



# Northallerton School & Sixth Form College

Being the best we can be

# **Key Stage 4 Programme of Study Guide**2022 - 2024



#### YOUR FUTURE

#### Where do you want your decisions to take you?



#### The following questions may help you decide:

- What are your interests? What do you enjoy doing at school or in your spare time?
- What are your skills? What kind of things are you good at, in school or in your free time?
- What are your personal qualities? What are you like as a person? For example, you could be good at:
  - managing your time and meeting deadlines
  - working well with other people
  - planning ahead
  - talking to groups of people
  - joining in discussions
  - caring for other people
  - coming up with original ideas
  - listening to other people's views

Careers Education is covered in our LIFE programme. We are happy to provide additional careers support to any student who would like it. In the first instance they should speak to their tutor.

#### YOUR FUTURE

#### Do's and Don'ts

#### Do choose a course because:



- you are good at and think you will enjoy the subject
- . it links to a career idea
- it will help you develop knowledge and skills that interest you
- it will keep your options open in the future
- you think that you might want to continue studying it post-16
- your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you to learn.

#### Do <u>not</u> choose a course because:



- · your friends have chosen it
- . you think it will be easy
- you think it is a good course for a boy/girl to do
- someone else thinks that it is a good idea
- . you like the teacher you have now
- you didn't have time to research your options properly.

#### KS4 & YOUR FUTURE

#### **Key Stage 4**

All of your courses will be assessed through a range of examinations and assessment.

Most courses at KS4 are GCSEs, which have undergone some changes in recent years. The main features of the new GCSEs are:

- A grading scale of 9 to 1 is used, with 9 being a new top grade (higher than the old A\*) awarded only to a very small percentage of candidates. Grades 1 3 are the equivalent of the old grades G D, grades 4 6 equivalent to the old C and B and grades 7 9 equivalent to the old A and above. A Grade 4 is known as a 'standard pass' and a Grade 5 and above as a 'strong pass'.
- Assessment is mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- There is new, more demanding content, which has been developed by the Government and the exam boards.
- Courses are designed for two years of study they are no longer divided into different modules and students take all their exams in one period at the end of their course.
- Some exams are split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.

#### **Your Opportunities**

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The opportunities available to you in the future will very much depend upon what you achieve during the next two years. For example, to be able to follow many sixth form and college courses you will need good GCSE grades in a wide range of subjects. The higher grades you have gained the more opportunities are available to you. However, all achievements are important, whether it is taking part in School teams; having excellent attendance and punctuality records; showing that you are well mannered and polite and that you are trustworthy and reliable. Employers are looking for all of these skills and also that you are able to work with other people, that you can solve problems and that you are prepared to continue to improve your own learning.



#### **CURRICULUM INFORMATION**

In Key Stage 4 all students will study

- core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (equivalent to two GCSEs), SRS and PE.
- 4 additional subjects to create a balanced curriculum, or three additional subjects and Triple Science.

### General principles, advice and guidance for making your decision.

- Follow the advice on your suggested route
- Choose subjects in which you are most successful and play to your strengths
- Choose subjects that support your career plans
- Choose a balanced set of additional subjects

#### **EBacc impact**

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

The government's ambition is to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE in 2022, and 90% by 2025.

The Government has plans for the vast majority of students to take the English Baccalaureate (up to 90% nationally in good schools). This is increasingly becoming the norm. It is important to ensure that the current Year 9 students are equally well- qualified as those who will follow in the next few years. Our expectation, therefore, is that the majority of our Year 9 students with the potential to achieve the English Baccalaureate should have the opportunity to do so and should therefore take at least one Humanity subject (Geography or History) and a Language.

#### **CURRICULUM INFORMATION**

#### Our additional subject offer:

#### **Programme 1** - EBacc route

Students with good KS2 results and who are making good progress in EBacc subjects will follow this route.

Students must choose a language and either geography or history plus two further additional subjects.

Any student may choose this route and should discuss choices with their form tutor.

Students should indicate one reserve subject.

#### Programme 2 - Open choices

We appreciate and value students' different strengths and believe that the choices taken should reflect these, where appropriate. It is also important that students choose subjects that form a balanced curriculum and enable them to progress beyond school. Students in the Open route will choose from a wider range of GCSE and technical subjects.

Students choose 4 subjects.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Students choose at least one EBacc subject (a language, geography, history, or triple science).

Students should indicate one reserve subject.



#### **CURRICULUM INFORMATION**

#### **Programme 1: EBacc (English Baccalaureate) Route**

The E Bacc Route - being taken by increasing numbers of students across the country each year. Includes a range of facilitating subjects well respected by employers and universities as well as the option to take two other subjects of your own choice.

#### You must choose

- A language from French of Spanish
- You must also choose Geography or History
- Two other subjects will also be selected from the list below, plus a reserve subject
- Triple Science\* counts as one option and is in addition to the core combined science
- Options will be submitted using the SIMS online platform

French GCSE	History GCSE
Spanish GCSE	Geography GCSE
Art & Design GCSE	Health & Social care - Level 2 Vocational
Business Studies GCSE	Hospitality & Catering - Level 2 Vocational
Computer Science GCSE	Media GCSE
Design & Technology GCSE	Music GCSE
Drama GCSE	PE & Sport GCSE
Engineering GCSE	Religious Studies GCSE
Engineering VCERT - Level 2 Vocational	Triple Science* GCSE
Food and Nutrition GCSE	

#### **Programme 2: Non-EBacc Route**

Students have a more open choice to take subjects reflecting their own personal strengths and interests. All post-16 pathways remain available as long as a balanced range of different subjects is taken. Students taking this route are unable to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

