

Options 2024-
2026

Information for Year 9



STOUR VALLEY
— COMMUNITY SCHOOL —

The Core Curriculum

- **All students will study the following in Year 10 & Year 11**
- **English Literature - One GCSE**
- **English Language – One GCSE**
- **Maths – One GCSE**
- **Core P.E (Non examined)**
- **Science (Combined or separate sciences) – Either two or three GCSES**
- **Core RS (Non examined)**
- **PSHE (Non examined)**

Options

- In addition to the core curriculum students will get to study **FOUR** options.
- One option is a guided option
- Three options are free choice
- A small group of students will be invited to study Prince's trust as one of their options (focus on developing confidence and life skills)
- ✓ On the options form students will choose **ONE** guided option plus one reserve
- ✓ Five rank order choices . Three **OPEN** choices and two reserves
- ✓ We will try our best to give students their highest rank priority as much as possible however this might not always be possible

One Guided Option

- **Students must choose one of the following option choices**
 - ✓ **Geography**
 - ✓ **History**
 - ✓ **French**
 - ✓ **Spanish**
 - ✓ **Computer Science**

Students may choose more than one of these subjects from this list in Open Options list


Three Remaining Options

- Students will then study three more choices from the following list

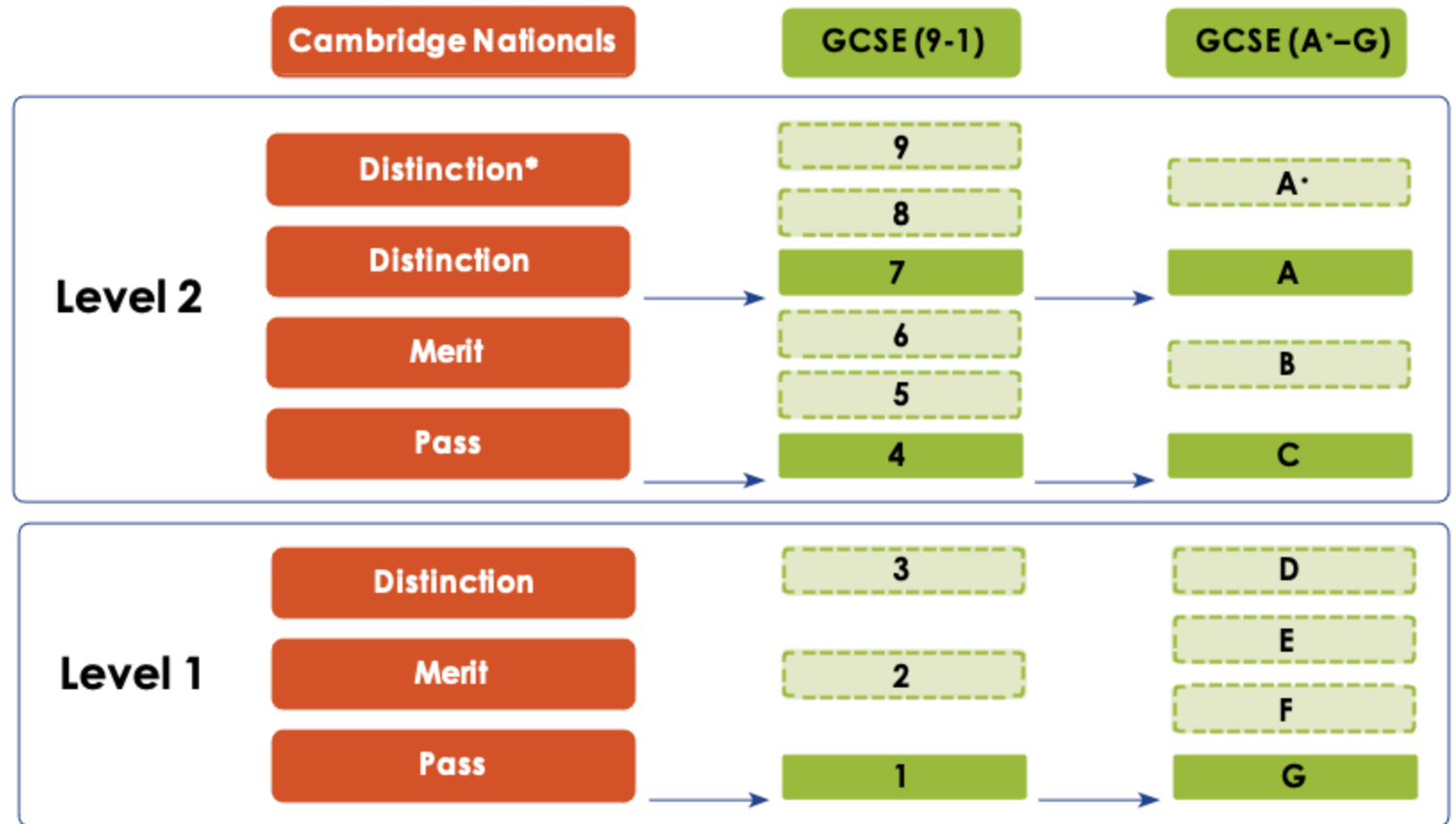
Geography	Exam P.E	Food Technology	Statistics
History	RE	RM	Drama
Computer Science	Art	Graphics	Prince's Trust * Invite only
French	Music	Health & Social care	
Spanish	Photography	Psychology	

