

Swanshurst School

Pathways 2021




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Provider

Pathways 2021



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Welcome to your pathways booklet.

This has been a very unusual year and we have to find new ways to support you in making your subject choices this year. This booklet is the starting point of the process.

The first pages are the core subjects. You have to do these. So, English Language, English Literature, mathematics and science are compulsory GCSEs. You will also continue to study IT, RS, PE and PSHE. After these core subjects you can choose subjects as laid out on the pathways form. There are guidelines on the form to help you fill it in.

There are a group of subjects which together form the English Baccalaureate that you may want to consider studying. These are a group of qualifications which provide a strong foundation for any future course of study. You must achieve English, mathematics, 2 sciences, a language and geography or history.

The decisions you make may have significant implications for your future. We will support you by ensuring your teachers talk to you about why their subjects may be useful to your future. You have already had some careers information through your MAP curriculum. There is a pathways section on our website so you and your parents can find out more. Your parents will have an opportunity to talk to teachers through an online parents evening.

Take time to talk to your parents and teachers before you make your final decision. In the end you should choose subjects that you enjoy and can succeed in. Remember you can always ask for help and guidance.

Good Luck!

English Language

English Language is an exciting and thought-provoking course for all GCSE pupils. Pupils find our course valuable and intellectually stimulating; it is a good balance between learning about more traditional texts, non fiction texts and modern approaches to English.

There are also speaking and listening opportunities, allowing pupils to create characters and get involved in some very lively debates!



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8700

Topics Covered

The subject has two main components: reading and writing. These skills are demonstrated through two examinations (100%). Spoken Language is assessed and a separate grade for this element will appear on the GCSE English Language Certificate.

Pupils have the opportunity to be both creative, analytical and reflective through English Language.

Assessment

Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing – 50%
(External examination consisting of one paper)

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 50%
(External examination consisting of one paper)

Course Progression

The course is an excellent springboard for post-16 education in arts-based subjects. Many of the skills used in English Language are fundamental to functional skills needed beyond the classroom.

There is a clear link to this and A level English Language and Literature .

Career Opportunities

The English Language course suits any career progression in a whole range of professions including teaching, journalism, media, law and the arts.

Because of the transferable skills associated with the course, a good grade in English Language is desirable to any employer.

Notes

English Literature

The English Literature course journeys through some of the most well-known and cutting-edge titles in literature. It ranges from the study of Shakespeare to that of the current Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy.

Whether you're studying literature from 1600 or 2000, this captivating course will open your mind to the wider world. Independent thought is encouraged and pupils find the course eye-opening and rewarding.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8702

Topics Covered

The Literature course develops analytical skills and encourages pupils to think deeply about a wide range of topics.

The Shakespeare element of the exam allows pupils to study at least one Shakespeare play in detail. There is also the opportunity to study a 19th century novel in depth.

The poetry examination component features some of the best contemporary writing published today. This course allows students the opportunity to consider both heritage and contemporary literature.

Assessment

100% of the assessment is through external exam spread over two papers:

- **Shakespeare & the 19th – century novel** - 40%
(External examination consisting of one paper)
- **Modern texts and poetry** - 60%
(External examination consisting of one paper)

Course Progression

The English Literature course is an excellent basis for studying English Literature and/or Media Studies at post-16 (both of which are offered at Swanshurst Sixth Form).

The analytical skills developed throughout the course also links well to humanities subjects.

Career Opportunities

A GCSE in English Literature is a natural starting point for any profession where analysis is essential and jobs that rely on good English skills.

A good grade in English Literature is very attractive for employers as it shows that you have an enquiring and analytical mind.

Mathematics

You may wonder what connects the maths you do in school to the real world. Will you ever have to solve an equation or find an angle outside your classroom?

Maths is very useful and is everywhere in everyday life. You might not think of buying sweets as algebra, or consider the maths that went into designing your favourite computer game.

But remember, maths is everywhere and what you learn in school will be very important for your future.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 1MA1

Topics Covered

GCSE Mathematics is grouped into the topic areas of number, algebra, geometry, measures, statistics and probability.

Students knowledge will build on prior learning and new topics are introduced such as kinematic graphs, compound percentages, Pythagoras' theorem, trigonometry, advanced probability, cumulative frequency and exponentials.

Assessment

Whilst studying Mathematics GCSE at Swanshurst School you will be assessed and given feedback by your teacher regularly, using both topic and termly assessments. The feedback on your achievement will support you to identify topics you need to improve on.

As the GCSE is linear it means that all the exams are taken at the end of the course (at the end of Year 11) and any of the specified topics can be tested on any paper.

There are 2 tiers of entry; Higher and Foundation. The Higher examination offers achievement at grades 4 - 9 whereas the Foundation paper offers grades 1 - 9 whereas the Foundation paper offers grades 1 - 5.

Course Progression

The mathematical skills of problem solving, logical thinking, and investigation will help your progress in whatever you choose to study.

In addition to these general skills, mathematics is required for further education and working in a wide range of areas - anything from plumbing to economics.

Career Opportunities

What types of skills do employers look for? Problem solving, analysis, data handling and communication skills to name just a few. These transferable skills are useful in any job, and they can all be gained by studying mathematics.

For further information go to www.mathscareers.org.uk

Combined Science

AQA Combined Science trilogy identifies the activities and experiences students will come across in everyday life, and links these to scientific ideas and their implications for society.

It provides an opportunity to acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for life and helps them answer questions about the world around them, helping them develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.



Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: AQA 2016

Specification Code: 8464

Topics Covered

The course looks at the following subject areas:

- Human biology and the natural environment.
- Carbon chemistry and the raw materials we use from the earth.
- The use of energy in the home and where we will generate our energy in the future.

