



SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL
HUNSTANTON



Key Stage 4 Curriculum Guide 2025

Introduction

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.

Malcolm X



Dear Students,

This booklet is designed to help you to choose the courses you will study in Years 10 and 11. Please read the booklet very carefully. The next two school years are a very important part of your education. This booklet is designed to help you make the right choices for you and to achieve the best possible results in all of your subjects by the end of Year 11.

There are many people you can ask to help you with this, including your parents, tutors and teachers.

This information is all in the booklet for you. By making the right decisions now, it will ensure that you enjoy the next two years and achieve the best results you can. Your success in Year 11 will pave the way for the next steps in your education at the age of 16.

Mrs Gibbins, Headteacher

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Key Dates:

31 March - Preferences selection opens

4 April - Preferences selection closes

FAQ's

Q. How many subjects do I have to choose?

A. The majority of students will select a language then choose either Geography or History with a free choice for their remaining 2 subjects. A selected group of students will follow an alternative pathway studying ASDAN instead of a language, these students will be spoken to separately. All students will pick 2 reserve subjects in case we aren't able to offer all of their first choices.

Q. Are all of the courses on offer GCSE courses?

A. All of our courses are Level 2 certificated courses which means they are all GCSE courses or a GCSE-equivalent. Some of our courses use alternative awarding systems such as Cambridge Nationals or BTEC. These are all broad and engaging Level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. They will often have a coursework element to them. Further information can be found on the individual subject pages.

Q. Will I get to do all the subjects I select?

A. While we will do our best to ensure most students do get their first preferences, occasionally the combination of subjects chosen doesn't fit on the timetable. In this instance we will use one of your reserve preferences. This is why it is vitally important that you carefully consider **all** of your preferences and submit them in preference order. We may also meet with students if we think their choices are not appropriate for them and they need further guidance.

Q. What science option will I take?

A. There are 9 science lessons a fortnight; three in each of the sciences. Most students will achieve GCSE Science Trilogy after two years of study. This award covers all three sciences and is equivalent to two GCSEs. Students following this route and achieving good grades (Grade 5 or above) are eligible to study Science A levels. We offer triple science as individual GCSEs for students who show exceptional aptitude for science. Discussions to move students on to the triple science course take place towards the end of Year 10. There is no extra time on the timetable for this. Students following Triple Science will achieve GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.

Q. When do I find out which subjects I have been given from my preferences?

A. You will find out which subjects you have been allocated towards the end of June. If we have any worries or concerns about the subjects you have chosen, we will speak to you before then.

Q. If I start a subject and later realise that I have made a mistake, what can I do?

A. This happens to some students every year. There are only three weeks at the start of term when we look at requests for changes and make them if we can. Sometimes subject groups are full and students are unable to move but we do our best to help. By the end of the first three weeks of the Autumn Term, we have to stop making any changes as you will have missed too much work to begin a new subject.

We hope that these FAQs help you. If your question isn't answered here, please contact the school, initially by email to the Deputy Headteacher, Mrs. Robinson s.robinson@smithdonhigh.org.uk

The KS4 Curriculum

The KS4 curriculum at **Smithdon High School** comprises the following subjects:

Core Curriculum:

English (8 periods per fortnight)

Mathematics (7 periods per fortnight)

Science (9 periods per fortnight)

Core PE (2 periods per fortnight (non-examined))

PSHE (4 tutor periods per fortnight (non-examined))

Subject Preferences: (6 periods per fortnight per subject)

Students select a language; either French or German (if they have studied it in Y9).

Students then select either **History** or **Geography** and then 2 other subjects from:

History

Geography

French

German

Art

Business

Drama

Hospitality and Catering

Health and Social Care

i-Media

Music

PE

Religious Studies

Technology

We also offer **ASDAN** to a small number of students each year. Students being offered this will be spoken to individually. If you require more information about this please contact Ms. Brown

Information about all of these subjects can be found in this guide and also on our school website www.smithdonhigh.org.uk.

To complete your preferences you will use the choices programme during a tutor time at school.

English

'Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible, from complex word problems and the meaning of our history to scientific discovery and technological proficiency.'

Barack Obama

Course Information

Students will study for two GCSEs - English Language and English Literature. Key skills in reading comprehension and inference are covered as well as the creative use of language for a variety of purposes and audiences. Alongside the functional aspect of English, students are encouraged to embrace literature and will study a wide range of texts from Shakespeare and 19th Century literature through to modern poetry, drama and prose.



Year 10

Year 10 begins with a focused approach to literature. We begin by studying *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. This taught alongside of Language skills. Students will then study unseen poetry as well as an anthology of conflict poetry. Students will study Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. Language skills are taught through the study of literature and students can expect explicit language paper teaching too. Students will prepare for the Spoken Language Endorsement and deliver their talk.

