points provided by OCR.

## Recommended reading

Research artists and craftspeople from around the world, from the past up to modern day.

Visit exhibitions and galleries if possible.

## Where can this subject take me?

Art and design opens the door to lots of exciting careers such as: fashion design, graphic design, theatre design, animation, video game design, illustration, photography, architecture, product design, textiles design, ceramics, advertising, publishing, interior design, fashion and media journalism, hair and make-up design, retail design, exhibition design, jewellery design, visual media, and teaching.





# Business

EXAM BOARD	Edexcel
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mr A Maclaughlin - amaclaughlin@eastleake-ac.org.uk

## Business is the right course for students who enjoy:

- communicating and explaining ideas
- thinking creatively and making decisions
- working with numbers to solve business problems
- learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands

## Method of assessment

Paper 1 – investigating small business  
Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – building a business  
Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of GCSE)

## Topic areas covered

Students will explore the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? Students will learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. They will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Students will move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? They will learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions to make when growing a business and working in a global business. Students learn about meeting customer needs, marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and will explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

## Where can this subject take me?

Business is a great step in preparing students for further and higher education such as A levels and BTEC courses. Business could help prepare students for an entrepreneurial role and help them gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

# Computer Science

EXAM BOARD	OCR
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Miss E Harewood – eharewood@eastleake-ac.org.uk

Computer science will encourage students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computing, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms and data representation. Students will analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs, understanding the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another. Students will understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

## Method of assessment

Two external exams lasting 1 hour 30 minutes each – both worth 50% of the overall final grade.

## Topic areas covered

### Component 1: Computer systems

Introduces students to the CPU, computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

### Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.

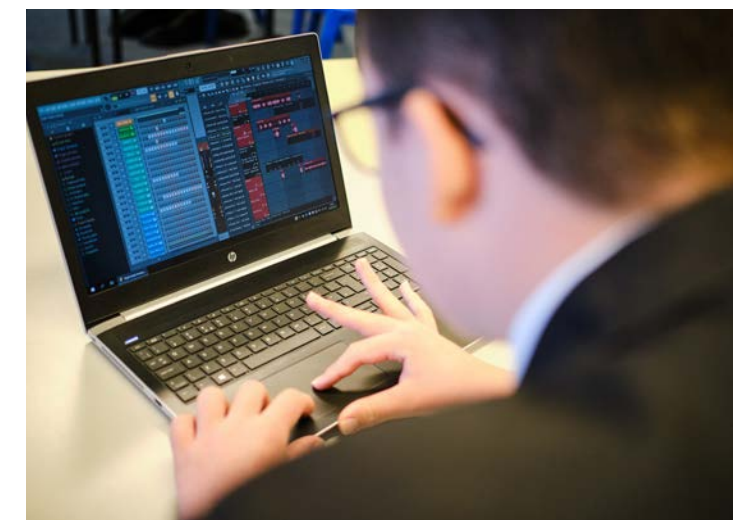
## Programming project

Students will spend considerable time learning the text based programming language, Python, and will use this to design and create various programs. This is not assessed but is an essential, and fun, part of the course.

## Where can this subject take me?

Technology now plays a part in most aspects of our life, and this will continue. GCSE computer science is a good starting point for the following careers:

- Computer programming
- Software engineering
- Website/app design/development
- Computer game development
- Cybersecurity





# Design and Technology

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	50% coursework, 50% exam
CONTACT	Mr P Newbold - <a href="mailto:pnewbold@eastleake-ac.org.uk">pnewbold@eastleake-ac.org.uk</a>

Design and technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

This GCSE allows students to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

## Method of assessment

### Written exam: 2 hours

- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### Coursework - non-exam assessment (NEA): 30-35 hours

- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

## Topic areas covered

### Section A - core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

### Section B - specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.

### Section C - designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

### Coursework content - tasks:

- substantial design and make task
- assessment criteria
- identifying and investigating design possibilities
- producing a design brief and specification
- generating design ideas
- developing design ideas
- realising design ideas
- analysing and evaluating

Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

### Where can this subject take me?

Furniture design, interior design, furniture manufacture, fashion design, jewellery design, graphic design, theatre design, animation, video game design, photography, architecture, product design, textiles design, advertising, publishing, fashion and media journalism, retail design, artist, visual media, teaching.