Assessment

- There are six written assessments, each 1 hour 15 minutes long; two for biology, two for chemistry and two for physics.
- There are also two tiers, foundation and higher.
- All papers are equally weighted.

Please note that there is no longer any coursework element in the new GCSE subject.

Course Progression

This is a two year course and allows you to progress to Post 16 courses such as A Levels in biology, chemistry, physics and psychology in Swanshurst Sixth Form. To follow one or more of these courses you must achieve a grade 5.

An alternative route is to choose to do the Level 3 BTEC applied science course here at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

Career Opportunities

There are a host of careers in science including;

Science Teaching, Toxicology, Pharmacologist, Epidemiology, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Neuroscience, Clinical Trials, Medical Sales, Patent Work, Environmental Health Doctor/Nursing, Medical Therapies, Engineering Research & Development, Forensic Science, Nuclear Power

Triple Science

AQA **Triple Science** courses identify the activities and experiences students will come across in everyday life, and links these to scientific ideas and their implications for society. It provides the opportunity to acquire the scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for life as a citizen.

Please Note:

This course will involve studying three subjects for three years before being examined and it will not be offered as an option choice to ALL students.



Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: AQA 2016

Specification Code:

8461/8462/8463

Topics Covered

Triple science covers the same modules as the combined science trilogy course but just in a little more depth, (*with one extra topic, space physics*). These include some of the following topics:

- Energy, electricity, waves, forces, atomic structure
- Chemical changes, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, energy changes
- Cell biology, organisation, infection & response, inheritance, ecology

Assessment

- **Paper 1:** 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks worth 50% of the GCSE)
- **Paper 2:** 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks worth 50% of the GCSE)

This is the structure for biology, chemistry and physics. There is no coursework element to this course.

Course Progression

This course allows you to progress onto A Levels in biology, chemistry, physics and psychology in our Sixth Form. To follow one or more of these courses you must achieve a grade 5 in the subject of their choice at GCSE or grade 5 in the **Combined Science** trilogy course.

For students who do not achieve a grade 5, progression would be to one of the Level 3 BTEC courses here at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

Career Opportunities

There are a host of careers in science including;

Science Teaching, Toxicology, Pharmacologist, Epidemiology, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Neuroscience, Clinical Trials, Medical Sales, Patent Work, Environmental Health Doctor/Nursing, Medical Therapies, Engineering Research & Development, Forensic Science, Nuclear Power

PE & School Sport

The KS4 PE programme aims to develop a range of practical skills and encourage students to be more aware of health related activities which will help them improve their lifestyle.

Through pupil voice we have designed a more personalised programme of study, with the aim of ensuring our students develop a life long passion for sport and exercise.



Topics Covered

The study of Core PE provides opportunities for you to develop your skills and techniques in a variety of activities which include:

- Team and individual games: including basketball, football, badminton, netball, rounders, cricket, tennis, table tennis, handball and tag rugby
- Trampolining
- Health and fitness: including boxercise, aerobics, zumba, circuits, gym and rowing
- Leadership: level 2 sports leadership award

Assessment

Progress and attainment in core PE is reported on a termly basis.

Career Opportunities

- Professional Sportsperson
- Fitness Instructor
- Leisure Centre Technician
- Playschool Leader
- Life Guard
- School's Games Organiser
- Leisure Centre Manager
- Sports Coach
- Armed Forces & Public Services

Notes

EBACC Subjects



These subjects are ones which complete the English Baccalaureate together with your core subjects. You must choose a language and history or geography.

The government believes all children, regardless of their background, should have an education that opens doors to their future :

“As we look increasingly outwards as a country, this is more important than ever, and the Ebacc ambition will ensure our pupils are able to compete with educational high performers in a global economy”

(Nick Gibb, School Standards Minister, 2017)



Geography

Geography can offer you a wide range of transferable skills that can be useful now, for the examination, and when you have left school.

Very often the degree that has the highest employability rating for newly qualified graduates is Geography.

Geography is a very well respected academic subject that crosses over between the arts and the sciences.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8035

Topics Covered

- Natural hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate change
- Ecosystems
- Coastal landscapes
- Resource management
- River landscapes
- Population & migration
- Sustainable cities
- Economic development
- UK Industrial change
- Food, supply & demand

Assessment

You will have 3 written exams. Papers 1 and 2 are 1 hour 30 minutes long and together, they contribute to 70% of your final mark.

Paper 1 is on 'Living with the physical environment'.

Paper 2 is on 'Challenges of the human environment'.

Paper 3 is 1 hour 15 minutes and contributes to the final 30% of your GCSE grade. Paper 3 is on 'Geographical applications' e.g. testing your fieldwork knowledge and skills.

Course Progression

A level Geography is offered here at Swanshurst Sixth Form where we follow the Edexcel board.

The A level specification looks at some very contemporary topics that often dominate the news, such as climate change, hazards, globalisation and international migration.

A residential field trip is also undertaken in Year 12 to Holderness, Yorkshire to look at things such as coastal erosion.

Career Opportunities

Employers like geography qualifications because they demonstrate a wide range of skills, including numeracy, graphicacy, empathy, data collection, self-motivation and teamwork skills.

Career opportunities such as teaching, environmental health and pollution control are just a few careers open to you.

History

Struggling to decide which pathway you want to follow? Need some advice on whether to take History or not? Bear in mind that History is all about people - as a result it will prepare you for any career or future studies that you want to do.

As well as making progress you will travel back in time and find out about the lives of all sorts of fascinating individuals throughout the ages. More importantly it's great fun and probably the most interesting subject around.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8145

Topics Covered

We will be studying four units: American 1840-1895 expansion and consolidation, Elizabethan England, Britain: health and the people 1000 to the present day and conflict in South East Asia.