Year 11

In Year 11, students will build on their knowledge and experience of both English literature and English language skills. We begin Year 11 with revision of skills in preparation for PPEs. This is followed by the study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Students will revise all set texts taught in Year 10 and will refine their exam technique across Language and Literature.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
Both English Language and English Literature are now assessed through 100% examination. However, students are required to complete a formal presentation, the Spoken Language Endorsement, which is assessed internally.		English Language: Paper 1 - (40%) Paper 2 - (60%) English Literature: Paper 1 - (50%) Paper 2 - (50%)	
Course Title	Exam Board		
GCSE English Language	Eduqas - C700QS https://www.eduqas.co.uk/		
GCSE English Literature	Edexcel - 1ET0 https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-literature-2015.html		

Opportunities and Next Steps

GCSE English Language provides an essential foundation for a multitude of options beyond GCSE study including business, tourism, retail, planning and management. Communication skills you gain will help you with any career path you choose. English Literature GCSE opens up many possibilities such as careers focused in Law, medicine, Humanities subjects and more.

Useful Resources and reading:

BBC Bitesize, GCSEPod, Mr Bruff's YouTube channel

Head of English Ms A Wright a.wright@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Mathematics

Mathematics is essential for everyday life and understanding our world....

Course Information

All GCSE maths students follow a curriculum that has been specifically designed to develop their ability to think logically, strategically, solve problems and develop their resilience and tenacity. The topics they study develop these skills and our aim is for all students to leave school with a good qualification in maths that is not only a prerequisite for progressing into quality jobs and further education, but also one that helps them with the skills needed for everyday life.



Year 10

Sets 1 and 2 will follow the higher tier curriculum and sets 3, 4 & 5 will follow the foundation tier curriculum. As well as the internal assessments, all students will sit one formal assessment during this academic year.

Year 11

Sets 1 and 2 will follow the higher tier curriculum and sets 3, 4 & 5 will follow the foundation tier curriculum. As well as the internal assessments, all students will sit (minimum) two Pre-Public Exams (PPEs).

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
As they follow their entry level curriculum, all students will complete prerequisite assessments as well as some end of topic assessments, this includes regular Exam Paper practice work (in Year 11), thus allowing staff to monitor progress and address areas of weakness.		There are three formal GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11: two calculator papers and one non-calculator. Each paper is one and a half hours long.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Linear Mathematics Specification: 8300	AQA www.aqa.org.uk	Maths Equipment - that includes a geometry set and a scientific calculator.

Opportunities and Next Steps

Some students can go on to study A level Mathematics and Further Maths, but all students need an education in mathematics that will prepare them for a future of great and continual change. The need to understand and be able to use mathematics in everyday life and in the workplace has never been greater and will continue to increase in professional areas ranging from health care to graphic design.

Useful Resources and reading:

We recommend students to use the CGP Revision Guides and (Targeted) Workbooks.

Head of Department Mrs S. Evans
s.evans@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Combined Science

“The whole of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking”
Albert Einstein

Course Information

All students will study a minimum of Combined Science. This ensures they leave school with a desire and ability to participate in science whether as an active member of society or as a candidate for further study in science, with a genuine interest in the discovery of new scientific knowledge and appreciation of how science impacts the lives of everyone



Year 10

The subjects are taught by specialist teachers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The topics covered are: cell biology, organisation, ecology, bioenergetics, atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, energy, electricity, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

Year 11

The subjects are taught by specialist teachers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The topics covered are: homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, infection and response, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere, using resources, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism.

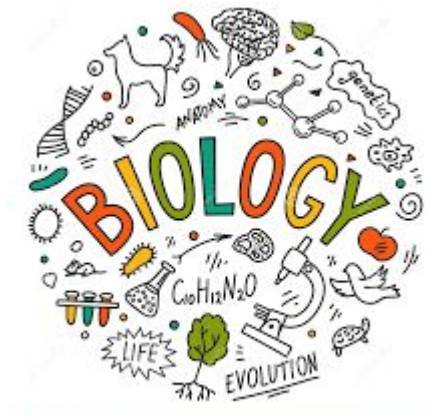
Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Regular end of topic tests in each subject every 6-7 weeks. In year mock examinations . There is no coursework but 16 required practicals to develop and assess practical skills.		Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes and students will study either Higher or Foundation.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
Combined Science: Trilogy	AQA www.aqa.org.uk	There are no costs associated with this course
<p><u>Opportunities and Next Steps</u> All our science qualifications provide opportunities for progression. Combined Science Trilogy gives students the option to progress to A levels in Science or other subjects and onto degree level. Careers supported by a science GCSE are very wide ranging from archeologist to zoologist and everything in between.</p>		
<p><u>Useful Resources and reading:</u> We encourage students to use the Oxford Revise revision series by Primrose Kitten</p>		
<p>Head of Department Mrs C Pike c.pike@smithdonhigh.org.uk</p>		

Biology

“By the help of microscopes, there is nothing so small, as to escape our inquiry; hence there is a new visible world discovered to the understanding.” Robert Hooke

Course Information

At the end of Year 10 pupils with a particular aptitude are selected for the Triple science course. GCSE Biology is a single award, equivalent to one GCSE. Along with Chemistry and Physics, this will give the students three GCSEs. The subject content and practicals also appear in the Combined Science Trilogy GCSE, for the GCSE Biology award there is additional content and required practicals covering aspects of Biology in greater depth.



Year 10

The subject is taught by specialist teachers in Biology.