- **Students can only choose one Technology from Resistant Materials and Graphics as they are the same GCSE course (may choose the other as reserves), Food Technology is a separate subject and may be chosen alongside either RM or Graphics.**

To summarise – Students will study

CORE CURRICULUM	GUIDED OPTION	OPEN OPTIONS
<p>All students will study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*English*Maths*Science*PSHE*Core RS*Core P.E	<p>One choice from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Spanish*French*Computer Science*History*Geography	<p>Three choices including any additional GUIDED subjects and any of the OPEN choice subjects</p> 

We offer a range of qualifications which prepare students for post 16 study



How to make your choices

- **Consider your strengths and which subjects really interest you**
- **Don't choose a subject simply because your friends do**
- **Don't choose a subject because you like the teacher**
- **Be selfish! What do you want?**
- **Take advice from your subject teachers and your form tutor**
- **Find out more about subjects from staff**
- **Ask for help making your decision if you need it**
- **Try and get a good mix of subjects which suit your skills**

The process

- Forms to be sent out **FRIDAY 15TH MARCH** by email to main parent contact
- Forms must be returned by **WEDNESDAY 27th MARCH** 9am.
- Forms **ARE NOT** first come first served.
- Option Blocks will then be built and students will be informed of their choices approximately by the end of April.
- Mr Mussett and Mr Prendergast will be discussing with students if there are any issues.
- Reserves **WILL** be used in some cases so please choose carefully as it is impossible to allocate every student there first four preferences.
- If there is not enough interest in a course, then it may not be offered

What does the form look like ?

OPEN choices - Students should choose THREE options and two reserves.

Students must choose in order of preference

5. My FIRST open option choice is (Must choose one) *

Select your answer



OPEN choices should be chosen in order of preference.

Please do not leave any choices blank

A subject may be selected as a reserve for both

GUIDED and **OPEN**

After you have submitted your choices, you will receive an email response confirming these.

THANK YOU

- **Mr Mussett and Mr Prendergast will be coming to form groups next week to answer any questions**
- **Staff will be available until 7.30pm in the Hall, Heartspace and G1 to discuss the subjects on offer**

Subject – English CORE

Who to speak to: - Mrs Gill

English Language- AQA

What will I learn about?

