

**Options Booklet 2024**

****

Dear pupils, parents and carers,

You have reached an exciting time in your school career and the choices you make now will have an impact on your next two years with us and your life after Lindsworth School. The more successful you are in the next two years, the more choices and opportunities will be available to you when considering a career and further education.

To help you make the best choices, as well as the information in this booklet, you will have the opportunity to speak to teachers and gain crucial information and guidance on which courses will give you, as an individual, the best opportunity for success. In addition to this, you will be able to reflect on your experiences in Years 7 and 8 and any review meetings that have taken place recently. Only after doing all of this will you have the information needed to make these choices.

We want your choices to be as informed as possible. Therefore, we encourage you to make sure you ask questions, especially if you are unsure of what the subject will involve or what it will be like. Please note, often a subject in Year 10 and Year 11 will be very different than the one that you studied in Years 7, 8 and 9. Often, this is despite it having the same subject name.

Once you have made your choice, you will not be able to change them and you will be studying these subjects for the next two years. As a result, choose wisely.

Alongside the option subjects, there will be a core offer of subjects that all pupils will study. Some of these you will gain a qualification from. Others will develop important knowledge and skills that will help you to be a success in your life beyond Lindsworth School.

Core subjects that pupils will study for a qualification are:

* GCSE Maths
* GCSE English/English Literature
* GCSE Combined Science

Other subjects studied are:

* PSHE and Careers
* PE

Should you like to spend time discussing your choices with a member of staff, please do not hesitate to talk to me.

Yours sincerely

Ian McMahon

**How do I know which options to choose?**

When choosing your options it is useful to think of your future career. For example if you know you would like to work in the computer industry, ICT would be a useful course to take.

If you have a good idea of what you would like to do as a future career, take the opportunity to look at now at colleges to find out what qualifications you need to achieve at Lindsworth School in order to be able to go onto the relevant course at college.

If you are unsure what you would like to have as a career then choosing a wide range of courses may be more suitable. This will ensure that you have a broad experience of different subject areas and all your options for college courses will remain open.

One common error that is made is when a subject is chosen because a friend is doing the same. Please make sure you avoid this and prioritise your own success over being with a friend.

It is very useful to ask teachers about what the courses are like and you could also ask Year 10 and Year 11 pupils who are currently completing the course. The more questions you ask, the more likely you are to be able to make the right choice for you. There are a lot of staff in the school who want to help you to make the right choice. Make sure you make an informed decision.

**What do I need to do to choose?**

You must now choose one subject from each of the option blocks below. You need to discuss your preferences with your parents/carers and teachers. You will then complete your option choices form (available from your form tutor) which must be signed by your parent/carer and returned to your form tutor by Monday 4th March 2024

When completing the form, you will be asked to rank your choices, 1 being first choice and 2 your second choice. We will do our very best to make sure that everyone gets a first or second choice. However, there a are a variety of reasons why this may not happen, this includes numbers of children opting for a subject, individual behaviour scores in a subject or academic ability.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subjects** | **Subjects** |
| GCSE Art, Craft and Design  OCR Level 1/2 Information Technologies  GCSE Physical Education  GCSE History | GCSE Business  RSL Level 1/2 in Music Technology  BTEC Level 1/2 Home Cooking |



**Core Subject**

**AQA GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature**

The skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are of vital importance and underpin successful study at all levels.

The new specifications provide pupils with the exciting opportunity to study a range of texts from Shakespeare to Priestley. Students will also be given the opportunity to study a variety of poetry and a 20th Century novel. As part of the new examination procedure all exams are closed book which means that students will be required to learn key quotations off by heart.

**GCSE English Language**

The language exam will assess students’ ability to read and retrieve information as well as writing for a range of audiences. It will assess their written communication and their spelling, punctuation and grammar.

**GCSE English Literature**

The literature exam will assess students’ knowledge and understanding of poetry, plays and the novel.

We have updated our teaching and planning to ensure that there is ample opportunity in Years 10 and 11 to address these skills through the work they do in literature.

* **A small number of our pupils, for which GCSE is not appropriate, will study entry level qualifications.**



**Core Subject**

**Edexcel GCSE Maths**

Maths is taught at GCSE throughout Year 10 and Year 11 and pupils will complete the examination with the PEARSON examination board.

