



**Sheffield Springs Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# **Year 9**

# **Options Booklet**

**A guide to help you choose  
which subjects to study in  
year 10 and year 11.**

## **When do you need to make your options choices?**

On the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April you will receive a phone call from your form tutor to discuss your option choices. Your option choices will determine which subjects you study throughout year 10 and year 11. You should read this guide carefully as it will explain all of the available subjects to you. On the next page there is a guide to show you which subjects are mandatory (everyone studies these) and which subjects you can choose from (you will choose up to five subjects from a range).

## **How do I decide which subjects to pick?**

Try to think about what interests you and which subjects you enjoy. It might be useful to think about what you would like to do after you leave school but don't worry if you're still not sure. It might be tempting to pick the subjects your friends are choosing but that isn't a good idea, two years is a long time to study a subject you don't like!

## **What is the EBacc?**

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of academic qualifications which includes English, maths, a science, a language and either history or geography. Almost all universities expect students to have the EBacc set of qualifications. Completing the EBacc in 2022 will help you keep your options open for the future!

Finally, your phone call with your form tutor is to help you choose, if you have picked something which isn't right for you we will explain this and help you choose the perfect subjects for you.

Please don't hesitate to contact your Head of Year, Mrs Biggs, or the Deputy Headteacher Ms Cartledge if you want to talk through anything in this guide.

*Happy reading!*

## Here is how the options process works:

**1.**

These are subjects that you must study, they are mandatory.

English Language  
English Literature  
Maths  
Science (Double Award)  
PE  
RE

**2.**

Chose one of the these subjects.

Geography  
History  
RE

**3.**

Chose one of the these subjects.

Sports Studies  
Business Studies  
Health and Social Care  
Art  
French

**4.**

Chose one of the these subjects.

Sports Studies  
Business Studies  
Health and Social Care  
Art  
Performing Arts  
Triple Science

**5.**

Chose one of the these subjects.

Sports Studies  
Business Studies  
Hospitality  
Music  
French

# Mandatory Subjects

## English Language

During English Language lessons you will develop the skills you need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

### What will you study?

For English language you will study the different reading and writing skills needed for two exam papers.

**Paper 1:** Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. This paper looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers.

How is this assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of overall GCSE grade

**Paper 2:** Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives. This paper looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.

How is this assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of overall GCSE grade

**Spoken Language** – this is assessed throughout the course and marked by the teacher.

## English Literature

During English Literature lessons you will study a range of texts which will engage, inspire and motivate you. All students will study a 19th century novel, a Shakespeare play, a modern text and a collection of poems.

### What will you study?

**Paper 1:** Shakespeare and The 19th-century text.

Shakespeare: you will answer one question on Romeo and Juliet.  
The 19th-century novel: you will answer one question on A Christmas Carol. For each question you will write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

How is this assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of overall GCSE grade

**Paper 2:** Modern text and Poetry

Modern texts: you will answer one essay question from a choice of two on An Inspector Calls.

Poetry: you will answer one comparative question on one named poem from the Power and Conflict Anthology.

Unseen poetry: You will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

How is this assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hour 15minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of overall GCSE grade

# Mathematics

## What will you study?

Mathematics is split up into 5 strands:

- Number
- Algebra
- Space and Space
- Statistics
- Ratio and Proportion

## Assessment

Assessed by: 100% Examination. There are two tiers of entry, higher and foundation, both are examined through three papers:

- Paper 1 Non Calculator (90 mins ) (80 marks)
- Paper 2 Calculator (90 mins ) (80 marks)
- Paper 3 Calculator (90 mins ) (80 marks)

Grades 5—1 are awarded on the Foundation tier

Grades 9 —3 are awarded on the Higher tier

## Where could this qualification take you?

Many post 16 courses require a grade 5 in both English and maths. Some A levels require a minimum of a Grade 6 (Higher tier entry is necessary for this). The better the grade achieved in maths and English, the more choice a candidate will have at Level 3 qualifications in Year 12/college.

## **Combined Science: Trilogy**

Combined Science (Trilogy) is a double GCSE taken by all students. It builds on the Key Stage 3 curriculum and covers the National Curriculum Programme of Study for Science at Key Stage 4. It encourages students to explore, explain, theorise and model in science and develops a critical approach to scientific evidence.

### **What will you study?**

You will study 3 disciplines of science: biology, chemistry and physics.

### **Assessment**

The Combined Science GCSE is examined by six 1 hour 15 min written exams, each of which is worth 16.7%. There are two exams on each subject biology, chemistry and physics.

### **Where could this qualification take you?**

GCSE Core Science gives you a good foundation of knowledge in science. Success in Combined Science can provide access to AS/A2 Science courses, including Applied Science and Psychology. In the long term, if you decide to pursue your scientific studies, it can lead to an almost limitless number of job opportunities. Highly qualified scientists are very much in demand and their skills are required in many jobs.