- Analysing language and techniques
- Exploring different structural choices
- Creative writing

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1- Fiction (50%)
- Paper 2- Non Fiction (50%)
- Spoken Language

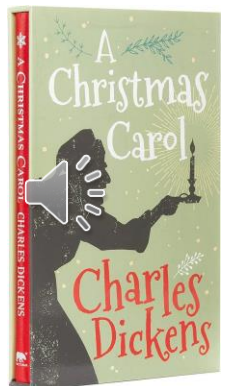
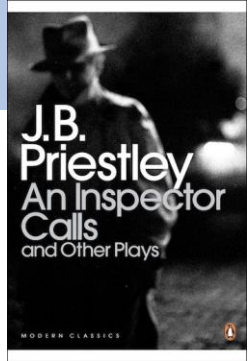
English Language- Pearsons Edexcel

What will I learn about?

- Plot and context
- Theme
- Character

How will I be assessed?

- Paper 1- Macbeth and An Inspector Calls (50%)
- Paper 2- Poetry and A Christmas Carol (50%)



Subject – Maths CORE

Who to speak to: - Mr Hayes

What will I learn?

Topics from the following headings:

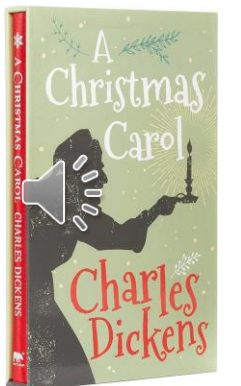
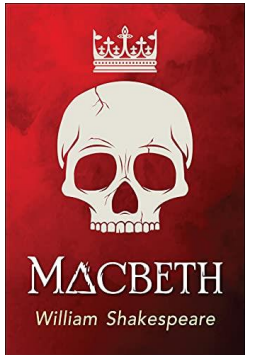
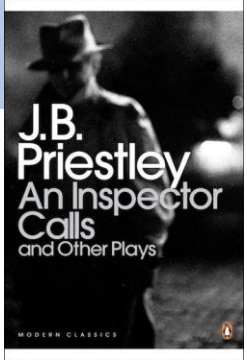
- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Course: Edexcel (Pearsons)

How will I be assessed?

Three 1 and ½ hour papers, equally weighted:

- Paper 1- Non-calculator
- Paper 2- Calculator
- Paper 3- Calculator



Subject – Science CORE

Who to speak to: - Mr Jenkins

What will I learn?

You will continue to learn Biology, Chemistry and Physics until the end of Year 11 regardless if you take Triple or Double Science.

The main difference between the two Science courses is there is more content to cover in Triple Science in the same amount of time, so it results in an additional GCSE exam.

Course: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Double Science – 2 GCSE's

Two exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes

Triple Science – 3 GCSE's

Two exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes





Subject – History



Who to speak to: Miss Terry & Miss Howard

What will I learn about?

The USA in Suffolk during WW2

Life inside Nazi Germany

Power & plots in Elizabethan England

Crime & punishments c.1250-today

The birth of the USA: slavery, Native Americans and the American Civil War!

Course: OCR History B (SHP)

How will I be assessed?

3 exams which assess:

- Your ability to analyse sources (photos etc)
- Your ability to explain and make connections between events and people.

Subject – Geography



Who to speak to: - Mr Craig and Mr Chapman

Course: Edexcel Geography B

What will I learn about?

- **Hazards, urbanisation and megacities.**
- **UK's coasts, rivers, London and rural areas.**
- **Ecosystems, deforestation and resources.**

How will I be assessed?

3 papers of 1 hour 30 minutes.

Mixture of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions.



SE HABLA
Español

Subject – Spanish



Who to speak to: - Mrs Magowan

Course: Pearson Edexcel, 2024 specification

What will I learn about?

We study Spanish via six Thematic Contexts:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism



How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams:

- Speaking exam 25%
- Listening paper 25%
- Reading paper 25%
- Writing paper 25%

The speaking exam is conducted by your teacher.



Subject – Drama

Who to speak to: - Miss Wright

Course: WJEC Eduqas

What will I learn about?