These 4 units will build on the content from lower down the school but will also provide new and exciting content for the students to study.

Further details can be found at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

Assessment

There will be two examinations, both lasting 2 hours. The questions will be equally split between source and non-source questions. These will be in the same style as the questions you have already done lower down the school.

Further details can be found at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145/scheme-of-assessment>

Course Progression

The course contributes to a broad and balanced choice that allows access to all level 3 courses. Specifically you can also progress to A level history at Swanshurst Sixth Form where we study Britain 1485-1603 and the Soviet Union 1917-1953.

Career Opportunities

History is all about people and so you will be prepared for many jobs. More details can be found on the following link:

http://www.history.org.uk/resources/student_resource_2914_98.html

French

The world is shrinking! French is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, spoken by 220 million, as the official language of 29 countries.

It is the sixth most widely spoken language and Europe's second most widely spoken mother tongue with over 77 million speakers, after German (around 100 million) but ahead of English (around 61 million).

French shares with English the distinction of being taught as a foreign language in the education systems of most countries around the world.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8658

Topics Covered

You will develop 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

Themes:

- Identity & culture
- Local, national & international areas of interest
- Current & future study and employment

Assessment

100 % - Exam at the end of Year 11

- **25% Listening:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Reading:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Speaking:** 7 - 12 minutes speaking test. Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Writing:** Written paper - Higher or Foundation tier

Course Progression

Having a GCSE in a language is compulsory in order to choose one at A level. We currently offer A level French here at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

All universities see AS & A level languages as a useful subject for any degree course and many universities are now starting to make first year students take a language module as part of their studies.

Career Opportunities

With the renewed focus on the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8 subjects, people are realising the importance of having a foreign language at GCSE. Employers want staff with a broad skill set and confident manner.

Having a language improves your communication skills, makes you more culturally aware and provides you with opportunities your fellow employees may never get! Many French graduates use their language skills on a daily basis, many use the skills learnt from studying a language - employers can't lose!

German

The world is shrinking! Foreign travel and working abroad have become easier and more common. Did you know that over 75% of the world's population doesn't speak any English? A great skill is to be able to use another language.

With 81 million people, Germany has the largest population in the European Union. It is the largest national economy in Europe, and the fourth largest in the world. It is a founding member of the European Union and the Eurozone. Germany is a world power – so speaking German will make you powerful!



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8668

Topics Covered

You will develop 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

Themes:

- Identity & culture
- Local, national & international areas of interest
- Current & future study and employment

Assessment

100 % - Exam at the end of Year 11

- **25% Listening:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Reading:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Speaking:** 7 - 12 minutes speaking test. Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Writing:** Written paper - Higher or Foundation tier

Course Progression

Having a GCSE in a language is compulsory in order to choose one at AS or A level.

All universities see AS & A level languages as a useful subject for any degree course and many universities are now starting to make first year students take a language module as part of their studies.

Career Opportunities

With the renewed focus on the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8 subjects, people are realising the importance of having a foreign language at GCSE level. Employers want staff with a broad skill set and confident manner.

Studying a language broadens horizons and crucially improves your communication skills. Many German graduates use their language skills on a daily basis, many use the skills learnt from studying a language - employers can't lose!

Spanish

Spanish is part of the Indo-European family of languages, which are spoken by more than a third of the world's population.

Spanish is one of the world's most phonetic languages. If you know how a word is spelt, you can almost always know how it is pronounced (although the reverse isn't true).

With 329 million native speakers, Spanish ranks as the world's number 2 language in terms of how many people speak it as their first language. It is ahead of English (328 million) but far behind Chinese (1.2 billion).



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8698

Topics Covered

You will develop 4 skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

Themes

- Identity & culture
- Local, national & international areas of interest
- Current & future study and employment

Assessment

100 % - Exam at the end of Year 11

- **25% Listening:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Reading:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Speaking:** 7 - 12 minutes speaking test. Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Writing:** Written paper-Higher or Foundation tier

Course Progression

Having a GCSE in a language is compulsory in order to choose one at A level. We currently offer A level Spanish here at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

All universities see AS & A level languages as a useful subject for any degree course and many universities are now starting to make first year students take a language module as part of their studies.

Career Opportunities

With the renewed focus on the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8 subjects, people are realising the importance of having a foreign language at GCSE level. Employers want staff with a broad skill set and confident manner.

Studying a language broadens horizons and crucially improves your communication skills. Many Spanish graduates use their language skills on a daily basis, many use the skills learnt from studying a language - employers can't lose!

Urdu

Urdu is the official language of Pakistan, and it is spoken widely in western India. The closest relation of Urdu is Hindi. Spoken Urdu and Hindi are almost identical at the functional level, apart from certain words.

After learning Urdu, you'll find it much easier to speak and understand Hindi but written Hindi will remain a mystery as it's written in a different script. Other languages written in the same script as Urdu include Pashto, Kashmiri and Panjabi, although Panjabi is also written in a script called Gurumukhi. The Urdu script is over 90% similar to the Persian and Arabic scripts and borrows about 40% from Arabic and Persian.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8648

Topics Covered

GCSE Urdu is only open to students who have studied it in Years 8 & 9, or who speak and write Urdu regularly.

You will develop 4 skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

Themes

- Identity & culture
- Local, national & international areas of interest
- Current & future study and employment

Assessment

100 % - Exam at the end of Year 11

- **25% Listening:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Reading:** Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Speaking:** 7 - 12 minutes speaking test. Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Writing:** Written paper - Higher or Foundation tier

Course Progression

All universities see languages as a useful subject for any degree course and many universities are now starting to make first year students take a language module as part of their studies.