* Pupils will cover topics in the area of:
* Using and Applying Mathematics
* Number and Algebra
* Shape, Space and Measures
* Handling Data

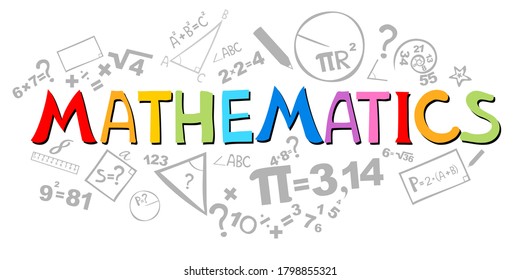
Numerical skills are developed throughout as they will aid progression through the GCSE.

There is now an increased focus in maths on problem solving and the quality of written communication and these skills will be developed over the two years and will build on the skills gained at KS3.

The subject is assessed through three written papers at the end of Year 11.

There are two calculator papers and one non calculator paper.

* **A small number of our pupils, for which GCSE is not appropriate, will study entry level qualifications.**

****

**Edexcel GCSE Combined Science**

**Core Subject**

GCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world’s future prosperity. All students should learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas that relate to the sciences and that are both inter-linked and of universal application.

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Combined Science consists of six units.

Biology 1

Topic 1 – Key concepts in biology, Topic 2 – Cells and control, Topic 3 – Genetics, Topic 4 – Natural selection and genetic modification, Topic 5 – Health, disease and the development of medicines.

Biology 2

Topic 1 – Key concepts in biology, Topic 6 – Plant structures and their functions, Topic 7 – Animal coordination, control and homeostasis, Topic 8 – Exchange and transport in animals, Topic 9 – Ecosystems and material cycles.

Chemistry 1

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry, Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures, Topic 3 – Chemical changes, Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria.

Chemistry 2

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry, Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table, Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes, Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science.

Physics 1

Topic 1 – Key concepts of physics, Topic 2 – Motion and forces, Topic 3 – Conservation of energy, Topic 4 – Waves, Topic 5 – Light and the electromagnetic spectrum, Topic 6 – Radioactivity.

Physics 2

Topic 1 – Key concepts of physics, Topic 8 – Energy - Forces doing work, Topic 9 – Forces and their effects, Topic 10 – Electricity and circuits, Topic 12 – Magnetism and the motor effect, Topic 13 – Electromagnetic induction, Topic 14 – Particle model, Topic 15 – Forces and matter.

These units are assessed by six externally assessed papers. These papers contain a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

Practical Work

In addition to the externally examined papers the content includes 18 mandatory core practicals. Students must carry out all 18 of the mandatory core practicals. Students will need to use their knowledge and understanding of these practical techniques and procedures in the written assessments.

**PSHCE with Careers**

PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) is a planned programme of learning opportunities and experiences that help young people grow and develop as individuals, as members of the family and as members of the community. It equips them with knowledge and practical skills to live healthy, safe, fulfilled and responsible lives.

**Core Subject**

During Year 10 and 11 you will be given the opportunity to work with the Birmingham Careers Support Service and Post 16 providers. These will include local colleges and trainers plus the Armed Forces.

You will also have the opportunity to do one week work experience at the start of Year 11. This is an important part of your course as it helps you prepare for your working life.



**GCSE Art, Craft and Design**

If you have enjoyed Art, Craft & Design at Key Stage 3 then you will love it at GCSE. If you are a practical person who likes to experiment and make things from using different materials such as paper, fabric, plastic, or wood, then this course is for you! You will take ownership and lead the direction of your project. During the course you will produce a work journal that shows the development of your ideas. This will include observations in the form of photography, drawing, painting, expressive mark making and written evaluations, as well as a final piece in your chosen material.

If you’re thinking that Art Craft and Design is just about making pretty pictures and has no relevance to life skills and the qualities that the job industry is looking for, then think again. Did you know that the UK has the largest creative industries sector in the world? Developing ideas, experimenting (this is one of the very few subjects that actually encourages you to genuinely take risks!) and recording what you see, think and feel are what this course is all about. Your final challenge is then to bring all these elements together to produce art that really engages and excites a viewer, aesthetically, emotionally and/or conceptually.

Course content:

Unit 1: personal theme – work journal & final piece – 60%

Unit 2: exam project – work journal & 10-hour practical exam – 40%

(Students will produce a final piece under exam conditions; the time will be structured to support their needs).



**OCR Cambridge Nationals Level 1 / 2 in Information Technologies**

ICT is an essential element of modern day life. Regardless of which profession pupils want to choose, they will need ICT skills to be able to perform day to day tasks.

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Information Technologies which equips learners with essential ICT skills for everyday use and provides opportunities to develop transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with others and communicating technical concepts effectively.