#### You must choose

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

- A from one EBacc subject French, Spanish, Geography or History
- Three other subjects will also be selected from the list below, plus a reserve subject
- Triple Science\* counts as one option and is in addition to the core combined science
- Options will be submitted using the SIMS online platform

History GCSE
Geography GCSE
Health & Social care - Level 2 Vocational
Hospitality & Catering - Level 2 Vocational
Media GCSE
Music GCSE
PE & Sport GCSE
Religious Studies GCSE
Triple Science* GCSE

#### **OUR EXPECTATIONS**

#### **Key Stage 4**

It is because we want you to succeed and to have as many opportunities as possible that we have high expectations of your work and behaviour in Years 10 and 11. In particular we will expect you to:-

- Show respect and pride in everything that you do.
- Focus on your learning and allow others to learn.
- Seek help with your learning as soon as you experience any difficulties.
- Meet all deadline dates.
- Develop your interests and skills outside the classroom, for example in sport and music.
- Contribute to developing the reputation of the School in the local community.

We all have a responsibility to maximise progress

#### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### If there are questions still unanswered after the Open Evening who should I speak to?

In the first instance you should speak to your child's form tutor—if they can't help you they can direct you to someone who can.



#### Will the choice of subjects now affect what subjects can be studied at Sixth Form level?

To progress on A level subjects it is usually expected that students will have studied the same subject at GCSE, where there is a linked course, for example GCSE and A level history. However, the most important thing is for students to achieve their best possible grades at GCSE. This will then give them more Sixth Form subjects to choose from. Students who already have a clear career in mind should discuss their plans with subject staff.

#### How will I know about the progress being made by my son/daughter?

All students are assessed several times a year against their targets. Parents are then informed about the current grade in each subject, attitude towards learning and lessons and the progress being made. Parents can also meet with subject staff and Form Tutors at their respective Consultation Evenings.

#### Who do I speak to if I am concerned about my son/daughter?

Your son/daughter's Form Tutor should be the first point of contact. The Year Team Manager, will also be able to advise and support you.

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

#### **Your Choices**

This booklet is designed to tell you about the basic content of each subject including the ones that are compulsory. It is intended to help you and your parents or carers make the right decisions for you and for your future.

In addition to reading this booklet you should:

- Talk to your parents or carers about your subject preferences.
- Speak to your teachers about what is involved in their subjects.
- Talk to other students in Years 10 and 11 who are taking subjects in which you are interested.

#### Making your decisions—The SIMs app.

Login to SIMS online using a Mobile Device or Computer system using your existing SIMS login details. Should you not have these please contact Mr Ient at gient@arete.uk

Students need to complete the below process first, students can access the app using their school GMAIL accounts. Parents/Carers then can approve the choices made by logging in the same way. Students can edit choices where parents have a read only access.

Once logged in, navigate to SIMS Options. You may be asked to login again

Students have been provided with a pathway, EBacc or Non-EBacc. If a student is on the EBacc route and wishes to change which pathway to Open - please could the parent email Mr Wilkinson (awilkinson@arete.uk) with a sound reason for your child's choice and this will be considered. As a school we appreciate that the EBacc route may not be for all students.

SIMS Options

The following two pages will guide you through the process of selecting your options via the SIMs app.



#### **Key Date**

HAPPENS

Choices made through SIMs App.

**Deadline : Friday 18th February 2022** 

#### SELECTING OPTIONS VIA SIMS

#### Online options using the student/parent app

#### **PROGRAMME 1 - EBacc Route**

Once on SIMS Options you will be presented with a choice of 2 Language Subjects, students must choose **one option** from this list by clicking on the subject name.

Language	
Please pick either <b>French</b> or <b>Spanish</b> from this section	
You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list	
French GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course  1 This course is also available in EBacc Open Choices	Spanish GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course  1 This course is also available in EBacc Open Choices

You will be presented with a choice of 2 Humanities Subjects, students must choose **one option** from this list by clicking on the subject name.

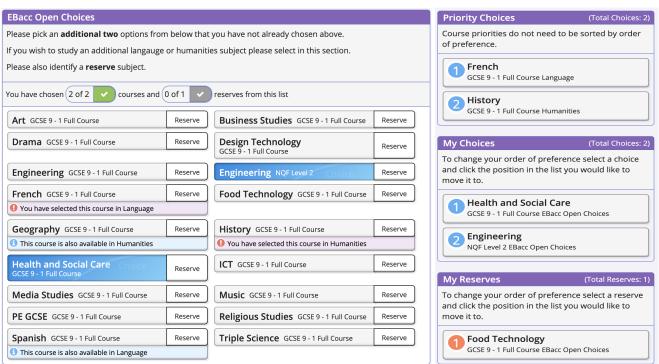
Humanities		
Please pick either <b>Geography</b> or <b>History</b> from this option set		
You have chosen 1 of 1 courses from this list		
Geography GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course  1 This course is also available in EBacc Open Choices	History GCSE 9 - 1 Full Course  This course is also available in EBacc Open Choices	

Students then have to choose the remaining **two options** by clicking on the subject name. A **reserve** must also be identified by clicking on the reserve tab.

Below (on a mobile device) or to the side (on a larger device), your choices will be ranked in the order you have selected. If you wish to change your preference order you can do so. Once you are happy please ensure you complete any comments and click save. Parents/Carers can now log in to approve the options made.