Speaking a second language makes you stand out - don't ever lose it!

Career Opportunities

With the renewed focus on the English Baccalaureate and Progress 8 subjects, people are realising the importance of having a foreign language at GCSE level. Although employers always knew how important it was!

Having a language improves your communication skills, makes you more culturally aware and provides you with opportunities your fellow employees may never get!

Arabic

Arabic originated between the 1st and 4th centuries - it is very old! With more than 300 million Arabic speakers in the world, It is now the main language used throughout the Arab world. It is the official language of 27 states, the third most after English and French; and it is one of the 6 official languages of the United Nations.

There are many Arabic words used in other languages like French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Even English has borrowed some words, including alchemy, algebra, candy, coffee, cotton, magazine, sofa, and many more! Arabic has at least 11 different words for love, and over 100 for camel!



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 1AA0

Topics Covered

GCSE Arabic is only open to students who are able to speak and write in Arabic already.

Themes

- Identity & culture
- Local area, holiday, travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study, and work
- International and global dimension

Assessment

100 % - Exam at the end of Year 11

- **25% Listening** – Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Reading** – Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Speaking** – 7-12 minutes speaking test. Higher or Foundation tier
- **25% Writing** – Written paper - Higher or Foundation tier

Course Progression

All universities see languages as a useful subject for any degree course and many universities are now starting to make first year students take a language module as part of their studies.

Speaking a second language makes you stand out - don't ever lose it!

Career Opportunities

With the renewed focus on the English Baccalaureate subjects, people are realising the importance of having a foreign language at GCSE level. Although employers always knew how important it was!

Having a language improves your communication skills, makes you more culturally aware and provides you with opportunities your fellow employees may never get!

Foundation Subjects



These subjects are the ones which bring breadth and enrichment to your education. You should ensure that you choose the subjects which you are good at and that you enjoy.

If you have a particular career area you are interested in, then you should make sure that you choose subjects necessary to access these courses later in your educational life.



Art & Design

Pupils ask us *"I love art, but what jobs can I do?"* Both here, and on our Firefly page we show you how studying **Art & Design** opens up a world of career opportunities. We know that employers look for creative thinkers, so whatever your ambitions might be, having a qualification in **Art & Design** is the best way to show you have more to offer.

Our department is staffed by experts with a wealth of experience in the creative industries. We are highly skilled practitioners with specialisms across the disciplines. Committed to providing pupils with a first class course, we fully prepare them for the rigors of their GCSE course and beyond. We also offer GCSE **Photography** (Code J173).



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: OCR
Specification Code: J171/J173

Topics Covered

We cover subject areas that will provide you with the best possible opportunity to develop your creative thinking skills and progress into a career in the creative industries should you wish to.

You will have the opportunity to explore a number of exciting themes in a range of media including 3D sculpture, painting, printmaking, textiles, digital media film and photography.

Assessment

- **60% Coursework portfolio**
You will complete a practical project and select your strongest work to submit as your coursework portfolio.
- **40% Set task**
You will be given a set task paper 6 to 8 weeks in advance of your 10 hour practical exam, this will allow you to fully prepare and enter the exam with confidence.

Course Progression

Having pursued GCSE **Art & Design** at **Swanshurst**, we have seen many of our students go onto study the subject at A Level and then progress to study **Art & Design** at degree level at some of the country's most highly regarded universities, and then to secure employment in the creative industries.

We know that the ability to think creatively in an increasingly visual world, is a highly desirable skill and one prized by future employers, whatever the sector.

Career Opportunities

Pursuing an education in **Art & Design** can lead to employment in the creative industries, a sector growing faster than any other in the UK.

Jobs include: architect, photographer, make up artist, fashion and accessories designer, interior designer, theatre designer, graphic designer, textile designer, production designer for film and television, games and app designer, website designer, jewellery designer, fine art, art historian, curator, art therapist.

Business

Why not consider a subject that is successful and relevant to your future work-life?

No matter where your life leads, you will be glad that you have gained an understanding of business, as an owner, as a customer and as a worker.

There are visits to Cadbury World, and opportunities to take part in business games and projects. You will gain practical experience in decision making, problem solving and teamwork.



Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: EDUQAS

Specification Code: (9-1)

Topics Covered

During this course pupils will have an opportunity to learn how businesses are set up and run and how they respond to the environment in which they operate.

There will be a holistic approach to the teaching of marketing, finance, production, technology, human resources, business structures, the external environment and business decision making.

Pupils will be encouraged to see the interdependence of these areas of business.

Assessment

There will be two written examination papers:

Component 1: Business dynamics:

This 2 hour paper accounts for 62.5% of the qualification and includes a mix of short answer and structured questions based on a case study and will cover all of the specification content.

Component 2: Business considerations:

This is also a written examination which will last 1 hour 30 minutes and accounts for 37.5% of qualification. This will include longer data response questions covering all of the specification content.

Course Progression

Students who succeed on this course may progress on to A level in business at Swanshurst Sixth Form which is extremely successful with 100% achieving A* to C.

Many of our students continue to University to study business studies, law, human resources, marketing and finance.

Career Opportunities

This course will help prepare for careers in retail, administration, banking, accounting, public relations, marketing, travel & tourism, legal profession, nursery and care-home management and many more.

Enterprise & Marketing

This is an exciting new subject for pupils to study and achieve a level 1 or 2 qualification. If you love watching *The Apprentice* or *Dragons Den* then this is likely to be a subject that you would enjoy.

The course is practical in nature and offers the opportunity to set up and run your own business and to market your products or service in school. Assessment is mainly through course-work and so is an attractive pathway choice for you if you find exams difficult.