## Core PE

It is important to keep active, as it is scientifically proven that exercise can help you in a number of ways, both physically and psychologically. Most of us are aware of the many physical benefits of exercise; weight control, lower blood pressure, reduced risk of diabetes, and increased energy, just to name a few.

Additionally, there are a number of psychological benefits of exercise which include; help for depression and anxiety; decreased stress, increased self-esteem and self-confidence, better sleep and a brain boost from building intelligence to strengthening memory.

The following are some of the activities available for students to participate in:

Football - Basketball - Badminton - Netball Table Tennis -  
Trampolining - Handball - Tennis Benchball - Longball - Rounders -  
Cricket Dance - Rugby - Volleyball - Hockey - Aerobics

The PE department are happy to introduce additional activities, providing we have the equipment, facilities and numbers to do so. Please feel free to suggest an activity to a member of our PE team.

## Religious Education

You will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare you for further study. It is important that all students study religious education to enable us to be tolerant citizens in the world.

### What you will study?

The course is split into two main parts;

**The study of religions: beliefs and teachings.** This includes studying religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism.

**Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies.**

This includes subtopics such as; Relationships and Family, Religions, Peace and Conflict and Non-Religious Beliefs.

If you do not choose to study religious studies as one of your options you will not be assessed.

### Where could this qualification take you?

Studying a variety of religious and non-religious beliefs allows us to become more understanding and tolerant of cultures different to our own. This could lead to studying religious education post 16, but also links well with Citizenship and Politics A Levels.

# Optional Subjects

## Geography

During GCSE Geography you will have the opportunity to study both human and physical geography, including some of the most important issues to your generation. You will also be able to go on two fieldwork trips, to the coast and a regenerated urban area.

### What will you study?

#### **Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment**

You will understand how the natural environment works and how humans interact with it, how we are affected by and we can impact the natural world.

Assessed by: External Exam—35% of overall grade

#### **Paper 2: Challenges of the Human Environment**

You will understand how human environments like cities are changing, what challenges and opportunities this brings and what solutions we can put in place to cope with the modern world.

Assessed by: External Exam—35% of overall grade

**Paper 3: Geographical Issue Evaluation and Skills** You will receive a pre-release booklet of a geographical issue 12 weeks before the exam, you will then be asked questions about your opinion and judgement on the issue during the exam. This unit also tests your geographical skills and your ability to undertake a geographical fieldwork investigation.

Assessed by: External Exam— 30% of overall grade

### Where could this qualification take you?

Geography can take you anywhere! Whether you want to travel, write, problem solve, monitor natural hazards or be an lawyer, accountant or engineer, geography is a subject that will open doors to you.

## History

During GCSE History you will have the opportunity to study the topics below across three exams.

### What will you study?

**Paper 1:** Thematic study and historic environment - Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city. You will learn about the nature and changing definitions of criminal activity, the nature of law enforcement and punishment as well as researching case studies such as the Gunpowder Plot, The Witch Hunts and Jack the Ripper. Assessed by: External Exam 1hr 15 min— 30% of overall grade

**Paper 2:** Period Study and British depth study - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991. You will learn about the defeat of the Anglo Saxons by William of Normandy and how he later struggled to control England. The Cold War features the investigation of the deterioration in the relationship between the US and USSR and its impacts on world events.

Assessed by: External Exam 1hr 45 min 40% of overall grade

**Paper 3:** Modern Depth Study - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39. Investigates the creation of the Weimar Republic following the end of WWI and looks to understand how Hitler was voted into power. The course then concentrates on how society evolved in Nazi Germany and how terror and fear was used to control the population and enabled the Holocaust to take place.

Assessed by: External Exam— 30% of overall grade

### Where could this qualification take you?

History develops skills highly valued in the workplace such as critical thinking, analysis as well as oral and communication competencies. History GCSE can provide a basis for further study towards politics, law, media and business management.

## Religious Education

You will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare you for further study.

### What you will study?

The course is split into two main parts;

**The study of religions: beliefs and teachings.** This includes studying religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Buddhism.

**Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies.**

This includes subtopics such as; Relationships and Family, Religions, Peace and Conflict and Non-Religious Beliefs.

You will be assessed by a formal exam.

### Where could this qualification take you?

Studying a variety of religious and non-religious beliefs allows us to become more understanding and tolerant of cultures different to our own. This could lead to studying religious education post 16, but also links well with Citizenship and Politics A Levels.

## French

Do you want to speak another language? Do you want to be able to study abroad? Do you want to create more job prospects for yourself? Do you want to improve your confidence? If you answered 'yes' then French is the course for you!