**OPTIONS VIA SIMS** 

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OPTIONS VIA SIMS

#### SELECTING OPTIONS VIA SIMS

#### Online options using the student/parent app continued

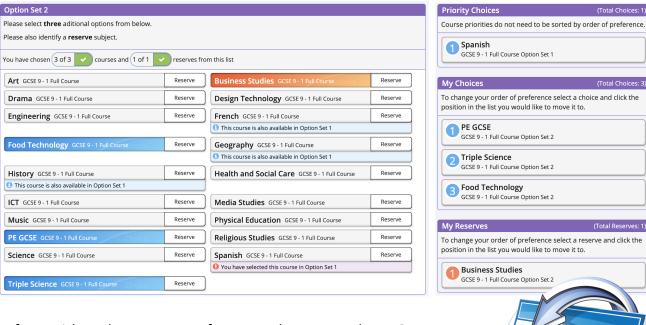
#### **PROGRAMME 2 - Non-EBacc Route**

Once on SIMS Options you will be presented with a choice of 4 EBacc subjects, in the Open route students must choose **one option** from this list by clicking on the subject name.



Students then have to choose the remaining three options by clicking on the subject name. A reserve must also be identified by clicking on the reserve tab.

Below (on a mobile device) or to the side (on a larger device), your choices will be ranked in the order you have selected. If you wish to change your preference order you can do so. Once you are happy please ensure you complete any comments and click save. Parents/Carers can now log in to approve the options made.



If you wish to change your preference order you can do so. Once you are happy please ensure you complete any comments and click save. Parents/Carers can now log in to approve the options made.



Choices made through SIMs App.

**Deadline: Friday 18th February 2022** 

#### **ENGLISH GCSE**

#### **AQA English Language and AQA English Literature Course Content:**

All Year 10 and 11 students study the following core English GCSE course comprising two full GCSEs. This is a course which covers two GCSEs and results in separate grades and qualifications. The English Language curriculum focuses mainly on reading and writing with a separate assessment for the use of spoken language. The English Literature GCSE includes opportunities to study a range of novels, poetry and plays, including those by William Shakespeare. These will be graded 1-9 with 9 being the highest, the grades for both subjects are determined entirely by externally-assessed examinations taken at the end of Year 11. There is no tiering; all students are entered for the same exams and because of this classes are of mixed ability.

#### **Assessment:**

#### **English Language**

#### Paper 1

- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (externally examined) 50%
- 25% reading literature fiction.
- 25% descriptive or narrative writing.

#### Paper 2

- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (externally examined) 50%
- 25% reading non-fiction and literary non-fiction.
- 25% writing to present a viewpoint.

#### Non-examination Assessment

- Spoken Language (internally marked) This does not count towards the GCSE but students will receive a separate endorsement on their certificates.
- Presenting.
- Responding to questions and feedback.
- Use of Standard English.

#### **English Literature**

#### Paper 1

- Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (externally examined) 40%
- 20% Shakespeare.
- 20% The 19th-century novel.

#### Paper 2

- Modern texts and poetry (externally examined) 60%
- 20% Modern texts.
- 20% Poetry.
- 20% Unseen poetry
- We learn about different cultures and ideas in the books we read.
- We discuss important issues as a class which allows us to consider other views and opinions.
- It's fascinating!
- GCSE English feels more purposeful you work hard but it's rewarding.

#### **Progression**

Success in this subject allows students to progress on to Sixth Form A level, Applied A level, or other Level 3 courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, or elsewhere. Many of our students progress to take English language, English literature or both in higher education.



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#### **MATHEMATICS GCSE**

#### **OCR 9-1 Mathematics Content:**

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

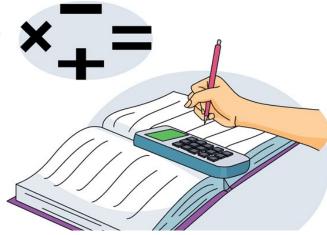
#### **Assessment:**

GCSE OCR Syllabus Examination May and June 2024

GCSE mathematics is examined at Foundation and a Higher tier. Students sit three question papers at the same tier, one of which is non-calculator. All question papers must be taken in the same exam period.

Foundation grades: 1-5 Higher grades: 4-9

Grade 4 is classed as a 'standard' pass, grade 5 is a good pass.



- It's awesome, we learn different things.
- Even though we have very hard work we can have fun!

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#### Progression Grade 5 is a

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Grade 5 is a strong pass, however, success in this subject at grade 4 or higher may support sixth form study in other subjects. In order to progress to A level mathematics a student would need to achieve at least grade 6 or above.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

#### **Course Content:**

Students will have the opportunity to follow a programme within Physical Education, which offers a wide variety of activities. Students are able to participate in both in-depth and taster courses throughout Years 10 and 11.

We encourage students to take responsibility for their learning and an options programme in Year 10/11 facilitates this process, providing students with some control and ownership of their learning. It enhances motivation levels and encourages inclusion and participation of students. This has an important role to play in the fostering of healthy lifestyles and encouraging lifelong participation.

#### What will I study?

Activities may include: adventurous activities, athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, dance, football, health-related fitness, hockey, golf, netball, rounders, softball, tennis, handball, table tennis, tchoukball, rugby and volleyball. There is a generic games based unit which focuses on leadership, communication and teamwork,

through a variety of different activities. In addition, students may also be able to select offsite activities such as swimming in the local community if time and size of group allows.



- There is such a variety of sports to choose from ranging from rounders to rugby.
- Practice is of a very high level and always challenging.
- PE can open many different career paths.
- The teachers are good and the lessons are enjoyable.