The topics covered are the same as in the Combined Award: cell biology, organisation, ecology and bioenergetics. The separate sciences cover more content than GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

Year 11

The subject is taught by specialist teachers in Biology.

The topics covered are: homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and infection and response. The separate sciences cover more content than GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Regular end of topic tests or “health checks” in each subject every 6-7 weeks. End of year mock examinations. There is no coursework but 10 required practicals to develop and assess practical skills.		Students will sit terminal exams at the end of the course. Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and students will study the Higher tier.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Biology	AQA www.aqa.org.uk	There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Opportunities and Next Steps All our science qualifications provide opportunities for progression. GCSE Biology gives students the option to progress to A levels in Science or other subjects and onto degree level. Careers supported by a science GCSE are very wide ranging from archeologist to zoologist and everything in between.

Useful Resources and reading: We encourage students to use the Oxford Revise revision series – which are available in the separate sciences.

Head of Department: Mrs C Pike
c.pike@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Chemistry

“I was taught that the way of progress is neither swift nor easy” Marie Curie

Course Information

At the end of Year 10 pupils with a particular aptitude are selected for the Triple science course. GCSE Chemistry is a single award, equivalent to one GCSE. Along with Biology and Physics, this will give the students three GCSEs. The subject content and practicals also appear in the Combined Science Trilogy GCSE, for the GCSE Chemistry award there is additional content and required practicals covering aspects of Chemistry in greater depth.



Year 10

The subject is taught by specialist teachers in Chemistry. The topics covered are: atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes. The separate sciences cover more content than GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

Year 11

The subject is taught by specialist teachers in Chemistry. The topics covered are: the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources. The separate sciences cover more content than GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Regular end of topic tests or “health checks” in each subject every 6-7 weeks. End of year mock examinations . There is no coursework but 8 required practicals to develop and assess practical skills.		Students will sit terminal exams at the end of the course. Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and students will study the Higher tier.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Chemistry	AQA www.aqa.org.uk	There are no additional costs associated with this course.
Opportunities and Next Steps All our science qualifications provide opportunities for progression. GCSE Chemistry gives students the option to progress to A levels in Science or other subjects and onto degree level. Careers supported by a science GCSE are very wide ranging from archeologist to zoologist and everything in between.		
Useful Resources and reading: We encourage students to use the Oxford Revise revision series – which are available in the separate sciences.		
Head of Department: Mrs C Pike c.pike@smithdonhigh.org.uk		

Physics

“No great discovery was ever made without a bold guess” Isaac Newton

Course Information

At the end of Year 10 pupils with a particular aptitude are selected for the Triple science course. GCSE Physics is a single award, equivalent to one GCSE. Along with Biology and Chemistry, this will give the students three GCSEs. The subject content and practicals also appear in the Combined Science Trilogy GCSE, for the GCSE Chemistry award there is additional content and required practicals covering aspects of Physics in greater depth.



Year 10

The subject is taught by specialist teachers in Physics. The topics covered are: energy, electricity, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

The separate sciences cover more content than GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

Year 11

The subject is taught by specialist teachers in Physics. The topics covered are: forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism and space physics. The separate sciences cover more content than GCSE Combined Science Trilogy.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Regular end of topic tests or “health checks” in each subject every 6-7 weeks. End of year mock examinations . There is no coursework but 8 required practicals to develop and assess practical skills.		Students will sit terminal exams at the end of the course. Six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes and students will study the Higher tier.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Physics	AQA www.aqa.org.uk	There are no additional costs associated with the course.
<p>Opportunities and Next Steps All our science qualifications provide opportunities for progression. GCSE Physics gives students the option to progress to A levels in Science or other subjects and onto degree level. Careers supported by a science GCSE are very wide ranging from archeologist to zoologist and everything in between.</p>		
<p>Useful Resources and reading: We encourage students to use the Oxford Revise revision series – which are available in the separate sciences.</p>		
<p>Head of Department: Mrs C Pike c.pike@smithdonhigh.org.uk</p>		

Geography

“Geography is the subject that holds the key to our future”

Michael Palin

Course Information

In a landscape or a city, we are surrounded by Geography. West Norfolk is an ideal place to study Geography with the coastline set within a changing rural landscape and the urban landscape of Kings Lynn 15 miles away. The area is under threat from climate change and plastic pollution. Geography encourages students to think about the future of the planet whilst developing transferable skills which can be used in a variety of careers.



Year 10

What is covered in Year 10 - in the Physical Environment unit, the topics covered are changing landscapes of the UK; coastal landscapes and processes; river landscapes and processes; weather hazards and climate change and ecosystems, biodiversity and management.

In the Geographical Investigations unit, a coastal fieldwork day and an urban fieldwork day will be the basis of two geographical enquiries.

Year 11

What is covered in Year 11 - in the Human Environment unit, the topics covered are changing cities; global development and resource management.