Qualification: Level 1/2 Certificate
Examination Board: OCR
Cambridge National
Specification Code: J819

Topics Covered

Students will complete 3 mandatory units, Enterprise and marketing concepts, Design a business proposal and Market and pitch a business proposal.

Students will learn the main activities for a start-up business ,develop a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge.

They will complete market research to generate product design ideas, and use financial calculations to determine the viability of their product proposal.

They will create a promotional plan for their specific business product or service proposal.

Assessment

Of the 3 units covered, 2 will be internally assessed. Students will produce assignments of a vocational nature which will be marked by the teacher.

One unit, 'Enterprise and Marketing concepts' will be assessed through a 1 hour exam paper, whilst the others will be internally assessed coursework tasks.

Course Progression

Students who succeed on this course may progress on to vocational level 3 Business or Enterprise related course which follows a similar scheme of assessment.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding to complete more complex vocational activities and challenges.

Students may then go on to study business related degrees. Others may enlist onto business related apprenticeship schemes.

Career Opportunities

This course will help prepare for careers in Marketing, Market research, Business, Finance or Business Management. Indeed, some students may of course go on to set up and run their own businesses.

Computer Science

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and it underpins Science and Engineering.

Computer Science will enable you to acquire and develop creative technical skills in order to develop computer programs to solve problems.

Choosing this course will give you valuable life skills such as; innovation, working collaboratively, independence, reasoning, logic and problem solving to name a few.



Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: OCR

Specification Code: J277

Topics Covered

In this course you have the opportunity to gain an understanding of how computers work and how to create and troubleshoot computer programs for real-life purposes. The systems that will be developed will incorporate the sequencing of instructions, manipulating and processing of data and presenting results in an appropriate format.

You will also learn about the hardware, software, networking, and computer programming languages, i.e. Python, that underpins ICT systems.

Assessment

- **J277/01 - Computer Systems:** Written exam worth 50% of total GCSE. 1 hour 30 minutes
- **J277/02 - Computational thinking, algorithms & programming:** Written exam worth 50% of total GCSE. 1 hour 30 minutes

Course Progression

Pupils who choose to study this subject can go on to study A level **Computer Science** or BTEC **IT** both of which are available at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

These pathways offer highly demanding and exciting opportunities which would enable you to read **Computing, ICT or Computer Science** further at degree level in university. You could also choose to do an apprenticeship in IT/computing or study a more technical based qualification such as networking.

Career Opportunities

Computer Science develops valuable programming and thinking skills which are increasingly relevant to a wide variety of jobs.

Choosing to study this subject could lead to a career within the computer industry such as; apps designer, system developer, computer gaming, programmer, technician, computer analyst, software engineer, software tester, technician, network manager, the list is endless!

Information Technologies

What have all these things got in common? A customer database in a hairdressing salon, a stock spread-sheet in a shoe shop, a teacher's electronic markbook and a computer game animation? They all use **ICT** in some way or another.

ICT is used in every place of work whether you know it or not! You will learn to use a large range of software packages which are widely used in industry. ICT is always changing and evolving and who knows what the next 5 years will bring! ICT will equip you with skills for life!



Qualification: Cambridge National
Examination Board: OCR
Specification Code: J808

Topics Covered

If your ambition is to pursue a career in computing and information communication technologies (ICT), then this course will give you just the start you need.

This course gives you the opportunities to learn and practise your ICT skills by developing systems using software that you will find in the work place and University! You will focus on spreadsheets, databases and presenting this information in a suitable format i.e. a webs page, report or presentation.

Assessment

There are two units in total which are:

- **R012** Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions - an external written examination.
- **R013** Developing Technological Solutions - a coursework unit to create a project following the project life cycle .
- Both units are equally weighted at 50% each..

Course Progression

Pupils who chose this subject have gone on to study either BTEC Level 3 Certificate in IT, Digital Media or A Level Computing all of which are available at Swanshurst Sixth Form. These pathways offer highly demanding and exciting opportunities which would enable you to study **ICT** or **Computer Science** further at a degree level at University.

You could also progress to study a more technical course such as networking, programming or choose to obtain an apprenticeship .

Career Opportunities

By choosing to study this subject it could lead to a career within the ICT industry such as; computer animation, computer graphics, game design, apps designer, multimedia design and production, website development, computer gaming, programming, 3D modelling, computer analyst, ICT consultant, help desk operator, technician, network manager, teaching plus many more!

Creative iMedia

Today we're surrounded by media wherever we look. There's the internet, TV, film, radio, magazines, papers... the list goes on.

This course allows you to explore a wide range of media subjects and to gain a practical and theoretical knowledge of the processes involved.

You will create a range of realistic media products such as videos, a multimedia product, graphics and DVD covers and a sound audio clip.



Qualification: Cambridge National
Examination Board: OCR
Specification Code: J817

Topics Covered

You will have the opportunity to develop your analytical skills through close analysis of music videos, films, magazines and TV shows. You will also get the chance to develop your practical media skills using a wide range of equipment and specialist software i.e. Mediator, Photoshop, Audacity, Movie Maker and Flash to name but a few!

This course is designed to encourage you to develop a wide range of multimedia products which could be used within the media field.

Assessment

There are 4 units in total which are:

- **R081 Pre Production** - an external written exam.
- **R082 Digital Graphics** - internal assessment
- **R087 Multimedia** - internal assessment
- **R088 Sound** - internal assessment

Course Progression

Pupils who choose this subject have gone on to study either **Digital Media** or Level 3 Certificate in IT both of which are available at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

These pathways offer highly demanding and exciting opportunities which would enable you to study ICT or Media further at a degree level at University. You could also progress to specialise in a more practical based route such as app, games or website design/development or even choose to apply for an apprenticeship.