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#### **Progression**



Success in this subject allows students to progress on to Sixth Form A level or Applied A level courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, and to achieve good results through these courses. Many of our students progress to take the subject further in higher education. Sports and Leisure is a growing industry with opportunities in practical areas such as coaching, instructing and leading outdoor and adventure activities, as well as in facility management and administration.

#### PSHE AND CAREERS(LIFE PROGRAMME)

#### **PSHE and Careers Course Content:**

In order to enable students to make informed choices in their future lives and ensure the best chances of staying safe and healthy, contributing positively to society and achieving economic well-being, all students take part in the LIFE programme. This is delivered within the normal curriculum time.

Students follow a programme in Key Stage 4 that covers aspects of:

- Health and wellbeing
- Healthy relationships and sex education
- Citizenship and the promotion of British values
- Financial planning, making financial decisions and budgeting
- Keeping safe

Careers education is delivered through the LIFE programme and all students will have at least one careers interview with a specialist careers advisor.



• I enjoy debating the current issues which are often in the news.

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#### SCIENCE GCSE

#### **GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy**

#### **Double Award**

This is a double-award resulting in each student being awarded two grades at the end of the course. The GCSE course started in Year 9 and will continue through to the end of Year 11. The two grades awarded may be different and each will represent the combined results of examination in biology, chemistry and physics. The course covers a range of topics, some of which are quite abstract, others are directly applicable to everyday life, but all will help you to understand how science and its applications are relevant in the real world. Success in this course will provide students with the knowledge base to continue studying sciences at A-Level.

#### **Assessment:**

This is a linear course and all examinations are sat at the end of Year 11. There will be 6 exam papers, 2 biology, 2 chemistry and 2 physics. Each paper will last 1 hour 15 minutes and will be worth 16.7% of the final grade. Each paper will assess different topics and will comprise a range of question types, from multiple choice to open response.



#### **GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**

#### **Triple Award**

These are awarded as 3 separate GCSEs, one in each of the stated sciences. All of the content covered in the Trilogy course is covered in the separate sciences, however, additional topics are included which explore each subject in greater detail. All students will cover the same GCSE content throughout Year 9 with the additional topics being introduced at Year 10. Success in this course will provide students with the perfect preparation to continue studying the sciences at A-Level. Students should discuss studying triple science with their science teacher.

#### Assessment:

There will be 2 exam papers for each science. Each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes in duration and will represent 50% of the final grade for that subject.

- Practical lessons help me to develop problem solving skills and I enjoy them very much.
- I like it best when we are able to debate issues like stem cell research and conservation.
- I am glad I took triple science because we learn about the Big Bang and the Universe.
- A lot of the science we learn about is very new and you are always hearing about it on the news.
- The variety of topics in science mean that lessons are consistently interesting.

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#### **Progression**

Success in this subject allows students to progress on to Sixth Form A level or Applied A level courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, and to achieve good results through these courses. Many of our students progress to take the subject further in higher education.



#### ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN GCSE

#### **OCR Art, Craft and Design Course Content:**

Art, Craft and Design offers a diverse and exciting curriculum that empowers individuality; develops young minds where creativity is at the heart of their being. This promotes the opportunity to develop practical skills, self-confidence to experiment, make mistakes and problem-solve. The context of practice can be described as art-based, craft-based and/or design-based. Students explore a range of media; printmaking, painting, textiles, photography, 3-D, collage, mixed media and digital technology to discover their



strengths. Students will respond to artists, craftspeople and designers to create final outcomes.

The course is energetic and engaging as students select their own projects. The personal approach lends itself to many learners promoting a diverse range of artistic outcomes. Students will be immersed in culture, tradition and history through a variety of visits and trips to galleries, museums and productions.

The course consists of two components:

**Component 1** – is the **Portfolio** where students will develop, explore and record their ideas. Students will have the opportunity to create a personal response to starting points from Fine Art, Graphic communication, Textiles design, Three dimensional design and Photography titles.

**Component 2** - Is the **externally set assignment** providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate, through an extended creative response, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding in response to their selected starting point. **Students will** be given a period of preparation then a 10 hour period of sustained focussed study in which to realise their intentions.

#### **Assessment:**

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- Portfolio 60%
- Externally Set Task 40%
  - Interesting, we study lots of different artists.
  - It gives us a chance to be creative.
  - You can be proud of your work at the end of it!
  - It makes you think more deeply.

#### **Progression**

Many students go on to study Art Foundation Courses, leading to specialist degrees in a wide variety of Arts subjects, including; Fine Art, Art History, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Illustration, Textiles, Film & Animation, Ceramics, Interior Design, Advertising & Marketing, Photography and Architecture. Art shapes the world around us and creativity unlocks a variety of pathways into the world of work.



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#### **BUSINESS STUDIES GCSE**

#### **OCR Business Studies Course Content:**

Business activity - the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, business planning, business ownership, business aims and objectives, stakeholders in business, business growth.

Marketing - the role of marketing, market research, market segmentation, the marketing mix.

People - the role of human resources, organisational structures and different ways of working, communication in business, recruitment and selection, motivation and retention, training and development, employment law.

Operations - production processes, quality of goods and services, the sales process and customer service, consumer law, business location, working with suppliers.

Finance - the role of the finance function, sources of finance, revenue, costs, profit and loss, break-even, cash and cash flow.

Influences on business - ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate, globalisation.