In the Geographical Investigations unit there are four UK challenges to study looking at the issues that the UK faces in terms of its population, economy, landscapes and climate.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
At the end of each topic there will be short in-class tests. There will be end of year mock examinations . There is no coursework but attendance on the field days is mandatory.		Three 90 minute exams at the end of the course. The Physical Environment exam and the Human Environment exam are worth 37.5% each. The Geographical Skills paper is worth 25%.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
Geography	EDEXCEL Geography A	Two field days – transport costs only.
<p>Opportunities and Next Steps A Geography qualification provides opportunities for progression including the option to progress to A level. Careers supported by a Geography GCSE are very wide-ranging including geologist, meteorologist, travel agent, town planner and estate agent.</p>		
<p>Useful Resources and reading: We recommend students use the Pearson Geography A revision guide.</p>		
<p>Head of Department Mr. S Chapman s.chapman@smithdonhigh.org.uk</p>		

History

“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” George Santayana

Course Information

History students will study a GCSE course that builds upon the learning that pupils have completed through Key Stage 3. The GCSE content will engage students with diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world and give them skills that will support progression to the further study of history and a wide range of other subjects.

Year 10

In Year 10 the students will study their thematic study, this is the Crime and Punishment in Britain between 1000 and the present day, this will be followed by looking at a historical environment focused on Whitechapel in London during the latter half of the 19th Century.

The second major unit the students will study is a British depth study looking at Anglo-Saxon and Norman England between 1060-1088.



Year 11

In Year 11 pupils will focus on the 20th Century. This starts with a modern depth study looking at Germany between 1919 and 1939.

The GCSE course will finish with a period study of superpower relations (the Cold War) between 1941 and 1991.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
At the end of each topic there will be short in-class tests. There will also be ample opportunities for students to develop their exam technique within class exam questions. There will also be end of year mock examinations. There is no coursework		Student will sit three external exams. The first is on crime and punishment for 75 minutes. The next is on Anglo Saxons and Normans and superpower relations which will last 105 minutes and finally the Germany element of the course is assessed in an 80 minute exam. Most of the questions on all of the exam papers are based on long answers.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
History	Edexcel	There are no costs associated with the course.
<u>Opportunities and Next Steps</u> History can lead to a number of different opportunities including studying A-Level History and a degree. It is also really highly regarded and can help with any careers that involve learning large amounts of information such as the legal profession, a researcher or even into going into politics.		
<u>Useful Resources and reading.</u> We use GCSEpod and the Pearson revision guides for each of our topics.		
Head of Department Mr. A. Corder a.corder@Smithdonhigh.org.uk		

French

“A different language is a different vision of life.”

Federico Fellini

Course Information

Choosing French at GCSE is a choice not only to learn another language, but also to broaden our knowledge and appreciation of other cultures. By studying a Modern Foreign Language, students learn to communicate through both the spoken and the written word, developing skills that equip them for life in the wider world, for travel and holidays, as well as for further study. Students also work in small groups with our Foreign Language Assistant. There are 4 key skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of the final grade. French and German are parallel courses, following the same format.



In **Year 10** we cover the following topics:

My Personal World_(myself, daily and cultural life, family and friends).

Lifestyle and Wellbeing (Physical and Mental Health).

My neighbourhood_(places in the town, natural world, environmental issues).

Media and Technology (tv, social media, music, gaming)

In **Year 11**, the remaining topics are covered:

Studying and my future (school and future opportunities).

Travel and tourism (transport, accommodation and tourist attractions).

Internal Assessment		External Assessment															
Regular end of module assessments are used alongside end of year examinations. All four skills are assessed regularly, ensuring students are learning and developing the grammatical skills and vocabulary necessary. Students take either Foundation or Higher tier.		Students are examined at the end of Year 11: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Foundation</th> <th>Higher</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Listening exam</td> <td>45 minutes</td> <td>60 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speaking exam</td> <td>7-9 minutes</td> <td>10-12 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading exam</td> <td>45 minutes</td> <td>60 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing exam</td> <td>75 minutes</td> <td>80 minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The Speaking exam is usually in April of Year 11.		Foundation	Higher	Listening exam	45 minutes	60 minutes	Speaking exam	7-9 minutes	10-12 minutes	Reading exam	45 minutes	60 minutes	Writing exam	75 minutes	80 minutes
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Course Title	Exam Board	Costs															
GCSE French	Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com	Revision Guides and/or Workbooks are available for a small cost from the school shop.															

Opportunities and Next Steps Studying a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE provides students with a valued qualification which also enables them to broaden their horizons. Having a GCSE in French or German enables further study at A level and at degree level; it is also a very useful skill to have for many careers, from journalism, politics, art or teaching, to the travel and hospitality sectors. During the course, there may also be the opportunity to travel abroad.

Useful Resources and reading:

We recommend the Edexcel Study Guides. CGP guides are also an entertaining way to learn and revise.

Head of Department Mrs L.Hawkins

l.hawkins@smithdonhigh.org.uk

German

“With languages, you are at home anywhere. ”

Edward De Waal

Course Information

Choosing German at GCSE is a choice not only to learn another language, but also to broaden our knowledge and appreciation of other cultures. By studying a Modern Foreign Language, students learn to communicate through both the spoken and the written word, developing skills that equip them for life in the wider world, for travel and holidays, as well as for further study.

There are 4 key skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of the final grade. German and French are parallel courses, following the same format.