- ***Acting Techniques***
- ***Scripts and skills***
- ***Theatre Practitioners***
- ***Acting/Lighting/Theatre design and costume***
- ***Visit live theatre***

How will I be assessed?

A practical controlled assessment working as part of a group

Create an evidence portfolio

Written exam



Subject – Computer Science

Who to speak to: - Mr Lee

What will I learn about?

- **Systems Architecture**
- **Computational Thinking**
- **Programming**
- **Computer Networks**
- **Ethical Issues and AI**
- **Network Security**
- **Boolean Logic**

Course: OCR J277 Computer Science

How will I be assessed?

- **Exam 1 : Computer Systems**
- **Written Paper**
- **1 hour and 30 minutes**

Exam 2 : Computational Thinking and Programming

- **Written Paper**
- **1 hour and 30 minutes**





Subject – French



Who to speak to: - Mrs Magowan, Mrs Brown

Course: Pearson Edexcel, 2024 specification

What will I learn about?

We study French via six Thematic Contexts:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism



How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| • Speaking exam | 25% |
| • Listening paper | 25% |
| • Reading paper | 25% |
| • Writing paper | 25% |

The speaking exam is conducted by your teacher.



Subject – Religious Studies

Who to speak to: Mr Livermore/Mrs Chester

Course: Edexcel Religious Studies Spec B

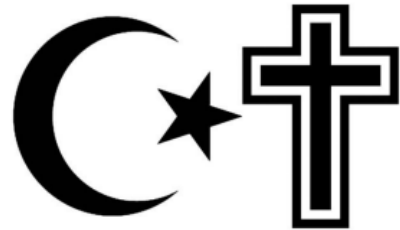
What will I learn about?

Paper one: Religion and Ethics – Christianity

- Christian Beliefs
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Christian life
- Matters of Life and Death

Paper two: Religion, Peace and Conflict- Islam

- Muslim Beliefs
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Muslim Life
- Peace and conflict



How will I be assessed?

Two written exams at the end of Year 11

**Written exam paper 1 – Religion and Ethics
Christianity**

1 hour 45 minutes

Worth 50% of your final mark

**Written exam paper 2 – Religion, peace and conflict
– Islam**

1 hour 45 minutes

Worth 50% of your final mark



Subject – Examination P.E

Who to speak to: - Mr Thompson or Miss North

Course:

What will I learn about?

Anatomy & Physiology

Fitness training

Fitness testing

Fitness programming

Rules & regulations

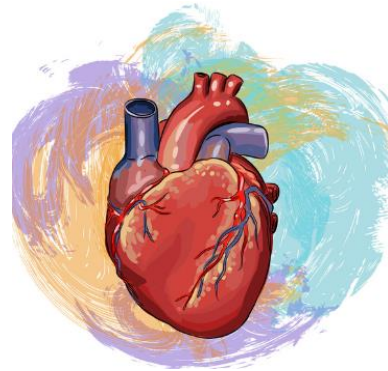
National Governing Bodies

Providers of sports facilities

Sports Injuries

Treatment of injuries

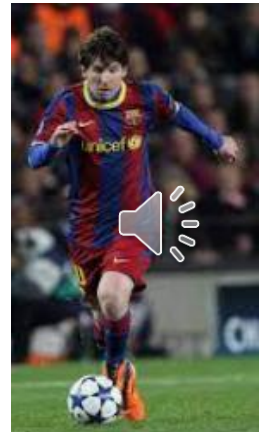
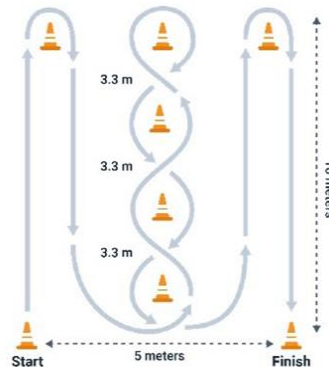
Practical Sporting Opportunities



1 x exam (1 hour 30 mins)

2 x internal assessments

- 5 tasks in 5 hours
- Combination of video evidence, written document and PowerPoints



Subject – Art

Who to speak to: - Mrs Mayes

What will I learn about?