#### **Assessment:**

There are two separate elements to the assessment process:-

- A written examination of 90 minutes to include business activity, marketing and people. 50%
- A written examination of 90 minutes to include operations, finance and influences on business. 50%
- It is really good to learn about things in real life like mortgages and interest rates.
- This course relates to a lot of current news issues.
- I like watching the relevant video clips

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#### **Progression**

Success in this subject allows students to progress on to the Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technical course or A level economics. Many of our students progress to take the subject at higher education.



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#### COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

#### **OCR Computer Science Course Content:**

This GCSE in Computer Science will encourage students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science and analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems through programming.

In doing this students will think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically whilst developing their understanding of the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with each other and an understanding of the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society.

The course content:

#### Component 1

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

#### Component 2

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming language and Integrated development environments

#### **Assessment:**

50% - Paper One:

Computer Systems This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

50% - Paper Two:

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections. In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered.

#### **Progression**

This qualifications fulfils entry requirements for academic and vocational study post-16 and could potentially open the door to a career in related industries.



# OPTION

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#### DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY GCSE

#### **AQA Design and Technology Content:**

This GCSE Design and Technology sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification is delivered through practical application, with various materials and processes, to develop the required knowledge and understanding in preparation for the examination and NEA.

Students may have the opportunity to select which area of material strength they will concentrate on for the NEA in Y11 and if the numbers are large enough the NEA could be taken with a bias towards: resistant materials, textiles or graphics. Students require a level 5 by the end of Year 9 to be able to access the math's elements of the course.

#### The course content

- new and emerging technologies
- energy generation and storage
- developments in new materials
- systems approach to designing
- mechanical devices
- materials and their working properties.

#### **Assessment**

#### 50% - NEA: Non-exam assessment (internal assessment)

Students undertake a substantial design and make task where they will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their practical understanding and application of the core, specialist and designing and making principles.

50% - Paper one: Split into three sections—Core technical principles; Specialist technical principles and Designing and making principles (120 minutes external examination).

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding. Several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles and a mixture of short answer and extended response questions.



- I enjoy learning how to make with a wide variety of materials.
- The subject is good because we get to make products using different materials and tools.
- I really enjoyed working as a team and planning and making my product.

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#### **Progression**

This qualifications fulfils entry requirements for academic and vocational study post-16 and could potentially open the door to a career in related industries.



#### DRAMA GCSE

#### **Edexcel Drama Course Content:**

This is a highly practical subject which requires all students to explore and develop their performance skills in a creative environment. All assessed written work is linked to the practical and performance work the students experience on the course.

The key features of this syllabus are that it offers a flexible approach to drama, embracing a range of learning styles. It gives options in devised and scripted performance, as well as design, allowing the centre a choice of plays and stimulus material to be explored through practical work.

- Practical exploration with the emphasis on creating and developing performance work.
- Exploration of different themes, topics and issues, investigating their dramatic potential.
- Responding to and development of a range of dramatic skills and techniques.
- Investigation of existing plays, interpreting characters and situations created by others.



#### **Assessment:**

#### Component 1: Devising (40%)

- Internally assessed. Externally moderated.
- Students devise a piece of theatre which they then perform. They will record the process in a portfolio.

#### Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

- Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.
- Students prepare and perform two key extracts from a performance text to a visiting examiner. This offers options for monologue, duologue and group performances.

#### **Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)**

- Externally assessed written examination.
- Students study one set text practically and answer question based on their exploration. Students write from the point of view of performer, director and designer. Students also evaluate a piece of live theatre they have seen.
  - Drama helps to improve your confidence.
  - You get to be somebody else.
  - It is a creative release.

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#### **Progression**

Success in this subject allows students to progress onto Post 16 courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, and to achieve good results through these courses. Many of our students progress to take the subject further in higher education.



#### **ENGINEERING GCSE**

#### **AQA Engineering GCSE Content:**

The sky's the limit. Engineering is an increasingly innovative and exciting area to work in. It affects every aspect of modern life – from skyscrapers to smart phones, cars to carrier bags. This GCSE introduces students to a host of new technologies, helping them to gain practical skills and understanding to inspire a lifelong interest in engineering. It will particularly appeal to those who enjoy being creative, with an affinity for drawing, design, maths and problem-solving.

The Application of skills, knowledge and understanding in a practical context will be thoroughly tested throughout this course where analytical and evaluative working will need to be evident. This is a very mathematical and problem solving qualification where testing of materials, processes, calculations of various costs, whilst developing an awareness of factors which influence design.

#### The course content

- Students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the behavioural characteristics of various materials during handling/machining and processing in various ways.
- Testing via modelling with mathematical calculation and providing physical solutions to various problems including electronics.
- Mathematical application accounts for 20% of the final examination mark therefore a strong background in Maths with a level of 6 and above is needed.



#### **Assessment**

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#### 60% - Examination: Engineering (120 minutes external examination)

Written exam: students will need to apply their understanding of all materials covered including, electronics and mechanics within given practical contexts.

#### 40% - NEA: Practical Engineering project (internal assessment)

Students produce engineering drawings or schematics to communicate a solution to the brief before producing an engineering solution/product that solves the given problem. The product must include an electronic and mechanical solution and be fully functional.



- I really enjoy the problem solving and use of creativity to solve real problems via engineering.
- The subject is challenging and I have found real uses for my mathematical knowledge.
- I really enjoyed learning and using such a variety of processes especially the casting.

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#### **Progression**

Students will achieve a qualification that is relevant to the needs of the engineering industries, placing them in a sound position for progression to further study at A Level and equipping them with relevant employment skills.