### What will you study?

**Module 1:** Ma Famille et Mon Temps Libre You will be able to describe and talk about your family and the things you like to do in your spare time.

**Module 2:** Au Collège You will be able to talk about your experiences in primary school and secondary school and talk **about your future plans.**

**Module 3:** En Vacances You will be able to talk about past and future holiday experiences.

**Module 4:** Au Travail You will be able to talk about your job ambitions, work experiences and skills.

**Module 5:** L'Environnement You will be able to talk about the dangers facing our planet and the ways we can help.

Assessed by examinations in: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing.

### Where could this qualification take you?

Being able to speak a foreign language is valued by employers in many sectors of work. Obviously, language can lead to a job in translation or teaching, but sectors such as journalism, law, public relations, marketing and advertising and the police, all welcome speakers of a foreign language.

## **Science - Triple Award**

This course is offered for students who wish to study for three GCSEs in science. It is well suited to students who demonstrate enthusiasm and ability in the subject in KS3. It aims to encourage you to explore, explain, theorise and model in science, develops a critical approach to scientific evidence and helps to prepare you for further studies in science. The course includes all of the elements from Combined Science (Trilogy) but in addition extra units in biology, chemistry and physics are studied leading to separate biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs.

### **What will you study?**

You will study 3 disciplines of science: biology, chemistry and physics. You will have extra lessons of science each week. GCSE Triple Science is examined by six 1 hour 45 min written exams, each of which is worth 50% of each discipline. There are two exams on each subject biology, chemistry and physics.

### **Where could this qualification take you?**

Separate Sciences is an academic course. It provides an excellent choice if you are intending to study Science at advanced level, for example AS/A Level biology, chemistry, physics and applied science. It will also provide the basis for future study of the sciences at degree level and extensive employment opportunities. In the long term, if you decide to pursue your scientific studies, it can possibly lead to limitless number of job opportunities. Highly qualified scientists are very much in demand and their skills are required in many jobs.

## **Business Studies - OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing**

Do you want to find out how businesses succeed? Are you interested in one day running your own business? Do you want to study a GCSE equivalent qualification that allows you to be creative, to investigate real life business and explore your own ideas for small business start-ups? If you answered 'yes' then Business Studies is the course for you!

### **What will you study?**

#### **Unit R064: Enterprise and Marketing concepts**

You will understand how and why customer segmentation is used, how to target a customer market. How to attract and retain customers.

Assessed by: External Exam—50% of overall grade.

#### **Unit R065: Design a Business Proposal**

You will be able to identify a customer profile for your own product design, develop market research tools and complete for your product.

Assessed by: Coursework—25% of overall grade.

#### **Unit R066: Market and pitch a business proposal**

You will create a brand identity and promotional plan for your product proposal and pitch to an external audience.

Assessed by: Coursework—25% of overall grade

### **Where could this qualification take you?**

All careers and further education choices will appreciate you having business knowledge and the skills that go alongside that. There are a range of A-Level courses linked to business in addition to a range of Level 3 Vocational courses offered by further education providers.

## **BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care**

During the course, you will experience the HSC industry, future opportunities, and gain the knowledge and skills you need to succeed in your next steps. The practical transferable skills you master during the course such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress within school and beyond.

### **What will you study?**

#### **Component 1: Human Lifespan Development**

You will understand how individuals develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually over time, the factors that impact on development and how people adapt.

Assessed by: Coursework—30% of overall grade.

#### **Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values**

You will be able to identify which HSC services are available to individuals and what may prevent individuals from accessing different services.

Assessed by: Coursework— 30% of overall grade.

#### **Component 3: Health and Wellbeing**

You will create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for an individual which includes targets.

Assessed by: External Task—40% of overall grade

### **Where could this qualification take you?**

There are a range of A-Level courses and Level 3 vocational linked to HSC that lead on to a number of degree qualifications. Future careers include; care worker, early years practitioner, nurse, social worker.

# **BTEC Award Art & Design**

You will be given different study briefs throughout the 2 years of your course. These briefs are designed to give you a range of skills and experiences within Art and Design and equip you for further study.

## **What will you study?**

### **Unit 1: Introduction to Specialist Pathways in Art and Design**

You will explore, experiment with and learn how to use specialist materials and techniques relevant to your brief. You will also learn about, and record, the health and safety issues associated with the traditional and contemporary media, techniques and processes that you use. Assessed by: Coursework 25% of overall grade.