Students will learn about:

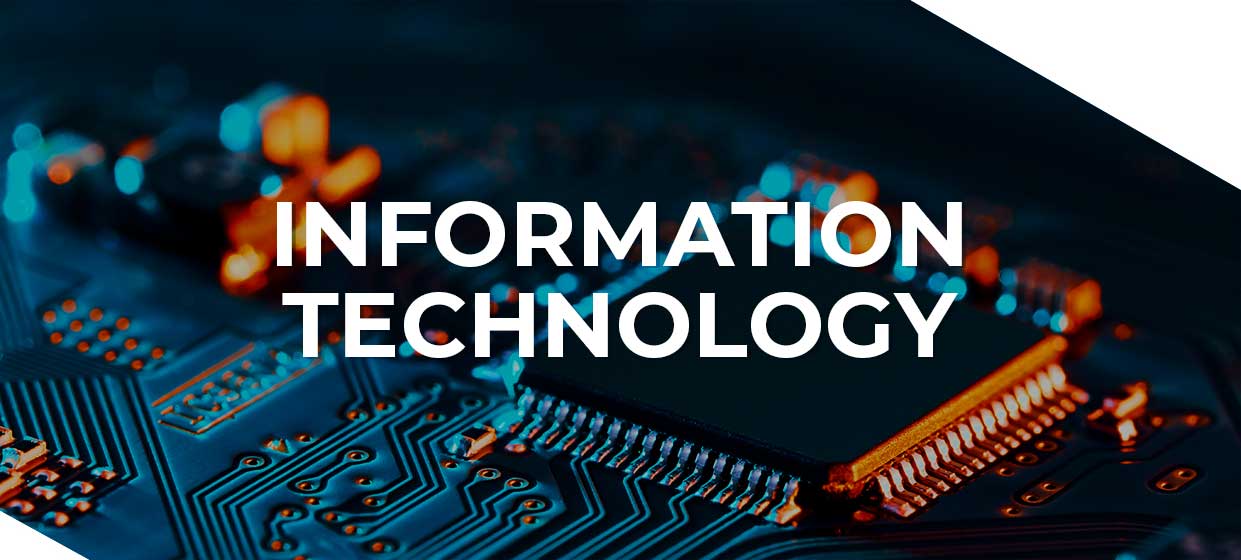
• Different digital technologies and solutions

• Legal, ethical and moral considerations when using technology to gather, store and present data and information, and how to mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks.

• Project planning and software tools

**Assessment**

Assessment is a 50% split of formal examination and a controlled (20 hour) assessment project.

**GCSE PE**

The content of OCR’s GCSE (9–1) in Physical Education is divided into three components. Each component is further sub divided into topic areas and the detailed content associated with those topics.

Component 01: Physical Factors Affecting Performance

1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology – this unit will explore the skeletal system, the muscular system, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system and the effects of exercise on the body.

1.2 Physical training – this unit will explore components of fitness, principles of training and preventing injury.

Component 02: Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology

2.1 Socio-cultural influences – this unit will explore engagement patterns in physical activity, commercialisation and ethical and cultural issues.

2.2 Sports psychology - this unit will explore characteristics of skilful movement, classification of skills, goal setting and mental preparation.

2.3 Health, fitness and well-being - this unit will explore health, fitness and wellbeing, and diet and nutrition.

Component 03: Performance in Physical Education

3.1 Performance of three activities taken from the two approved lists.

* one from the ‘individual’ list
* one from the ‘team’ list
* one other from either list

3.2 Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP) - in addition to three practical performances, learners are required to demonstrate their ability to analyse and evaluate their own performance.

Pupils will be assessed in the following way:-

* Two 1 hour exams
* 3 practical assessments
* 1 controlled written assessment

**It needs to be stressed to pupils that there is a considerable amount of classroom based work for this course. Pupils should not take this option if they just want to do practical activities.**

**GCSE History**

GCSE History is an exciting course and we will be using Edexcel as our specification which focuses on a full breadth of history. Through the year lessons will be combined with directed teaching, independent research and in-depth source analysis.