#### ENGINEERING VCERT (NCFE)

#### **NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Studies**

New

The sky's the limit. Engineering is an increasingly innovative and exciting area to work in. It affects every aspect of modern life - from skyscrapers to smart phones, cars to carrier bags. This GCSE introduces students to a host of new technologies, helping them to gain practical skills and understanding to inspire a lifelong interest in engineering. It will particularly appeal to those who enjoy being creative, with an affinity for drawing, design, maths and problem-solving.

The application of skills, knowledge and understanding in a practical context will be thoroughly tested throughout this course where analytical and evaluative working will need to be evident. This is a very mathematical and problem solving qualification where testing of materials, processes, calculations of various costs, whilst developing an awareness of factors which influence design.

#### The course content

- Understand engineering disciplines
- Understand how science and maths are applied in engineering
- Understand how to read engineering drawings
- Understand properties and characteristics of engineering materials and know why specific
- materials are selected for engineering applications
- Understand engineering tools, equipment and machines
- Produce hand-drawn engineering drawings
- Produce Computer Aided Design (CAD) engineering drawings



#### **Assessment**

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#### 40% - Examination: Engineering (90 minutes external examination)

Written exam: students will need to apply their understanding of all materials covered including, electronics and mechanics within given practical contexts.

#### 60% - Practical Engineering project (internal assessment)

Students will complete a synoptic project in which they will apply knowledge gained throughout the course content to produce engineering drawings or schematics to communicate a solution to the given brief before producing an engineering/solution product that solves the given problem.

• I wanted to study a course that shows me how engineering is used in the workplace



#### **Progression**

Students will achieve a qualification that is relevant to the needs of the engineering industries, placing them in a sound position for progression to further study at A Level and equipping them with relevant employment skills.



#### **FOOD & NUTRITION GCSE**

#### **Eduqas Food Preparation & Nutrition Course Content:**

This course builds on subject content which is taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of food-related courses at either AS or A level. In addition, this course provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile programme of study for students who do not progress to further study in this subject.

The qualification in food preparation and nutrition enables students to make connections, between theory and practice so that they are able to apply their understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking. This content relates to the study of both food and drinks. The certificate is a single award GCSE graded on the 1-9

#### The course content

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

#### **Assessment:**

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#### 15% - Assessment 1: The Food Investigation Assessment

A scientific food investigation which will assess the students knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

#### 35% - Assessment 2: The Food Preparation Assessment

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the students knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

#### 50% - Examination: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition (1 hour 45mins)

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content as listed in the course content above.



- I enjoy doing practicals because it lets us be creative and have fun.
- The subject is interesting because we learn about foods from different cultures.
- I really enjoyed the practical tests because I could choose what to make and prepare it professionally in 3 hours, it really looked good.





#### **Progression**

This specification will enable learners to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways.

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#### FRENCH GCSE AND SPANISH GCSE

#### **AQA GCSE French and AQA GCSE Spanish Course Content:**

These two separate GCSE courses aim to build on what students have already studied at Key Stage 3. The specifications include the study of the following themes:

#### Theme 1: Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

Topic 3: Free-time activities

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking or Spanish-speaking countries/communities

#### Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest:

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues Topic 3: Global issues

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

#### Theme 3: Current and future study and employment covers the following four topics:

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

#### **Assessment:**

GCSE French and Spanish have a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. Each paper is worth 25% of GCSE.

#### Paper 1: Listening

Listening is by examination and includes questions that must be answered in English, in the target language or non-verbally.

#### Paper 2: Speaking

Speaking is conducted by the teacher and includes a role-play, a discussion on a photo card and a general conversation.

#### Paper 3: Reading

Reading is by examination and includes questions that must be answered in English, in the target language or non-verbally, as well as a translation from the target language to English.

#### Paper 4: Writing

Writing is by examination and includes writing a short passage, a structured writing task and a translation from English to the target language.

• An extra language is very helpful in later life.



#### **Progression**

Success in languages at GCSE allows students to progress on to Sixth Form A level courses. Language A levels combine very well with many other subjects (e.g. business studies, geography, English, history...) and is highly regarded by universities and employers.

#### **GEOGRAPHY GCSE**

#### **Geography AQA A Course Content:**

#### Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

- Section A: The challenge of natural hazards
- Section B: The living world
- Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK
- Geographical skills

#### Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

- Section A: Urban issues and challenges
- Section B: The changing economic world
- Section C: The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

#### Paper 3: Geographical applications

- Section A: Issue evaluation
- Section B: Fieldwork
- Geographical skills



Fieldwork is an essential aspect of geography. It ensures that students are given the opportunity to consolidate and extend their geographical understanding by relating learning to real experiences of the world.

Students will need to undertake two geographical enquiries, each of which must include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. The two enquiries will be carried out in contrasting environments and show an understanding of both physical and human geography.

#### **Assessment:**

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This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

- 35% Paper 1: Living with the physical environment
- 35% Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment
- 30% Paper 3: Geographical applications
  - -Fieldwork +
  - -Pre release
  - I enjoyed the geography trip to the Lake District, I can't wait to see if there is another.
  - Geography is interesting, with fun field trips and support from teachers the course is made easy and enjoyable.
  - For me the geography trip was a fantastic experience for learning in a different way.
  - The support and time teachers give makes sure everyone is up to speed and the subjects studied stay fresh.

#### **Progression**

Many of the topics covered in GCSE geography such as climate change and the tsunami disaster are some of the biggest international issues in the world today. The skills covered help prepare for a wide variety of future employment, complement vocational courses and offer an excellent basis for moving onto pursue A level courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College and to achieve good results through these courses. Many of our students progress on to take geography or geography related courses in higher education.