# Drama

EXAM BOARD	OCR
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	External assessment, internal assessment, written exam
CONTACT	Mrs B Johnson - <a href="mailto:bjohnson@eastleake-ac.org.uk">bjohnson@eastleake-ac.org.uk</a>

The OCR specification draws together all the skills required for drama and performance. By following the course, students will gain knowledge and understanding of drama, theatre and related skills and also the social, historical and cultural influences that inform the way drama is devised and structured.

Students will use content and knowledge of drama processes and forms to interpret text and to devise their own drama. Students will use their own cultural references and be introduced to a variety of texts, written and visual, devised and published. In doing this, students will be making sense of the world they live in and will develop understanding of the various contexts in which drama operates.

## Method of assessment

### Unit 1 and 2 - Devising - internal - 30%

The focus of this unit will be to explore and develop students' understanding of the devising process using stimulus material. This unit allows students to work more independently and working effectively as a team member is vital. Students are assessed on how they produce work, as well as their performance piece. They must also produce an evidence portfolio.

### Unit 3 - Presenting and performing texts - external examiner - 30%

Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. Students will also explore practitioner influences in order to explore the play.

### Unit 4 - Performance and response - external written - 40%

This unit has two parts. Section A - students will explore a practical play. Section B - students will analyse and evaluate a live theatre production they have seen. Students will practically explore a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. Students will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

## Topic areas covered

Taking part in extra-curricular performing arts productions is encouraged and regular theatre trips will be scheduled. Seeing a live theatre performance is vital to this course.

## Recommended reading

The complete Stanislavski toolkit by Bella Merlin  
Blood Brothers by Willy Russell.

### Where can this subject take me?

Drama school, A level drama, actor, costume designer, lighting and set designer, drama teacher.





# Engineering

EXAM BOARD	WJEC
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Level 1 and 2 vocational
ASSESSMENT	Internally assessed portfolio (60%), written exam (40%)
CONTACT	Miss C Tudor - ctudor@eastleake-ac.org.uk

This qualification is designed for students with an interest in how things work in the world of design and engineering. They must also have a keen interest in technology and how things are manufactured and put together. Students also need to be willing to solve mechanical, electronic and structural problems in their written exam. Engineering offers students the opportunity to experience design development where students are encouraged to solve problems creatively. Students need to be technically minded with a willingness to learn, understand and develop their formal drawing skills. This qualification is appropriate for students looking to develop their knowledge and understanding in computer-aided design and apply this in a design project.

This course will provide students with the ability to read technical drawings and manufacturing specifications and then apply this to produce an engineered product. Students will learn how to use different tools and materials precisely. Students should have sound mathematical skills as 30% of the theory exam involves the ability to calculate and use formulae. They should also have a keen interest in science as a number of core topics are physics-based.

Students will learn about the real world of technology, its application and its impact on society and the environment. The course assesses an ability to apply the knowledge, skills and understanding learnt through creative design drawings and focused practical tasks in a range of techniques. This subject can progress onto A Level or other further education courses.

## Method of assessment

Internally assessed portfolio and written exam.

## Topic areas covered

### Solving engineering problems

- Different sectors in engineering including sustainability
- Health and safety in the engineering environment
- Understanding engineering materials and their properties
- External exam includes technical drawings, mathematics and literacy skills to be able to solve a technical problem.

Approximately one third of marks in the exam are mathematics-based.

### Engineering design

- Analysis of brief
- Product analysing - identifying functions
- Specification
- Generating and evaluating ideas
- Producing third angle orthographic projection (2D design working to scale)
- Produce a 3D engineering drawing using Google SketchUp

### Producing an engineered product

- Interpreting engineering drawings and information
- Using tools and equipment correctly and safely
- Identifying resources and stages of making
- Manufacturing processes used in engineering
- Evaluating quality of engineered products

## Recommended reading

[www.technologystudent.com](http://www.technologystudent.com)

<https://successatschool.org/careerzonesummary/2/Engineering>



## Where can this subject take me?

Students can apply for further education courses in design or engineering or A levels in a combination of STEM or creative art subjects. This course is also suitable for students who are looking to move to further study. This subject can lead to a wide range of popular career choices including product design, architecture and any of the other creative design areas, plus a wide range of engineering fields: automotive engineering, electrical and electronic engineering, engineering toolmaking, engineering construction.