You will produce personal sketchbooks in response to a range of themes. These will evidence your creative journey and development of ideas. You will study the work of other artists and analyse their work in detail. The course will enable you to develop your skills in the following areas.

Drawing

Painting

Ceramics

Printing

Mixed media

As part of your personal portfolio, will also produce large-scale drawings, 2D and 3D final pieces.

Course: GCSE Art (AQA)

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio (Year 10) 60% of Total Mark

Unit 2: Externally set exam assignment

10 Hour GCSE Exam (Year 11) 40% of Total Mark

Both units must show evidence for all ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- **AO1** Develop ideas
- **AO2** Explore
- **AO3** Record ideas
- **AO4** Produce a personal response



Subject – Music



Who to speak to: Mrs Hutchinson

What will I learn about?

5 Areas of Study:

AOS1 – My instrument

Learn to play pieces on your instrument of choice or develop your Music Technology skills and use recording and producing software

AOS2 – The Classical Concerto

Learn about Baroque, Classical and Romantic Music

AOS3 – World Music

Study Greek, Palestinian, African, South American, Indian and Punjab Music

AOS4 – Film and Game Music

Study film scores and music used in Computer Games

AOS5 – Popular Music

Learn about Rock and Roll from the 50's and 60's, Rock Anthems from the 70's and 80's, Pop Ballads from the 70's, 80's and 90's and Solo Pop Artists from 90's to present day.



Course: OCR GCSE Music

How will I be assessed?

90 Minute Listening Exam – 40%

1 Solo performance – 15%

recorded on an instrument of your choice (or piece recreated on music software)

1 Free Choice Composition – 15%

Write your own piece of music completely made up by you!

1 Ensemble Performance – 15%

recorded on an instrument of your choice with at least one other person (or piece recreated on music software)

1 Brief Choice Composition – 15%

Write your own piece of music completely made up by you but in response to a set of instructions given to us by the exam board e.g. write a piece for a new film being released about an alien invasion...



Subject – Photography

Who to speak to: - Mrs Mayes

What will I learn about?

You will produce a digital portfolio in response to a range of themes. You will evidence your photographic journey and development of ideas. You will study the work of other photographers and analyse their work in detail. In lessons, you will plan your photoshoots, which you will photograph as homework tasks in your chosen locations. The course will enable you to develop your skills using Photoshop to digitally manipulate and enhance your photos.

You will be required to demonstrate skills in all of the following:

- the ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography
- awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of photography
- the ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography
- appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement
- appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area(s) of photography
- understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

Course: GCSE Photography (AQA)

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio (Year 10) 60% of Total Mark

Unit 2: Externally set exam assignment

10 Hour GCSE Exam (Year 11) 40% of Total Mark

Both units must show evidence for all ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- **AO1** Develop ideas
- **AO2** Explore
- **AO3** Record ideas
- **AO4** Produce a personal response





Subject – Food Technology



Who to speak to: - Mrs Iannone

What will I learn about?

- Food commodities
- Principles of nutrition
- Diet and good health
- The science of food
- Where food comes from
- Cooking and food preparation

Course: 
Part of WJEC

Food Preparation & Nutrition.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1-Principles of food preparation and nutrition

Written examination =50% of qualification

Component 2-Food preparation and nutrition in action

Two-NEA(Non examination assessments) Practical and written =50% of qualification



Subject – Resistant Materials

Who to speak to: - Mr Coe & Mr Stephens

What will I learn about?

- How to develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values
- The generation of imaginative ideas when designing.
- How to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making.
- Communicating design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing.
- Developing decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- Developing a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.
- How to be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses
- Costs, commercial viability and marketing of products.
- Safe working practices in design and technology
- Use of key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making, manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics.