In **Year 10** we cover the following topics:

My Personal World_(myself, daily and cultural life, family and friends).

Lifestyle and Wellbeing (Physical and Mental Health).

My neighbourhood_(places in the town, natural world, environmental issues).

Media and Technology (tv, social media, music, gaming)

In **Year 11**, the remaining topics are covered:

Studying and my future (school and future opportunities).

Travel and tourism (transport, accommodation and tourist attractions).

Internal Assessment		External Assessment															
Regular end of module assessments are used alongside end of year examinations. All four skills are assessed regularly, ensuring students are learning and developing the grammatical skills and vocabulary necessary. Students take either Foundation or Higher tier.		Students are examined at the end of Year 11: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Foundation</th> <th>Higher</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Listening exam</td> <td>45 minutes</td> <td>60 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Speaking exam</td> <td>7-9 minutes</td> <td>10-12 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reading exam</td> <td>45 minutes</td> <td>60 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing exam</td> <td>75 minutes</td> <td>80 minutes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> The Speaking exam is usually in April of Year 11.		Foundation	Higher	Listening exam	45 minutes	60 minutes	Speaking exam	7-9 minutes	10-12 minutes	Reading exam	45 minutes	60 minutes	Writing exam	75 minutes	80 minutes
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Course Title	Exam Board	Costs															
GCSE German	Edexcel qualifications.pearson.com	Revision Guides and/or Workbooks are available for a small cost from the school shop.															

Opportunities and Next Steps Studying a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE provides students with a valued qualification which also enables them to broaden their horizons. Having a GCSE in German enables further study at A level and at degree level; it is also a very useful skill to have for many careers, from journalism, politics, art or teaching, to the travel and hospitality sectors. During the course, there may also be the opportunity to travel abroad.

Useful Resources and reading:

We recommend the Edexcel Study Guides. CGP guides are also an entertaining way to learn and revise.

Head of Department Mrs L.Hawkins

l.hawkins@smithdonhigh.org.uk

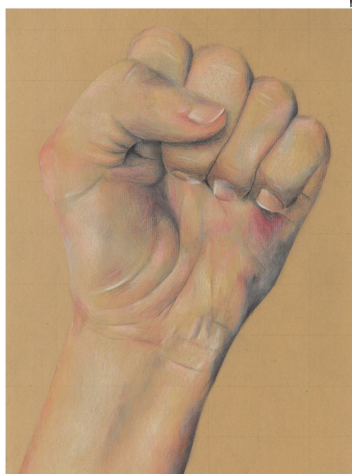
Fine Art

“A true artist is not one who is inspired but one who inspires others.”

Salvador Dali

Course Information

GCSE Fine Art is an exciting and varied course, which combines traditional drawing and painting with ICT and academic skills. GCSE is a structured course which develops student’s practical and analytical skills, which can be used in higher level studies and in the workplace. GCSE Art and Design is a qualification which shows further education such as universities and employers creative as well as academic ability.



Year 10

Year 10 will start their coursework as soon as they start the course in Year 10. Coursework is made up two different projects.

The two projects each require a journey of sketchbook work resulting in a finalised piece created outside of the sketchbook and an end result of your journey. The coursework also known as component 1 is 60% of your overall mark. Component 1 will be done through out Year 10 and the first part of Year 11.

Year 11

In January of Year 11 you will start the exam. The exam is made up of one project of sketchbook work and final piece. The exam titles will be set by the exam board. The final piece for this journey will be created in an exam which is normally split across two school days.

The exam known as component 2 is worth 40% of the overall mark

Both components are theme based and will give students the opportunity to :

- Develop their practical and visual skills.
- Academic research and analysis of art history, artists and illustrators.
- Express and experiment with their ideas using a range of media including photography, drawing, painting, Photoshop, printing, sculpture and much more.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Personal Portfolio make up of two projects, one which is a self-directed in students specialist course area and theme. (Coursework 60% of Marks)		Externally Set Assignment ran over twelve weeks with a 10hr practical exam. (Exam 40% of Marks)
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
Fine Art	Edexcel	There will be a slight cost for sketchbooks from school. Also any other materials and media, which are not supplied in school that you may wish to purchase to help develop experimentation within your work.

Opportunities and Next Steps

Art can lead you anywhere...look around you everything you see is art. So if you dream of going onto further education, university perhaps then onto your dream job as a designer, fashion guru, hairdresser, computer games designer , illustrator ...your options are endless.

Useful Resources and reading: Edexcel Fine Art - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

Head of Faculty Mrs S Wheeler s.wheeler@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Business

“Business Opportunities are like buses there’s always another one coming” Richard Branson

Course Information

The entrepreneur is the future with new ideas and new products, they will ensure that the economy flourishes. West Norfolk has lots of businesses set up by people willing to take a risk. Being taught about the essential components of a business such as enterprise, people and products whilst learning about the skills required to operate in a competitive global economy might give students inspiration to set up and run a business of the future.



Year 10

What is covered in Year 10:
Students will complete the unit Business Activity, Marketing and People. This covers the role of the entrepreneur setting up and growing new businesses. It also looks at the marketing of products and the role of human resources in the operations of different firms.