Career Opportunities

By choosing to study this subject it can lead to a career within the Media sector such as; journalism, radio & TV production, film production, advertising, marketing, music industry, app designer, photographer, sound recordist, assistant editor, assistant web designer, game design, apps designer, multimedia design and production, website development, 3D modelling, plus many more!

This course also prepares you for any further study in the Performing Arts fields.

Dance

Struggling to decide which pathway you want to follow? Need some advice on whether to take Dance or not?

Look no further! If you enjoy dancing, creating and performing then dance is for you.

Dance is a fantastic way to experience learning outside of the classroom setting, where you are encouraged to think outside the box and where wild imaginations are welcome!



Qualification: BTEC
Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code:
603/0406/6

Topics Covered

- Component One: The arts is a tough business to get into! We want to give you the best possible start, so you will write a letter of application to one of the big schools to help get you started and support you on the audition pathway. You will also learn 2 technical dance pieces.
- Component two: Lights, camera, action! You will gain an insight into putting a production together including costume, make up, staging and creating your own group piece.
- Component three: We will study a range a dance of styles and you will choose 2 to perform in your own class production!

Assessment

Component 1	Exploring The Performing Arts	30%	Internally assessed
Component 2	Developing skills and techniques in Performing Arts	30%	Internally assessed
Component 3	Performing to a brief	40%	Externally assessed

Course Progression

After completing your BTEC Tech in performing Arts course you can continue onto level 3 BTEC National in Performing Arts. or A level dance.

Career Opportunities

With creativity and flexibility under your belt the world is your oyster! You could also go on to further careers in teaching, choreographing, a professional dancer, entertaining, arts administrator, movement therapist or physiotherapist.

Design & Technology

(Product Design)

Are you imaginative, creative and innovative? Do you enjoy making things and solving problems? If so, Design & Technology is for you! During the course you'll complete a series of short design and make projects. There will be a fashion unit, a jewellery project and a sustainability challenge where you will learn about the latest innovations in materials and technology. Your GCSE Design & Technology in Year 11 will be based on a design brief set by the exam board and will focus on a material area of your choice e.g. fabric, wood and/or electronics.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: 603/
1121/6

Topics Covered

During the course you will learn about a range of creative and technical skills across a broad range of disciplines; including fabrics, metals, woods, modern materials, plastics and electronics.

You will learn how to combine these material areas in new and inventive ways to create exciting products that will help people, environments and day to day living.

The theory will cover all material areas, their applications and uses, and the science and maths behind design.

Assessment

- **Component 1:** Exam - 2 hours
- **Component 2:** Design & Make task (coursework) - 35 hours

Course Progression

Achieving a GCSE in Design and Technology will allow you to progress to level 3 courses such as Product Design A level. This course is up and running at our Sixth Form.

Future Careers:

BA/MA courses in product, engineering, architecture, furniture, interior design.

Career Opportunities

There are many careers related to design and technology. They range from architecture, product design, engineering, furniture design to manufacturing and teaching.

Notes

Drama

Choosing which subjects to study can seem daunting, particularly when you want to make sure that your choices will be of benefit to you in the future.

Drama skills are invaluable in life, and through drama we get to explore different peoples' perspectives, develop empathy for others (a valuable skill in most jobs these days), be physically creative, and explore challenging situations. Participating in and watching drama and theatre offers us access to a vibrant part of our culture, and of course, it's great fun.

A must choice for those that enjoy drama performance and want to explore the wonderful world of theatre!



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8261

Topics Covered

This course gives you opportunities to devise and perform drama and also evaluate, both as a performer and an audience member. You will:

- Create drama based on stimulus material (poems, pictures, music and newspaper articles) and explore play scripts such as **Blood Brothers**, **Curious Incident** and **Teachers**.
- Work in a variety of groups using explorative strategies, creating credible characters and developing your performance skills.
- Watch live theatre and perform and produce an exciting final performance.

Assessment

Component 1: (40%): Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. (Written exam)

Component 2: (40%): Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama.

Component 3: (20%): Learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text.

Course Progression

With a GCSE in Drama you can go on to study A level Theatre Studies, which is offered at our Sixth Form, or study for a BTEC National Performing Arts (acting). Whatever you go on to study in Sixth Form and Higher Education, GCSE Drama will improve your creativity, social interaction, and presentation skills, which are all vital for getting through interviews in colleges, university and the jobs market.

Career Opportunities

These include: police officer, sales, social worker, nurse, doctor, teacher, lawyer, counsellor, lighting designer, photographer, costume designer, director, playwright, journalist, theatre critic, animator, film maker, theatre director, actor and producer. Drama students are adaptable, aspirational and creative and work well in any team.

Economics

Ever wondered why we can't all have everything we want? Are you interested in how the government manages the economy and how the UK might be affected when it leaves the EU? Do you want to know how you and businesses are affected by inflation, exchange rates and recession? How is Brexit likely to affect our country?

Take economics and you will discover the answers to these questions and more. Please note that It helps to be good at maths and you should enjoy drawing and interpreting diagrams if you take this subject.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8136

Topics Covered

In this course, students will find out about the principle of scarcity and how the economy works to determine how resources are allocated and prices determined. They will learn about production, costs, revenue and profit and about different types of market and why sometimes markets need to be helped to work effectively by the government.

They will also learn about international trade and the global economy and the role of money and the financial economy.

Assessment

There will be 2 written examination papers:

- **Component 1:** How markets work
- **Component 2:** How the economy works

Each paper accounts for 50% of the qualification and both include multiple choice questions, a range of calculations and short and extended responses. There will be regular tests every half term, so that we may check your progress.

Course Progression

Students who succeed on this course may progress on to A level courses in Economics or Business or at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

Students may continue to University to study economics, business, law, marketing and human resources and finance and a variety of other business related courses.