### **Unit 2: Creative Project in Art and Design**

This creative vocational project should inspire you through this investigation of your preferred area of art design or creative media. You can explore and apply new areas of study and new working methods. You will learn to focus your project through planning and organising, taking your ideas from concept to final outcome. Assessed by: Exam—25% of overall grade

### **Unit 3: Communicating Ideas in 2D**

In this unit you will experiment with a range of 2D mark-making activities that include drawing, painting and other disciplines, such as photography, printmaking and mixed media. Knowledge and skills in 2D are needed for many of the units in your qualification and they are essential in helping you to prepare for vocational progression. Assessed by: Coursework—25% of overall grade.

### **Unit 4: Developing an Art and Design Portfolio**

Your portfolio will help you to progress through your current course to the next level. It will also help you to progress towards an art and design career. Your work for this unit will help you to store and organise the work you have produced for other units. Assessed by: Coursework—25% of overall grade.

## **Where could this qualification take you?**

Accessory designer | Advertising designer | Animator | Baker | Ceramics artist  
| Colourist | Concept Artist | Curator | Dancer | Design director | Design  
strategist | Event planner | Fashion designer | Fine artist | Floral designer |  
Graphic designer | Hairstylist | Illustrator | Tattoo artist | Interior designer |  
Jewellery designer | Lyricist | Make-up artist | Marine designer | Media  
designer | Music | Party planner | Photographer | Photojournalist

## Music

Are you a creative person who approaches everything with an open mind? Do you show commitment, resilience and initiative? During this course you will develop your musicianship skills through rehearsal, performance, composition and appraisal.

### What will you study?

#### **Component 1: Performing - either on a instrument or singing**

You will develop your solo and group performance skills. All students are expected to perform regularly in lessons, this component is recorded internally. You will be expected to practice your instrument at least twice a week, for a minimum of 20 minutes.

Assessed by: Coursework—30% of overall grade

#### **Component 2: Composing**

You will also study different genres of music and learn to compose and write songs in these styles. You will create two compositions using music creation software.

Assessed by: Coursework—30% of overall grade.

#### **Component 3: Appraising**

You will develop your listening and appraising skills through exploring musical forms and devices, music for ensemble, film music and popular music. This is assessed through a listening and written exam in Year 11.

Assessed by: Written listening exam—40% of overall grade

### Where could this qualification take you?

Education – music teacher, private teaching, Performing Arts – Composer, sound engineer, event management, Publishing and Media – Journalist, editor, music critic, Advertising and Marketing – Copywriter, researcher.

## BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts

Are you interested in Performing? Do you want to pursue a career in the Performing Arts industry? Do you want to study a GCSE equivalent qualification? The BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts, allows you to not only get the chance to perform, but also develop valuable skills and techniques in different disciplines, and explore potential careers in the industry.

### What will you study?

**Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts** You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

**Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts** You will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting /dance repertoire.

**Component 3: Performing to a Brief \*External Assessment** You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.

In order to enjoy and succeed on the course, you will need to...  
Love working closely with others. Be co-operative in group situations. Have the confidence to perform on your own, in groups and in front of others. Be able evaluate your work and the work of others constructively in written and verbal form. Work with lots of energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the subject.

# Hospitality and Catering

## What will you study?

### **Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry**

You will understand all aspects of the hospitality and catering industry and the types of establishments that provide a service . You will gain an insight into the job opportunities available within the industry. You will investigate how caterers ensure they are working safely and how food poisoning can be prevented. You will look at what laws need to be considered when providing hospitality and catering. You will take a look at opening a new outlet and what factors need to be considered to make it successful and how businesses meet customers needs.

Assessed by: External Exam—40% of overall grade.

### **Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action**

In this unit you will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes to a high standard.

Assessed by: Coursework—60% of overall grade.

## Where could this qualification take you?

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues; businesses where hospitality and catering is not their primary service but is increasingly important to their success. According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce.

## BTEC Award in Sport

Are you interested in Sports? Do you want to pursue a career in the sports industry? Do you want to study a GCSE equivalent qualification?

### What will you study?

**Unit 1:** Fitness for Sport and Exercise (External exam 25%).

You will learn about the components of fitness and the principles of training, whilst exploring different fitness training methods and investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

**Unit 2:** Practical Performance in Sport (Coursework 25%).

You will develop your understanding of the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports, whilst practically demonstrating skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports and finally you will be able to review your sports performance.

**Unit 3:** Applying the Principles of Personal Training (Coursework 25%)

You will design a personal fitness training programme and learn about the musculoskeletal system and cardiorespiratory system and the effects on the body during fitness training. You will then implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives.

**Unit 4:** Leading Sports Activities (Coursework 25%) You will learn how the attributes associated with successful sports leadership, undertake the planning and leading of sports activities and then review the planning and leading of your chosen sports activities.

### Where could this qualification take you?

There are a range of A-Level courses linked to Sports, in addition to a range of Level 3 Vocational courses offered by further education providers.