Different courses and careers in product design can focus on design management, business, sustainability, computer aided design/manufacturing, innovation, and also sports design.



# Geography

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Ms A Rehman – arehman@eastleake-ac.org.uk

We live in an increasingly integrated world and geography looks at the issues facing people, places and the environment. We look at matters facing us as a society, how they affect us as global citizens, how physical processes make the world work and the goal to improve our planet. This subject is for you if you are ready to take on a challenge and want to further your knowledge of our fascinating world.

Geography is a dynamic and demanding subject that will develop students' ability to think critically and problem solve, which makes it an academic subject highly sought after by employers.

## Method of assessment

Paper 1: Physical Environments – natural hazards, physical landscapes, the living world and skills (1 hour 30 minutes exam – 35% GCSE)

Paper 2: Human Environments – urban issues, economics, resource management and skills (1 hour 30 minutes exam – 35% GCSE)

Paper 3: Geographical Skills – issue evaluation of a pre-released topic and fieldwork skills (1 hour exam – 30% of GCSE)

## Where can this subject take me?

Climate scientist, meteorologist, archaeologist, geologist, town planner, lawyer, disaster response, United Nations, Home Office, Foreign Office, police, local government, surveyor, environmental management, finance and banking, landscape architecture, along with travel and transport industries.

## Topic areas covered

Natural hazards (earthquakes, tropical storms and climate change), physical landscapes (rivers and coasts), the living world (ecosystems, rainforests and hot deserts), urban issues (Rio, Nottingham and sustainable cities), changing economic world (the development gap, UK economy and Nigeria), resource management (water issues) and fieldwork skills. The course requires a mandatory field trip as part of the qualification. This will incur a cost.

## Recommended reading

GCSE Geography AQA Student Book (Simon Ross & Nick Rowles): 978-0-19-836661-4

Keep up to date with the latest world issues by regularly engaging with news sources.

# History

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mrs R Clifton – rclifton@eastleake-ac.org.uk

Studying history provides students with essential skills to prepare them for many different careers. Through studying the GCSE course, students will develop skills of analysis, evaluation, problem solving, reaching supported judgements and communication, both written and verbal. History is a demanding academic subject that appeals to students who are confident readers and writers and who are interested in developing their understanding of current world and British issues through a study of the past.

## Method of assessment

Students will take two exams at the end of year 11.

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World, worth 50% of the final grade. Two hours.

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation, worth 50% of the final grade. Two hours.

## Topic areas covered

Understanding the Modern World: Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship, and Conflict and Tension between East and West, 1945-1972

Shaping the Nation: Britain – Health and the People, c1000 to present day, and Elizabethan England c1568-1603

## Recommended reading

We use the following Oxford AQA GCSE history titles in lessons:

British Depth Studies c1066-1685  
ISBN 9780198370123

Thematic Studies c790-Present Day  
ISBN 978019837013

Germany 1890-1945  
ISBN 9780198370109

Conflict and Tension 1945-1972  
ISBN 9780198412663

## Where can this subject take me?

History will equip students with a range of skills relevant to many careers, including journalist, solicitor, political researcher, archaeologist, heritage officer, museum and gallery curator, archivist, teacher and academic.



# Hospitality and Catering

EXAM BOARD	WJEC
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Level 1 and 2 vocational
ASSESSMENT	Internally assessed portfolio 60%, external written paper 40%
CONTACT	Miss H Gilbert - hgilbert@eastleake-ac.org.uk

This course is for you if you have a passion for food and cookery. It will equip you with a breadth of theoretical knowledge and many opportunities to develop your practical and technical skills. These will include food preparation and cooking skills, organisation, time management, planning, communication and problem solving.