Year 11

What is covered in Year 11:
Students will complete the unit Operations Finance and Influences on Business. This covers the role of production, sales and business location. It also looks at finance and accounting as well as the external influences on business operations such as the economic climate and globalisation.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
At the end of each topic there will be a short in-class tests. There will be end of year mock examinations		Two 90-minute exams at the end of the course. The business activity, marketing and people exam and the operations, finance and influences on business exam are worth 50% each.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
Business	OCR	There are no costs associated with this course.

Opportunities and Next Steps A Business qualification provides opportunities for progression including the option to progress to A level and vocational courses. Careers supported by a Business GCSE are very wide-ranging including accounting, finance, human resources, marketing and management.

Useful Resources and reading:

My Revision Notes: OCR GCSE (9-1) Business by Mike Schofield

Head of Department Mr S Chapman
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Design & Technology

“Design is where science and art break even”

Robin Mathew

Course Information

This is an optional subject. The course is designed for students who wish to have a good understanding of the broad range of skills, subjects and knowledge that design and technology covers. It is important to realise that this course is not purely a practical course as only 10% of the marks are available for the manufacture of a final product. It will also require a good understanding of Maths and Science as this is a major part of the course content and assessment.



Year 10:

During Year 10, students undertake multiple mini projects that help cover the practical skills and knowledge for the course. This builds their knowledge and skill base in the properties and uses of wood and polymers as well as developing graphics, CAD CAM, and modelling skills.

Year 11:

This year will be focused towards the successful completion of their NEA and maximising the marks. Students will also have dedicated theory lessons to make sure they cover the knowledge for the theory examination.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Regular tests, revision lessons will take place that will lead to mock Exams.		1) Paper one: Exam paper set by the examination board, and is a theory examination worth 50%. This is taken in June of Year 11. 2) The NEA (Non-Examinable Assessment): This is also worth 50%. It will take approximately 35 hours of normal lesson time and it will be internally assessed. This starts on the 1st of June in Year 10 and continues into Year 11.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE: Design and Technology (8552)	AQA	If the materials available for the production of their NEA are not in school, then this will need to be purchased by the student themselves. You will also need to purchase a Design and Technology revision guide this can be found on the school shop.

Opportunities and Next Steps

Why Choose DT? What other subject can be a hobby, a career and a life skill? It is fun, it helps you make things, it helps you think through and solve problems, it helps you design, plan and make things you need and use. It can also be studied at AS and A level where it is accepted as an entrance qualification for universities.

Useful Resources and reading:

GCSE Bitesize. www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/ or www.technologystudent.com/
Text book: AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology: All material categories and systems

Head of Faculty Mrs S Wheeler s.wheeler@smithdonhigh.org.uk

Drama

“We must all do Theatre to find out who we are, and to discover who we could become.” Augusto Boal

Course Information

GCSE Drama is an exciting and stimulating course which encourages individuality, confidence and creativity. Specific theatre skills are developed during the course, but more general and transferable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, communication, evaluation and analysis can also be acquired through the study of drama.



Year 10

In Year 10 students will extend and develop their learning from their knowledge rich curriculum in key stage 3. Students will be exposed to new practitioners, genres and theories when creatively developing work. We will embark on a study of script and technical theatre in a practical and exciting way, whilst looking at how to analyse and evaluate productions we have watched.

Year 11

In Year 11 students can expect to further develop their practice in a creative and imaginative way whilst devising their own examination pieces and documenting the process of this devising journey. Students will rehearse, refine and polish performances of scripted extracts. In addition, we will review and revise knowledge of the set text whilst interpreting the theatre of the playwright.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Unit 1 Devising Theatre – 40 % - Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential practitioner or genre, in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. Students must create a portfolio documenting the process and an evaluation - this can be written or submitted via video blog or a combination of the two.		Unit 2 Performing from a text — 20% - Students study a text and perform two extracts from the text. Unit 3 Interpreting Theatre 40% - Written paper, 90 minutes Section A – questions based on study of a set text. Section B – Evaluation of live theatre
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Drama	Eduqas www.eduqas.co.uk	Theatre trips
Opportunities and Next Steps GCSE Drama gives students the option to progress to A levels in Drama or other subjects and onto degree level. Careers supported by a Drama GCSE are very wide ranging from performing and script writing to technical theatre management and everything in between.		
Useful Resources and reading: We encourage students to visit theatres and watch live productions as well as reading a variety of scripts from different time periods.		
Head of Department Mrs V Proctor v.proctor@smithdonhigh.org.uk		

Hospitality and Catering

Mise en place - the preparation of dishes and ingredients before the beginning of service.

Course Information

Students will gain knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering provider, learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, students will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.



Year 10

The students will be taught aspects from both Unit 1 and 2 throughout year 10. Unit 1 will teach the students about different aspects of the hospitality and catering industry ranging from operations in the kitchen and front of house, responsibilities in the workplace, the cause of food poisoning and to knowing how to meet the customers needs. This unit 2 will teach students the importance of nutrition when planning menus, other factors such environmental issues that affect menu planning, use a range of techniques when preparing and cooking dishes and the importance of presentation. The course is taught through both theory and practical lessons.