#### **HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

#### **Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social Care Course Content:**

**Cambridge National** 

Cambridge nationals are vocationally related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment.

Cambridge nationals in health and social care are targeted at 14-16 year olds and after two years students will gain a diploma equivalent to one GCSE.

The course is made up of 2 mandatory units (one exam) and 2 optional units:

#### **Mandatory Units**

- Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings Written exam paper
- Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings

#### **Optional Units**

- Creative activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years settings
- Using basic first aid procedures



#### **Assessment:**

There is one examined unit and one externally marked unit the other two are internally assessed pieces of coursework.

- It is a relaxed atmosphere and I can relate to it.
- We can learn about health and safety and how it effects people.
- There is a lot of practical work which is a good way for me to learn.
- You need to be able work independently.

#### **Progression**

This course is an ideal introduction to the health and social care course in the Sixth Form it is delivered as a single, double or triple award. It is also a useful starting point for careers in the caring services, such as nursing or primary school teaching. Qualifications accepted by universities and employers, with many students going on to university.



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#### HISTORY GCSE

#### **Edexcel History Course Content:**

#### Paper 1:

- Medicine in Britain c1250 to present.
- The British sector of the Western Front, 1914 1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

#### Paper 2:

- Henry and his ministers
- Superpower relations and the Cold War

#### Paper 3:

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939



#### **Assessment:**

Examined in three exams, all taken at the end of Year 11.

- History is full of many interesting individuals and events.
- I'm glad I picked history because I have learnt a lot of new skills to help me communicate well.
- I love the learning methods of history and the teachers are supportive and caring.
- I think history is great fun, it helps me to understand the present by looking at events in the past.

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#### **Progression**



EBacc OPTION

Success in this subject allows students to progress on to Sixth Form A level or Applied A level courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, having acquired useful skills such as the ability to select information to support an argument, to analyse and reason. Such skills are vital for Sixth Form courses or in employment. Many of our students progress to take the subject further in higher education.

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#### HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

#### WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

If you're reading this you will no doubt enjoy cooking and be looking to take your skills and knowledge to a much higher level. This course offers an exciting insight into the hospitality and catering industry where you can unveil your creativity through the art of food. It is a perfect opportunity for those who love to cook and bake wonderful dishes. This course is split between an exam, coursework and practical work. You will be able to take pictures of the food you cook to show your family and to use in college interviews.

#### Common misconceptions:

- "This course is only about cooking" false -this course teaches you about the hospitality side too i.e. hotels, B&B's. It also includes lots of subjects like sports science, science, art and many more.
- "This subject is for girls" false most chefs are male.

#### **Course Content:**

- Skills required for independent learning and development
- A range of generic and transferable skills
- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project based research, development and presentation
- The fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment

#### **Assessment**

Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry (Externally Written Examination) Exam - 40% of the overall grade.

Students will study the make-up of the industry and the types of business that operate within it. It includes health & safety, food safety legislation, food ill-health & allergies, and environmental issues.

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action (Coursework Project) Coursework practical 60% of the overall grade. Internally assessed NEA (Non examined assessment).

The NEA takes place during Year 11 and requires students to nutritionally plan, prepare and cook a variety of dishes for a given customer group or dietary need. The project consists of both written work and a 3-hour practical exam which assesses their practical skills and ability.

#### **Progression**

Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.



#### MEDIA GCSE

#### **Media course contents:**

Students will study a range of exciting media products, such as newspapers, movie posters, magazines and music videos, which will develop their understanding of the media. With every project we start by exploring contemporary texts that students are familiar with to develop their knowledge with recognisable products; once the foundation is laid we move into wider texts to extend their critical understanding through products with which they may be less familiar, including products for different audiences. Practical, creative work then further cements this understanding. A diverse curriculum will introduce students to the analytical techniques we use to explore how symbolic visual clues appeal to the audience; exploring technical codes such as camera work and editing as well as how narrative is created. Students will also examine how representations of people, places and issues are constructed within a range of different media platforms.

The specification consists of three components that will provide students with the theoretical knowledge to analyse and create media products.

#### The course content

- Exploring the Media here students will explore media language and representation in relation to a range of media forms such as magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, and print advertisements, as well as developing their knowledge and understanding of media industries and audiences.
- Understanding Media Forms and Products Students will study television, music and online media in depth through a choice of set products.
- Creating Media Products Students will create their own media production for an intended audience which will allow them to explore and pursue their own media interests, demonstrating their understanding of theory through practical application.

#### **Assessment**

#### **EXAM 70%**

**Component 1**: Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification

**Component 2**: Understanding Media Forms and Products Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification

#### CONTROLLED ASSESMENT 30%

**Component 3**: Creating Media Products Controlled Assessment 30% of qualification

- A good partner to creative subjects such as art, photography and graphics.
- The course helps to put it into the context of design.
- I was very well supported on this course.

#### **Progression**

Many students progress to take the course at Post-16 level. The IT and critical thinking skills that it fosters are attractive to many employers in the media and beyond. Jobs/careers associated with media studies include TV/music production, journalism, radio production and graphic design.



Media Studies is now an established course for GCSE, Post 16 and University.

#### **MUSIC GCSE**

#### **Edexcel Music Course Content:**

There are 3 parts to the GCSE exam:

- · Performing.
- · Composing.
- · Listening and Understanding.