## Method of assessment

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry (external assessment) - 40%

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action (controlled assessment task) - 60%

## Topic areas covered

### Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry

During this unit, you will learn about:

- all of the different parts of the hospitality and catering industry
- different types of hospitality and catering job roles
- hospitality and catering provision for particular situations
- front of house and kitchen operations
- the needs and requirements of customers
- what makes the hospitality and catering business successful
- issues related to nutrition and food safety

### Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action

During this unit, you will apply your learning in order to:

- plan
- prepare
- cook and serve a variety of nutritional dishes, in a safe and hygienic manner, that are suitable for different situations and customer needs and requirements

## Recommended reading

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbtvxy>  
[www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/food-technology](http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/food-technology)

## Where can this subject take me?

This course is suitable for students who are looking to move to further study or a career in catering, the food retail and manufacturing industry, health and social care and nursing. It is ideal for those who have a passion for cooking.



# Media Studies

EXAM BOARD	Eduqas
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	Exam and coursework
CONTACT	Mr K Ferguson - kferguson@eastleake-ac.org.uk

The aims of this exciting course are to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the media and to appreciate the role of the media in daily life. It will enable students to develop creative, analytical and decision-making skills through consideration of issues that are important, real and relevant to the world in which we live.

This demanding and up-to-date course requires students to analyse and evaluate a range of current media and to create and evaluate their own productions. Students will also explore media industries and their functions. If you are a student who enjoys English and have a genuine interest in media and current affairs, then media studies is for you.

## Method of assessment

This qualification is linear. It consists of two written exams and one piece of coursework.

Paper 1: Exploring the media - written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of qualification

Paper 2: Understanding media forms and products - 30% of qualification

Coursework: Creating media products - non-exam assessment - 30% of qualification

## Topic areas covered

- Exploring media language and representation, media industries and audiences
- Understanding media forms and products in relation to television and music (music videos and online media)

## Recommended reading

Due to this being a new course, the recommended study guide has not been published. Students will be advised about what publication to purchase prior to starting the course.

## Where can this subject take me?

- Journalism
- Advertising
- Event management
- Public relations
- Writer
- Television and film-related jobs





# Modern Foreign Languages (French)

EXAM BOARD	Edexcel
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	Exams in listening, speaking, reading and writing
CONTACT	Mrs F Chase – fchase@eastleake-ac.org.uk

Learning another language gives you a skill for life. We live in a world where distance is no object to communication and more and more people will find themselves having the opportunity to work and live abroad. Learning a language for GCSE is often the first step towards gaining a unique insight into different cultures. Languages at GCSE will certainly help your memory, listening and creative skills and you will also stand out to future employers.

## Method of assessment

After the two-year course, there are final exams in all four skills. There is no coursework.

Paper 1: Listening – 25%

Paper 2: Speaking – 25%

Paper 3: Reading – 25%

Paper 4: Writing – 25%

## Topic areas covered

Theme 1: Identity and culture – family and friends, technology, free-time activities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest – neighbourhood and region, social issues, global issues, travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment – school, education post 16, jobs and careers choices

## Recommended reading

Studio AQA GCSE French course text book

Revise AQA (French) revision guide and workbook by Pearson

## Where can this subject take me?

Languages match up well with a range of career aspirations for example, engineering, journalism, interpreting, and marketing, to name but a few. Did you know that Paula Radcliffe has a degree in French, German & Economics? Did you know that J K Rowling has based fabricated words and names in her stories based around the French language? Regardless of your interests and aspirations, languages stand out on a CV, broaden your horizons and they will help you to achieve your goals along the way!



# Music

EXAM BOARD	Edexcel/Pearson
QUALIFICATION TYPE	BTEC Level 1 and 2 Tech Award
ASSESSMENT	Controlled assessment
CONTACT	Miss C Phillips - cphillips@eastleake-ac.org.uk

Music is a fast paced and exciting subject that allows the learner to explore many areas of the music industry. The course allows students to gain a deep understanding of the music industry and the links it has with other subjects. The course is very practical and allows students to develop skills such as composing, performing and working practices in the music industry. There will be trips and visits during this course that will further enhance the learning for students.