Year 11

Student will continue to studies aspects from both Unit 1 & 2 and will participate in both a written exam to assess knowledge gained in Unit 1 and Unit 2 is assessed internally and the students will complete a Non Exam Assessment task.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed. It is assessed through a Non-examination assessment task, which will be completed under controlled conditions.		Unit 1 The Hospitality and catering industry: is assessed through a written examination which is sat in Year 11. The exam is 90 minutes.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
HOSPITALITY AND CATERING	WJEC LEVEL 1 / 2 AWARD	Kit/field trips etc
<p>Opportunities and Next Steps Further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. 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.</p>		
<p>Useful Resources and reading: Online resources such as Food a fact of life and we encourage the reading of WJEC - Hospitality and Catering by Anita Tull.</p>		
<p>Head of Faculty Mrs S Wheeler s.wheeler@smithdonhigh.org.uk</p>		

Health & Social Care

Developing a sense of self worth and wisdom to see the world through others' eyes.

Course Information

Health and Social care is a Level 2 qualification. It is an exciting, hands on, vocational course that allows you to get your teeth into everything to do with real life situations. Since I started to teach the course my main goal was to make each experience a student has as close to real life as possible, which we have achieved.



EVERYTHING that is taught in Health and Social Care is important to everyday life, both in the workplace and outside, making this course ideal for anyone!

Year 10

R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings

Topics include: The rights of service users in health and social care setting; Person-centred values; Effective communication in health and social care settings; Protecting service users and service providers in health and social care settings.

R033: Supporting individuals through life events

Topics include: Life stages; Impacts of life events; Sources of support.

Year 11

R035: Health promotion campaigns

Topics include: Current public health issues and the impact on society; Factors influencing health; Plan and create a health promotion campaign; Deliver and evaluate a health promotion campaign.

Grading

Level 2 – Distinction* (2*), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)
Level 1 - Distinction (D1), Merit (M1), Pass (P1)

Internal Assessment		External Assessment (NEA)
There are two units of coursework based on Supporting individuals through life events and Health promotion campaigns . Students can achieve up to 60 marks per unit . These are based on an exam board scenario and produced in in school and marked, followed by a moderation by the exam board.		There is one unit based on Principles of care in health and social care settings . The exam is 1 hour 15 minutes , where candidate can achieve up to 70 marks , which is sat at the end of Year 11. It will draw on the students application of their knowledge and understanding to real life situations.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
OCR Level 1/ 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care	OCR Cambridge Nationals	There may be minimal costs associated with elements of the course.
<p>Opportunities and Next Steps: We offer guest speakers from various organisations to speak to students these include Dementia UK, staff from Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn, Lily, Flat Friends, RNIB and Guide Dogs. We also try to provide opportunities to visit local places such as hospitals and care homes. Students with this qualification can go onto study at Sixth form, college leading to university or apprenticeships.</p>		
<p>Useful Resources and reading: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/</p>		
<p>Subject Lead: A.Moat a.moat@Smithdonhigh.org.uk</p>		

ICT - iMedia

“We are changing the world with technology” – Bill Gates

Course Information

Media and ICT is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives.

Production of digital media products to be shared electronically, or to be printed, is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce.

This course will provide you with the skills for further study in subjects such as IT, media, journalism, design or business. It can also lead to further studies of post 16 computer science.



Year 10

Three units are covered across the two years. Year 10 sees theory for two units, with one of those being assessed in year 10.

R094: Visual Identity and Digital Graphics.

Students will learn about how to develop brands and visual identities, apply concepts of graphic design to create digital graphics.

R097: Interactive Digital Media. Students will learn how to design and create IDM's for chosen platforms.

Year 11

Assessment of R094 completed.

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry –

In this unit you will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. The processes used to plan and create digital products. Along with key design aspects that convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Two units are practical and sat within the classroom. Each practical exam takes approx. 12-15 hours spread over several weeks, making up 60% of the final grade. This is internally moderated and then externally by OCR.		All practical exams are externally assessed. R093 is a mandatory written exam, sat in year 11, worth 40% of the final grade.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia	OCR www.ocr.org.uk	There are no costs associated with this course.

Opportunities and Next Steps

This qualification will give a sound basis for further studies in IT or media, both for A-level or vocational courses, such as IT Level 3 or Digital Media Level 3. Students could also consider moving into A Level Computer Science. All options lead to a huge range of careers within the industry from graphic design, digital marketing to web design or film production.

Useful Resources and reading:

OCR Cambridge Nationals Creative iMedia R093 and R094 by Hodder Education (supplied via lessons).

Head of Department Miss S Fairweather

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Music

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."

Confucius

Course Information

GCSE Music is a fun and challenging course. You will explore your skills as a musician, develop your performance and composition abilities, being able to perform alone and with others as well as composing full pieces of music by the end of the course. You will be challenged to listen to a wide variety of music and explore the elements that make music unique and interesting. You will develop your confidence, performance and analysis skills.