Career Opportunities

This course will help prepare for careers in economic management, public planning, banking, business management, finance and accounting and other business related careers.

Design & Technology

(Fashion & Textiles)

Are you imaginative, creative and innovative? Do you enjoy making things and solving problems? If so, Design & Technology is for you! During the course you will complete a series of short design and make projects. There will be a skills project (where you develop sewing skills), a children's dress project with a recycling theme, a materials based project where you will develop your understanding of other materials to fabric. Your GCSE Design & Technology in Year 11 will be based on a design brief set by the exam board and will focus on a material area of fabric.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: WJEC
Specification Code: 603/1121/6

Topics Covered

During the course you will learn about a range of creative and technical skills across a broad range of disciplines; including fabrics, metals, woods, modern materials, plastics and electronics.

Your main focus throughout the three years will be fabrics. You will learn how to manipulate fabrics to create exciting fashion and interior products, accessories and much more.

The theory will cover all material areas (not just fabric), their uses and application, and the science and maths behind design (engineering link).

Assessment

Component 1: Exam - 2 hours

Component 2: Design & make task (coursework) - 35 hours

Course Progression

Achieving a GCSE in Design & Technology will allow you to progress to level 3 courses such as Product Design A level. This course is up and running at our Sixth Form. Future careers include: BA/MA courses in product, engineering, architecture, furniture, interior design, fashion design.

Career Opportunities

There are many careers related to Design & Technology. They range from architect, product design, engineering, furniture design to manufacturing and teaching, fashion design.

Notes

Food Preparation & Nutrition

The OCR GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.



Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: OCR

Specification Code: J309

Topics Covered

The specification for Food Preparation and Nutrition enables you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking. This content relates to the study of both food and drinks.

Assessment

In Year 11 you will carry out a food investigation assessment. This assessment is a scientific food investigation which will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. (15% of final GCSE grade)

In Year 11, in the food preparation assessment you will prepare, cook and present 3 dishes to assesses your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. (35% of your final GCSE grade)

The final 50% of your grade is in the form of a 2 hour written exam which you will sit at the end of Year 11.

Course Progression

Studying a Food GCSE at 9 - 4 will allow you to progress to a level 3 course such as food science and nutrition here in Swanshurst Sixth Form (subject to sufficient pupil participation).

Achievement at grade 3 - 1 will support your progression onto a level 2 course such as a VCERT or BTEC.

Career Opportunities

There are many careers related to Food. This can lead to a number of different paths including: food designer, caterer, chef, teacher, nursery nurse, nursing, hospitality manager or even a manager of your own food business. Further studies of food sciences can lead to many more careers such as a nutritionist and food technologist.

Health & Social Care

The health and social care sector employs some of the most talented and brilliant people the country has to offer. The NHS, as the main employer, has a continual need for doctors, nurses, ambulance staff and support staff, and there are further opportunities to work for the NHS in social care, in hospitals, educational settings and residential homes.

This subject offers a practical and relevant start if you are interested in a career in the caring professions. It is also a NEW subject for all of you!



Qualification: BTEC Tech Award
Examination Board: Pearson
Specification Code: 603/0395/5

Topics Covered

- Human Lifespan Development which looks at pregnancy, birth, infancy, early childhood, adolescence and adulthood.
- Health and Social Care Services - hospitals, GP surgeries, clinics, opticians, dentists, residential care homes.
- Health and Wellbeing - healthy eating, exercise, dangers of smoking, alcohol and smoking. How to produce a health plan and evaluate how successful it could be if there were no external factors to consider.

Assessment

Units 1 and 2 are both assessed by an assignment which is split into tasks and spread over Year 9 and 10.

Units 3 is assessed by controlled assessment which will involve you researching and then carrying out a task in class under supervision. This unit will be taught in Year 10 or 11. Grades awarded are: Distinction, Merit and Pass.

Course Progression

After following this course the following options are open to you here in Swanshurst Sixth Form:

- Complete a BTEC National Certificate in Year 12 and a Diploma in Year 13
- Complete a Child Care course (CACHE) level 3 and become a nursery nurse/Child care practitioner.

Career Opportunities

A BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care can lead to junior level positions in a wide variety of career areas, including care homes, nursing, community work and counselling.

Alternatively it can act as a 'stepping stone' to Level 3 courses which can lead to even more career opportunities such as teaching, nursing, social work and many more.

Music

GCSE Music is about making, listening to and understanding music. It covers performing, composing, listening to, and learning about a wide variety of musical styles and genres. There are opportunities to use music technology to help you compose and record your performance work.

You will learn, in depth, about a range of contrasting set pieces of music including **Defying Gravity**, **Killer Queen** and a **Beethoven** piano sonata. At the end of the two year course there is one examination based upon those set works and other related pieces. You will spend time improving your performance skills and developing your composing skills in different genres using the latest music technology.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 1MU0

Topics Covered

The course looks at the following subject areas:

Performing : Composing : Appraising

Assessment

Unit 1: Performing (30%)

One solo piece. One ensemble piece.

Unit 2: Composing (30%)

Two compositions (one to a brief).

Unit 3: Appraising (40%)

1 hour 45 minute examination based on the 4 areas of study including the 8 studied set works and other related music. (80 marks).

Course Progression

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for A level Music.

It can also form a solid basis for BTEC National Diploma (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the vocational A level in performing arts.

Career Opportunities

The course offers a solid foundation that could lead into careers, in which, it may be useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to have some of the skills developed during the course.

These might include careers in: medicine, publishing, arts management, teaching, sound/recording engineer, professional musician and many more.