## Method of assessment

Method of assessment is via controlled assessment. Coursework is assignment based and offers students the opportunity to develop their planning and realisation skills as well as providing many alternative methods for assessment such as performance, presentation, video and written. There is one externally assessed component which is completed in a set time whilst in school as a controlled assessment.

## Topic areas covered

There are three components in total that cover the music industry: performing, composing and creating a music product. These are all real life areas in the music industry and will help should students wish to pursue music further.

## Recommended reading

Cole, B. (1996) The Composer's Handbook Vol. 1, London: Schott Music Ltd  
ISBN: 978 0 94653 580 4

Cole, B. (2010) The Composer's Handbook Vol. 2, London: Schott Music Ltd  
ISBN: 978 0 94653 580 9

## Where can this subject take me?

This course can lead to further study either in the sixth form or at a college or can help to prepare you to enter a career in the music industry.





# Photography

EXAM BOARD	OCR
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	Coursework portfolio and set project
CONTACT	Mrs H O'Hara - hohara@eastleake-ac.uk

For GCSE photography you will need a good eye, creativity and should have a passion to expand your learning through a visual route. You will learn the necessary technical skills required to produce high quality and personal images in response to given themes. You will be taught basic camera skills to enable you to capture a range of different subject matter in different light settings.

Digital manipulation through computer software will allow you to further enhance your work and develop your ideas, this will include the use of filters, layering, merging and editing. There is no written exam to be completed for this course – assessments are on practical work produced. The only written element will be from evaluating photographic images produced and describing/ responding to the work of others.

## Method of assessment

The course consists of two units: unit 1 – a portfolio of photographic coursework and unit 2 – an externally set photographic project.

Unit 1 – portfolio of work on a set theme. The theme is set and marked by the school and moderated by the exam board. 60% of final grade.

The portfolio is ongoing work from tasks undertaken during the course. This portfolio must show evidence of the following four objectives:

- investigations into the work of artists and photographers, taking inspiration to develop ideas in own work
- photography showing technical competence and originality of ideas

- experimentation with a wide variety of approaches and techniques, evaluating work as it progresses
- produce a final piece of work which links the above objectives together and also refers to the work of other photographers, artists or other relevant sources

Unit 2 – externally set project. Question papers issued from 1st January. Marked by the school and moderated by the exam board. 40% of final grade.

After making a choice from one of the given starting points, students must respond by producing a body of work similar to their portfolio, which must again show evidence of coverage of all four objectives.

## Topic areas covered

A range of areas will be explored through a series of photoshoots both in and out of lesson time – these will include portrait, landscape and still life photography. This period of learning will provide students with the necessary skills and understanding to complete their assessed portfolio. They will be expected to apply their technical skills along with their creativity. In the GCSE photography exam unit the students have a choice of starting points provided by OCR. They will have a term to produce an in-depth study on their selected theme followed by a practical controlled period where they complete a 'final piece'.

## Recommended reading

Research photographers, artists, designers, writers and other relevant sources of inspiration, from the past to modern day. Students are encouraged to respond to their personal influences in addition to expanding their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of visual sources.

## Where can this subject take me?

Photography at GCSE provides a basis which could lead towards a career in: fashion photography, graphic design, animation, illustration, wedding photography, architectural photography, portrait photography, media, advertising, publishing, marketing, fashion and media journalism, editorial photography, aerial photography, sports photography, technical photography, artist, teaching.

Successful completion of the GCSE photography course can lead to A level photography at ELA.





# Religious Studies

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mrs R Clifton - rclifton@eastleake-ac.org.uk

GCSE religious studies will equip students with a wide range of skills: written and verbal communication, problem solving, critical thinking, philosophical reasoning and more. This course offers something unique – it is not about making students religious, it is about enabling them to think for themselves about religion, philosophy and topical moral issues. Religious studies will encourage students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in the modern society. This includes developing an understanding of non-religious beliefs.

## Method of assessment

Students will sit two exams at the end of year 11:

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices, worth 50% of the final grade

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Thematic studies, worth 50% of the final grade

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

## Topic areas covered

For paper 1, students will study two faiths in depth: Christianity and Islam.