#### **Performing**



Students should be already able to play an instrument or sing effectively by the time they start the course, and be having instrumental and preferably theory lessons as well. Ideally students will be a minimum of Grade 4 standard within Year 11 to produce the best results. Students that do not study an instrument/voice will need to be able to sing in tune and in time, preferably in an expressive manner with good tone.

Students perform 2 pieces for the course, one assessed as a solo performance and one as an ensemble (group) performance.

#### Composing

Two compositions are required as coursework from each student, as a written score. Students will begin to study composition at the start of the course, and will then be expected to compose two pieces over the duration of both years. A brief will be given for each composition, one chosen by Edexcel, one by the student.

#### Listening and appraising

There are four areas of study in music at GCSE, each area of study looks at 2 pieces of music:

- Instrumental music 1700 1820 Bach and Beethoven
- Vocal music Purcell and Queen
- Music for stage and screen Wicked and Star Wars
- Fusions Afro-Celt Soundsystem and Esperanza Spalding

The main forms of analysis in this area are through listening and reading music. As such, students are required to have a basic understanding of written music, and be open to improving on this as the course progresses.

#### **Assessment:**

- Performance (30%) students record a solo and an ensemble piece at any time during Year 11 of the course, total at least 4 minutes. Assessment by teacher, moderated by Edexcel.
- Composition (30%) 2 pieces of composition or arrangement to be completed during the course. Assessment by teacher, moderated by Edexcel.
- Listening and Appraising (40%) 1 hour 45 minute exam, externally set and marked by Edexcel.
- It is my favourite lesson.
- It's fun as it is creative.
- As I play an instrument I achieve higher grades.

#### **Progression**

Success in music at GCSE allows students to progress on to the Sixth Form to take AS and A2 music and music technology.



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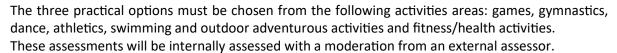
#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT GCSE

#### **Course Content:**

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

#### Subject content - theory elements

- 1. Applied anatomy and physiology
- 2. Movement analysis
- 3. Physical training
- 4. Use of data
- 5. Sports psychology
- 6. Socio-cultural influences
- 7. Health, fitness and well-being





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#### Paper 1: The Human body and movement in physical activity and sport

**What's assessed** - applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data

How it's assessed - Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes, Total: 78 marks, 30% of GCSE

#### Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

**What's assessed** - sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being, use of data

How it's assessed - Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes, Total: 78 marks, 30% of GCSE

#### Practical performance in physical activity and sport

**What's assessed** - students are assessed as a player/performer in three different activities (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third that can be either a team or an individual activity).

#### Plus

Written/verbal analysis and evaluation of performance/coursework

How it's assessed - Internal assessment, external moderation

 Total: 100 marks 40% of GCSE (30% three practical assessments and 10% written/verbal analysis)

For each of their three activities, students will be assessed in **skills in progressive drills** (10 marks per activity) and in the **full context** (15 marks per activity).

Students who study this course need to be **highly committed** to improving their own personal levels of performance and **should have a proven record of competing in school competition**. All students need to demonstrate a willingness to analyse their own performance and improve techniques and skills at GCSE level **through being actively involved in extra-curricular activities programme and moderation practices**. They must also be aware of the **demands of the examination work and be eager to go the extra mile**.



#### **Progression**

Success in this subject allows students to progress on to Sixth Form A level or Applied A level courses at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, and to achieve good results through these courses. Many of our students progress to take the subject further in higher education.



# OCIAL & RELIGIOUS STUDIE

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#### SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

#### **AQA Social & Religious Studies Syllabus A Course Content:**

The course covers both religious beliefs and teachings and a study of current ethical issues.

#### **Ethics Paper:**

#### The origins and value of the universe and the value of human life

- Religion and Life
- Creation story, The Big Bang Theory and Evolution
- Use and abuse of the planet
- Use and abuse of animals
- Abortion
- Euthanasia

#### Religion, peace and conflict

- Terrorism and religious belief
- Causes of war
- WMDS
- Cost of war and its victims

#### Religion, crime and punishment

- Causes of crime
- Aims of punishment
- Types of punishment
- Death penalty

#### Religion, human rights and social justice

- Human rights and equality
- Sexism
- Sexuality
- Disability Discrimination
- Racism

#### Religion Paper – Christianity and Islam:

#### Christianity - Beliefs and teachings

- The Trinity
- Nature of God omnipotent
- Creation story
- Heaven and Hell
- Jesus and salvation

#### **Christianity - Practices**

- Why is worship important?
- What is pilgrimage?
- Christmas
- Easter

#### Islam - Beliefs and teachings

- The oneness of God (Tawhid)
- Nature of God
- Life after death
- Muhammad
- Qur'an

#### **Islam - Practices**

- The 5 pillars
- Shahadah
- Hajj

• It broadens your knowledge about things that are happening in our world.

- The topics are fascinating they are engaging as you see them in everyday life.
- It helped to prepare me for a full range of subjects as it helped develop my literacy skills and my ability to create a reasoned debate.

• I am so pleased I took GCSE SRS as it not only broadened my knowledge but has encouraged me to further study it at A level.

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#### **Assessment:**

2 exams at the end of Year 11



#### **Progression**

The topics studied in GCSE SRS are relevant in today's societies, ranging from ethical issues that are in the media and in everyday life to a deeper understanding of people who live in our society. The skills developed through the GCSE are valuable in a wide range of subjects such as English and history and will prepare pupils both for A level SRS and other literacy based subjects.

#### NOTES

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# Northallerton School & Sixth Form College

Being the best we can be

# **Key Stage 4 Programme of Study Guide**