Course: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Written exam Paper, 2 hours – Marked out of 100 and worth **50%** of GCSE award. Taken at the end of Year 11 and marked externally.

- Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks). A mixture of multiple choice and short questions assessing general Technology knowledge.
- Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks). Questions based around students selected specialism, several short answer question and one extended response to assess more in depth knowledge.
- Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks). A mix of short and long answer questions.

Non-Exam Assessment - Portfolio based design and make task, marked out of 100 and worth **50%** of GCSE award. Marked by teachers then externally moderated by exam board, started at the end of Year 10

Subject – Graphics

Who to speak to: - Mr Coe & Mr Stephens

What will I learn about?

- How to develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values
- The generation of imaginative ideas when designing.
- How to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making.
- Communicating design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing.
- Developing decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- Developing a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes.
- How to be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals, avoiding clichéd or stereotypical responses
- Costs, commercial viability and marketing of products.
- Safe working practices in design and technology
- Use of key design and technology terminology including those related to: designing, innovation and communication; materials and technologies; making, manufacture and production; critiquing, values and ethics.

Course: AQA

How will I be assessed?

Written exam Paper, 2 hours – Marked out of 100 and worth **50%** of GCSE award. Taken at the end of Year 11 and marked externally.

- Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks). A mixture of multiple choice and short questions assessing general Technology knowledge.
- Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks). Questions based around students selected specialism, several short answer question and one extended response to assess more in depth knowledge.
- Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks). A mix of short and long answer questions.

Non-Exam Assessment - Portfolio based design and make task, marked out of 100 and worth **50%** of GCSE award. Marked by teachers then externally moderated by exam board, started at the end of Year 10

Subject – Health & Social Care

Who to speak to: - Miss Bryant

What will I learn about?

Health and Social Care develops real world skills through the use of case studies to plan and analyse individual care. This is a vocational course ideal for students that are considering a career in the Health and Social Care sector. Examples of careers that students may wish to pursue include nursing, midwifery, counselling, psychology, care work, speech and language therapy and special educational needs teaching.

Students are encouraged to develop industry specific knowledge and skills and apply them to practical situations by completing coursework / NEA's in the form of written reports as well as undertaking examinations in some units.

Various topics are covered including human growth and life stages. You will develop skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as Communicating effectively with individuals or groups. Communication is at the heart of health and social care and is taught or applied in all units.

Course: Cambridge National in Health and Social care (Levels 1 & 2)

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed across 3 components:

- 1) RO32 Principles of care in health and social care settings – External examination. This exam makes up 40% of the final grade.
- 2) RO33 Supporting individuals through life events – NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)
- 3) RO34 Creative and therapeutic activities OR RO35 Health promotion campaigns – NEA (Non-Examined Assessment)

The NEA components completed through coursework make up 30% each of the final grade.



Subject – Psychology

Who to speak to: - Miss Hickson-Pritchard

Course: AQA GCSE Psychology 8182

What will I learn about?

Unit 1 – **Memory**

Unit 2 - **Perception**

Unit 3 - **Development**

Unit 4 - **Research Methods**

Unit 5 - **Social Influence**

Unit 6 - **Language, Thought & Communication**

Unit 7 - **The Brain & Neuropsychology**

Unit 8 - **Psychological Problems**

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 : **Cognition & Behaviour**

- Written exam (Units 1-4)
- 100 marks
- 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Each unit – multiple choice, short answer & extended writing (25 marks)

Paper 2 : **Social Context & Behaviour**

- Written exam (Units 5-8)
- 100 marks
- 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Each unit – multiple choice, short answer & extended writing (25 marks)



Subject – Statistics

Who to speak to: - Mr Hayes

What will I learn about?

- Planning and data collection
- Processing, representing and analysing data
- Reasoning, interpreting and discussing results
- Probability

Course: Edexcel (Pearsons)

How will I be assessed?

Two 1 and ½ hour papers, equally weighted:

- Paper 1- Calculator
- Paper 2- Calculator