Paper 2 focuses on four themes: relationships and families, religion, peace and conflict, religion, crime and punishment and religion, human rights and social justice.

## Recommended reading

AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A  
ISBN-13: 9781471866852

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity  
ISBN-13: 978-0-19-837033-8

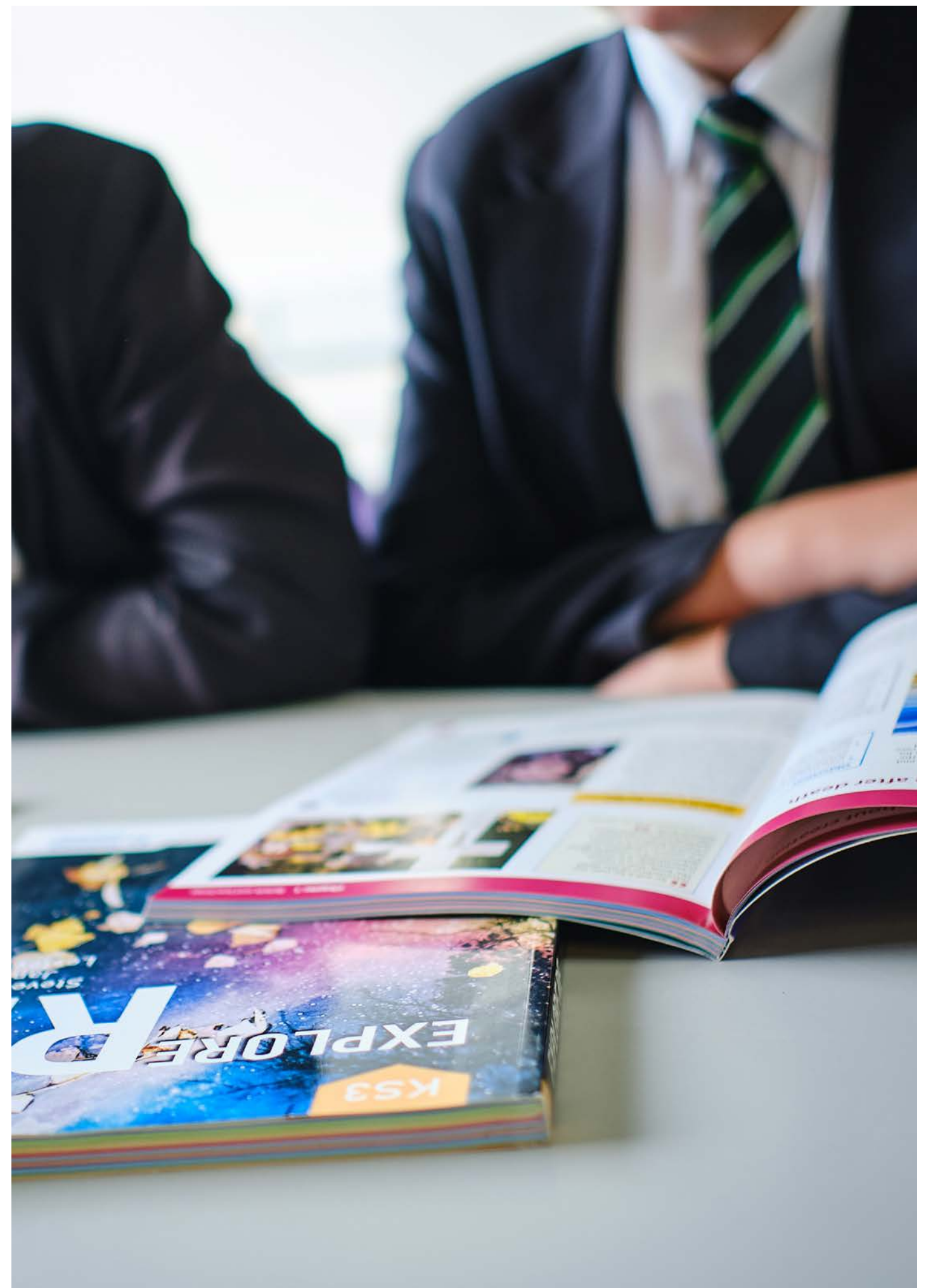
## Where can this subject take me?