Pupils will study a range of historical periods including:

**·** Superpower relations and the Cold War (Modern World Study)

· Hitler and Nazi Germany OR Russia and the Soviet Union (World Depth Study)

· Crime and Punishment through time including Crime in London (History of Location)

· Henry VIII and his ministers (British Depth Study)

Through the course pupils will develop key skills which colleges look for including:

* Analysis
* Evaluation
* Debating
* Written Communication

Information about the exams:

**There will be 4 exam papers which you will need to sit at the end of the course. The questions you will answer include a range of short responses all the way through the essay style questions.**

**Paper 1:** Thematic Study (Crime and Punishment) 1 hour 15 minutes

**Paper 2 (2 exams):** Period Study and British Depth Study (Henry VIII & Superpower relations and the Cold War) 1 hour 45 minutes

**Paper 3:** Modern Depth Study (Germany 1918 – 1939 OR Russia and the Soviet Union) 1 hour 20 minutes



**GCSE Business Studies**

The world of business is everywhere around us and Business Studies is a very popular subject post-16.

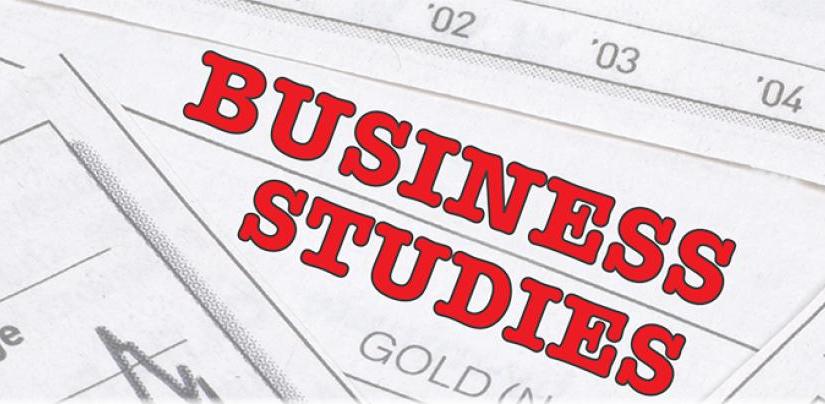
OCR GCSE (9-1) Business would be for pupils who would like…

* To be their own boss and run their own business
* To understand how businesses operate in terms of finance, marketing and people
* To know how businesses recruit staff and what they look for
* To understand the role of finance and how cash influences business activity

This course uses real life business examples and you will learn skills which will help with decision making.

**Assessment:**

There are two 90 minute examinations at the end of the course. **There is no controlled assessment.** There will be a mix of short and extended writing questions which will test the ability to explain and evaluate. There is some mathematic content in the finance unit.



**RSL Level 1/2 in Technology & Composition (Music)**

This course is targeted towards pupils who have a keen interest in the music industry and would like to develop their skills as a musician and producer.

Pupils will have the opportunity to learn how to use industry standard music software to create music and learn one of the instruments of their choice from the selection below.

* Drums
* Guitar *(Electric, Bass or Acoustic)*
* Piano

Unlike GCSE music this course has no exam. The course is separated in to THREE units in which students need to develop coursework for.

These are –

**Unit 1 – Musical Knowledge:**

1. Researching and developing a presentation on a style of music/inspirational artist.
2. Writing a magazine review about of a piece of music of your choice.

**Unit 2 – Sequencing & Production:**

1. Developing a plan for a composition following a brief.
2. Creating a piece of music using music industry standard apple mac software. (garage band/logic)
3. Summarising your project providing your own personal feedback about your strengths and areas for improvement.

**Unit 3 – Instrumental Study:**

1. Demonstrate basic awareness of how to look after your chosen instrument.
2. Develop a target that you would like to achieve on your chosen instrument (Learning a technique or a piece of music) and evidencing your progress in a diary.
3. Review your overall progress and evaluate your strength and areas for improvement.



**BTEC level 1 (yr10) & level 2 (Yr11) Home Cooking Skills**

This qualification has been developed for pupils aged 14–16 in schools and colleges.

Qualification Purpose

This qualification is designed for pupils with an interest in food and cookery and the hospitality industry. It will provide learners with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of the skills required for cooking and a career in food production.

The objectives of this qualification are to help pupils to:

• prepare and cook using basic skills .

• understand food and its functions in the body and in recipes.

• understand balanced diets and modification of recipes for health .

• plan and produce dishes for a purpose.

* demonstrate food hygiene and safety.
* how to economise and presentation skills.

Throughout the delivery of this qualification, the following core areas and transferable skills should be evident:

• planning

• research skills

• communication

• problem solving skills

• health and safety

Pupils will be graded at the end of each year through an assessed project where they analyse a brief, plan and prepare a 2 course meal.

Pupils who select this course to do must be aware that like all other GCSE subjects, it is not all practical work. There is theory and written work to cover also.



Working together for Achievement