Notes

Physical Education

GCSE or BTEC

Struggling to decide which pathway you want to follow? Need some advice on whether to take Physical Education or not? Bear in mind that Physical Education is about human performance in sport.

As a result it will prepare you for any career or future studies that you want to do. This course challenges you physically and academically. You learn about the human body and about current issues in sport. More importantly it's great fun and probably the most interesting subject around.



Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification Code: 1PEO

Topics Covered

Component 1

(1PEO/01): Fitness and body systems

Component 2

(1PEO/02): Health and performance

Component 3

(1PEO/03): Practical performance

Component 4

(1PEO/04): Personal exercise programme

Assessment

Component 1

(90 Marks) Worth 36%: 1 hour 45 minutes

Component 2

(70 Marks) Worth 24%: 1 hour 15 minutes

Component 3

(90 Marks) Worth 30% (Moderated)

Component

(20 Marks) Worth 10% (Moderated)

Course Progression

The completion of this course leads itself to further education courses such as A level Physical Education offered here in our Sixth Form.

Career Opportunities

- Armed services (army, navy, air force)
- Public services (police, fire, paramedics)
- Medical profession (medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, chiropody, chiropractic, podiatry)
- Dental profession (Dentist, Orthodontist)
- Psychologist
- Health & fitness industry
- PE teaching
- Specialist sports coaching

Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists use experiments to understand how and why people act and interact in the way they do.

Psychologists can work in social care, mental health, education, business, research and sports. If you are interested in trying a psychology experiment, watch this video and read the explanation behind it:

http://theinvisiblegorilla.com/gorilla_experiment.html



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8182

Topics Covered

In GCSE Psychology the following topics will be covered across two papers:

Cognition & Behaviour	Social Context & Behaviour
Memory	Social influence
Perception	Language, thought & communication
Development	Brain & neuropsychology
Research methods	Psychological problems

Assessment

Assessment is via 2 exams at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Cognition & Behaviour (50% of GCSE)
Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes - 100 marks

Paper 2: Social Context & Behaviour (50% of GCSE)
Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes - 100 marks

Course Progression

Psychology offers many transferable skills including academic writing, presentation skills, critical thinking, analytical skills, leadership and team work skills.

Studying psychology at GCSE will put you in a better position to progress to successfully studying a huge range of subjects at A level, from science to sociology.

Career Opportunities

Psychology prepares you for any job where interaction or an understanding of human behaviour or development is vital. This includes careers in areas such as business, management, teaching, research, social work, medicine and healthcare.

If you study the subject at degree level you could also become a psychologist working in areas including sports, education, clinical and counselling, forensic psychology and neuropsychology.

You can find more information on here:
<http://www.bps.org.uk/careers-portal>

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is truly a subject for the 21st Century. It deals with contemporary issues which affect our lives today. From attitudes to drugs and alcohol, the relevance of marriage today to euthanasia and assisted suicide, if you are interested in current issues then this is the course for you! Added to this Religious Studies at Swanshurst School is consistently one of the top attaining GCSE's and is also one of the top subjects to 'add value'.

If you are committed and want to get good grades, we will help you achieve your full potential.



Qualification: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 8062

Topics Covered

Students study two world religions, Islam and Christianity. In Year 10 focusing beliefs, teachings and practices of both religions. In Year 11 moving onto 'Thematic Studies' which students apply their understanding to various contemporary issues e.g. abortion, marriage, human rights and social justice.

Students gain an in depth understanding of the 2 religions and their place in life in the 21st Century.

Assessment

Students will sit 2 examination papers.

- **Paper 1: Study of Religions:** 1 hour 45 minutes
- **Paper 2: Thematic Studies:** 1 hour 45 minutes

A variety of styles are used within the course. There is an opportunity for class discussion and debate, as well as written work and comprehension.

Course Progression

This GCSE links directly with A Level religious studies (philosophy, religion and ethics), which is a fantastic course in which students look at philosophical arguments for the existence of God as well as looking at Islam in more detail.

Due to GCSE RS looking at a variety of topics it also links in well with a range of courses - marriage and the family - health and social care, childcare. Matters of life and death/medical issues - biology, health and social care. Crime and punishment/rights and responsibilities - law, sociology. environmental issues - geography, biology, travel and tourism.

Career Opportunities

GCSE Religious Studies is concerned with contemporary issues that affect the world in which we live now. This course will enhance and support you progress into a number of areas which include:

social services, health care, teaching, broadcasting, journalism, law, management and civil service, any career where you work with people.

Travel & Tourism

The travel and tourism industry is the fastest growing sector in the United Kingdom and the world as a whole, offering more and more types of jobs.

This new dynamic and exciting course gives you an insight into working in a variety of travel and tourism organisations by taking part in lots of visits. It also helps you learn more about dealing with customers and working in teams to arrange your own visits and events. It's something completely new for you to try. So choosing to study Travel and Tourism is a great decision for lots of reasons!



Qualification: BTEC Award
Examination Board: Edexcel
Specification Code: 603/
3038/7

Topics Covered

These include learning about:

- Introducing the travel & tourism industry and how it has changed over time.
- Where people visit in the UK and popular tourist attractions.
- Issues that can affect travel and tourism.
- How to deal with customers.

Assessment

One of the units you'll be studying will be assessed through an external assessment.

The other two units will be assessed through coursework that you complete in class with the help of your teacher.

Course Progression

Following this course can lead directly to workplace training or onto a BTEC level 3 qualification such as a National Certificate and Diploma which are offered at Swanshurst Sixth Form.

Career Opportunities

This course can lead directly to numerous careers such as travel agencies, travel representatives, hotel managers or air stewardesses.

In addition the general skills developed means that students are equally well placed to seek careers in the retail, finance or business sectors.

Notes



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