Students who study religious studies at GCSE and beyond find themselves in varied professions which can include:

- teaching/lecturing
- politics
- law
- youth work
- media
- medical research and ethics
- management

Skills of analysis, empathy and critical thinking can also help lead students to further afield jobs such as:

- diplomatic service
- national security
- human rights
- journalism
- aid agencies
- charity worker
- travel & tourism
- translator





# Sport Studies

EXAM BOARD	Edexcel
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE and Tech Award
ASSESSMENT	Exam, practical and coursework
CONTACT	Mr C Davidson – <a href="mailto:cdavidson@eastleake-ac.org.uk">cdavidson@eastleake-ac.org.uk</a>

Students who study sports studies will be selected on to one of two pathways. The GCSE physical education course is traditionally a more academic pathway that has a significant amount of theory content assessed over two exams at the end of the course. The qualification also has a practical assessment across three sports and a coursework element.

The Tech Award is a new course that offers an opportunity to experience sport through assessing and managing sports injuries, fitness training and nutrition for sports performance, and is predominantly assessed by coursework and one exam worth 40% of the overall grade.

## Method of assessment

### GCSE

- 60% written exam
- 30% practical
- 10% coursework

### Tech Award

- 40% written exam
- 60% coursework

## Topic areas covered

### GCSE: Theoretical components

Fitness and body systems – 36% of overall grade (exam-based)

- applied anatomy and physiology
- movement analysis
- physical training

Health and performance – 24% of overall grade (exam-based)

- health, fitness and wellbeing
- sports psychology
- socio-cultural influences

Practical component of the course is assessed in two ways:

- analysis of performance – 10% (coursework)
- practical assessment by an external moderator – 30%

## Tech Award:

### Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity (30% coursework)

Learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity.

### Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance (30% coursework)

Learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.

### Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity (40% written exam)

Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity.

## Where can this subject take me?

Sport studies is the first step to a career pathway in a range of fields such as sports medicine, sports business, sports journalism, sports coaching, sports physiotherapy and sports development.





# Triple Science

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
ASSESSMENT	100% exam
CONTACT	Mr R Buttinger - <a href="mailto:rbuttinger@eastleake-ac.org.uk">rbuttinger@eastleake-ac.org.uk</a>

The AQA triple science GCSE has been designed to meet 'world class qualification principles'. It allows students to experience a wide breadth of science and explore chemical systems in a working scientific context. The assessment consists of two externally-examined papers per subject (six in total) available at either foundation tier or higher tier. Students must complete all assessments in the same tier, during May/June in any single year.

Students are awarded three separate GCSEs in triple science: biology, chemistry and physics.

## Method of assessment

### Paper 1:

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- Foundation and higher tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

### Paper 2:

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- Foundation and higher tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

## Topic areas covered

### Biology

Topics 1-4: cell biology; organisation; infection and response; and bioenergetics

Topics 5-7: homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution; and ecology

### Chemistry

Topics 1-5: atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes

Topics 6-10: the rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources

### Physics

Topics 1-4: energy, electricity, particle model of matter, and atomic structure

Topics 5-8: forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism, and space physics

## Recommended reading

Biology – Collins AQA GCSE Revision: Biology All-in-One Revision and Practice  
ISBN: 978-0-00-816074-6

Chemistry – Collins AQA GCSE Revision: Chemistry All-in-One Revision and Practice  
ISBN: 978-0-00-816075-3

Physics – Collins AQA GCSE Revision: Physics All-in-One Revision and Practice  
ISBN: 978-0-00-816073-9

## Where can this subject take me?

### Biology:

- healthcare
- conservation officer
- pharmacy
- veterinary nurse
- medicine
- forensic science

### Chemistry:

- pharmacy
- veterinary nurse
- medicine
- forensic science
- chemical engineering

### Physics:

- engineering
- telecommunications
- nuclear physics
- astrophysics
- medical physics



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