Year 10

Year 10 acts as an introduction to music theory to start with. We then go through the 4 different areas of study. We start with AOS 1: Musical Forms and Structures, including our first set work, Badinerie by Beethoven, then we look at AOS4: Popular Music, where we start the 2nd set work Africa by Toto. From there we will move to AOS2: Music for Ensembles where we look at chamber music all the way to musicals. We end the year with AOS3: Film Music. Through all of this students work on a variety of composition tasks as well as performance tasks from playing Christmas songs to writing music for a film.

Year 11

In Year 11 we go back through the different areas of study and look to deepen our understanding of the topics. We also record both the solo and ensemble assessment and complete our free composition. In Year 11 the set briefs are also given for the final composition which student will work on throughout the year. It all culminates with the final appraising exam.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Performance (30%) - One solo performance and one ensemble performance (Both recorded in year 11) Compositions (30%) - One free composition, one set brief composition (Completed in year 11)		Appraising Exam (40%) - An hour and 15 minute listening exam covering the 4 different areas of study looked at in the course, as well as the 2 set pieces.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Music	Eduqas	No mandatory costs for this course however having access to instruments and peripatetic music lessons will greatly help

Opportunities and Next Steps Studying music will give you the opportunity to not only go into the world able to confidently be able to sing and/or play an instrument, but will also allow you to enter into careers as a performer, record producer, foley artist, music teacher and the list goes on. Additionally this course leads to both A level and Level 3 vocational qualifications in post 16 studies.

Useful Resources and reading:

CGP GCSE WJEC/Eduqas Music Complete Revision and Practice

Head of Department: Mrs A Barnes

a.barnes@smithdonhigh.org.uk

GCSE Physical Education

“Intelligence and skill can only function at the peak of their capacity when the body is healthy and strong” John F Kennedy.

Course Information

Studying GCSE PE gives students a holistic understanding of physical education. The course is comprised of 60% theory and 40% practical elements. It provides opportunities to contextualise theoretical aspects of physical education and develop their knowledge and application to practical performances within a physical activity and sporting environment. Students also develop understanding and quality of their practical performances within the practical element of the course.



Year 10

Paper 1 content which includes the following topics:

Applied Anatomy and Physiology –

Cardio-respiratory system, Musculoskeletal system, Aerobic and Anaerobic exercise.

Movement Analysis – Levers, Planes and Axes

Physical Training – components of fitness, fitness tests methods and principles of training, Planning stage of Personalised Exercise Programme (PEP) coursework element.

Year 11

Completion of analysis stage of PEP coursework.

Paper 2 content:

Health fitness and well-being – benefits of physical activity, sedentary lifestyle, lifestyle choices and diet.

Sport Psychology – Skill classification, Practice structure, Types of Practice, Feedback, Goal Setting, Guidance.

Socio-cultural influences – commercialisation, Types of sporting behaviour.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
2 cumulative health checks per year. Regular end of unit tests. Mock examinations and end of year. Practical assessment of each sport completed in practical lessons		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paper 1 (1hr 45mins, 80 marks) ● Paper 2 (1hr 15mins, 60 marks). ● Practical Performance (3 sports worth 105 marks) ● PEP (20 marks) both assessed by external moderator.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
GCSE Physical Education (1PE0)	Edexcel https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html	Optional personalised GCSE PE Kit is available to purchase as part of this court. Optional Rock Climbing opportunity
<p>Opportunities and Next Steps: The GCSE Physical Education allows progression onto A Level PE and sport based college courses. Career opportunities include a wide range of areas such as physiotherapy, sports journalism, sports coaching, sports nutrition and sports science roles.</p>		
<p>Useful Resources and reading: We encourage the use of the Pearson Edexcel GCSE PE revision guide and workbook along with the use of The EverLearner online platform we use in the department.</p>		
<p>Head of Department Mr J. Tilley j.tilley@smithdonhigh.org.uk</p>		

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

This GCSE is the number one subject that helps you understand people.

Course Information

This course will encourage students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in modern society. It examines moral issues in the 21st century. This includes developing an understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Students will be encouraged to develop their personal values and beliefs, with an emphasis on critical analysis and the ability to construct balanced and informed arguments within the context of religious, philosophical and ethical awareness.

Everything studied in this course is relevant to everyday life.



Year 10

A study of two major world religions: Christianity and Islam. This consists of their beliefs, teachings, authority, practices including worship, festivals, community, charity and duties.

Year 11

The units covered in Year 11 are thematic studies (Philosophy and Ethics). This will cover themes from the following: Relationships, families, animal experimentation, euthanasia, abortion, the environment, origins of life, crime and punishment, human rights, wealth, poverty and social justice.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment
Regular end of unit assessments. Mock examinations at the end of the year.		The course is assessed by 100% written exam. Students will sit two external papers. Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.
Course Title	Exam Board	Costs
Religious Studies	AQA	There are no costs associated with this course

Opportunities and Next Steps Religion, philosophy and ethics helps you to understand people and to think about the big issues that we all face. For this reason it is an ideal choice for those thinking of careers dealing with the public or families; such as teaching, social work, police, journalism, law, health and medical or hospitality. The opportunities are endless.

Useful Resources and reading:

We encourage students to use the Oxford AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Islam revision book.

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