

THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL



Key Stage 4 Option Courses

For courses starting
in September 2024

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KEY STAGE 4 OVERVIEW

As you move into Year 10 you are able to make choices about your study programme, which will be made up of two parts:

- **A core curriculum** which all students follow made up of English, Maths, Science, core PE and Personal Social & Health Education which includes Relationship and Sex Education).
- **A personalised set of four option courses** made up of your different subject choices.

The choices you make will be personal to you, meeting your needs and matching your strengths, skills and talents. These options will be the starting point for further studies at Sixth Form or College during Key Stage 5. The qualifications you achieve will also be important to future employers and universities.

These choices are very important. To help you make the best decisions for you there will be support available from your tutor, your Head of House, subject teachers and our excellent careers team.

We hope you enjoy the challenge of making choices that will build on your hard work so far and will lead you towards future success.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The wide range of courses on offer will enable you to have an individual programme that builds on your strengths and interests.

At Thomas Gainsborough School we have always been determined that students should have a broad, ambitious and balanced education. We also believe it is important that learning is personalised to the needs and interests of the individual student. This was a key factor in the introduction of the Grammar, Broad and STEM pathways that you have been following in Key Stage 3. In response to some parents' feedback, and confirmed with governors Key Stage 4 option choices are no longer directly linked to students Key Stage 3 pathway choices. Key Stage 4 options can build upon but are not limited by their Key Stage 3 pathway choice.

Your timetable in Years 10 and 11 will be made up of Core Courses (which all students follow) and four Option Courses.

Your Core Courses will see you study English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education (PE) and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE).

Your Options Courses will then allow you to personalise your curriculum through the subject choices you make.

To support a balanced and ambitious curriculum, for the **majority of students** we have the following requirement:

Languages

Students on course to achieve a grade 5 or more in English must choose a language, other students are encouraged to choose a language, this should be the language studied in Key Stage 3. More than one language may be chosen.

For all students we have the following requirement:

Humanities

All students must choose at least one of Geography, History or Religion, Philosophy & Ethics. More than one may be chosen. A language may be chosen in place of a humanities subject.

Invited students

Triple Science

To study the separate sciences students will need the recommendation of the science team based on strong performance in Year 9 and a desire to study additional science content. You do not need individual sciences to be well prepared for A Level science.

Students remaining choices are to provide further personalisation and support for their future ambitions for study, employment and enjoyment.

CORE

English Language	EBacc GCSE	100% exams, 2 papers
English Literature	EBacc GCSE	100% exams, 2 papers
Mathematics	EBacc GCSE	100% exams, 3 papers
Core PE	No Qual	No exams or coursework
PSHE	No Qual	No exams or coursework
Science	EBacc GCSE	GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Individual Science if chosen as an option

Physical Education is a Core Course with no formal qualification but provides all students with an important experience of fitness, well-being and sports activities. GCSE PE and BTEC Sport are available within the Option Course offer.

The BTEC, RSL and Cambridge National, and V-Cert courses are partly assessed with coursework and a particular focus on the development of a range of independent skills and aptitudes. They also include examinations.

Course Combinations

Some courses either have overlap in content or the same underlying qualification and can not be studied together.

Students can only study one GCSE Art & Design Course from:

- 3D Design;
- Art (Fine Art);
- Graphic Communication; and
- Textile Design

Students can only study one of:

- GCSE PE; and
- VCERT Sport & Fitness

Students can only study one of:

- GCSE Music; and
- RSL Music Technology

For music and PE courses, subject staff will advise on whether GCSE or vocational courses are most suitable.

Subject Availability

Please note that some of the opportunities we offer may change in the event of very high or very low student numbers applying for a certain subject.

Any changes resulting from courses being over or under-subscribed will be discussed personally with affected students.

3D Design

GCSE

Course Leader: Mr D Few

Contact Email: dfew@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 60% Coursework, 40% Examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Three dimensional design gives you the opportunity to observe and record the world around you. Studying Design can give you an insight into architecture, ceramics and model making. Gaining knowledge and techniques throughout this course that can help build a strong foundation into studying architecture, product design, and ceramics at key stage 5 and beyond.

What does the course involve?

Over the two years students produce coursework on two given topics or themes for example product design, ceramic design, interior design, environmental, landscape, garden design, 3D digital design or designs for theatre, film and television.

These are timed controlled assessments so each lesson and homework counts. The assessment takes place under normal classroom conditions apart from the mock examinations in Year 10 and 11 and, of course, the final examination. After initial research and observational studies you are required to develop a series of ideas before selecting one to be produced as your final project piece. This work is called component one the coursework portfolio and is worth 60% of your final grade. The remaining 40 % is component one the examination.

You will gain an understanding of historical and contemporary designers' work. Learn how ideas can generate responses that address specific needs, whether these are personal or determined by external factors such as the requirements of an individual client's expectations. These will need to be expressed verbally and visually, as well as through written documentation in a portfolio. The portfolio is compulsory for this GCSE and must be brought to every lesson as it will form an essential part of every project set.

Skills developed

Three-dimensional design is defined as the design, prototyping and modelling or making of primarily functional and aesthetic products, objects, and environments, drawing upon intellectual, creative and practical skills.

Within the context of three-dimensional design, students must demonstrate the ability to use three-dimensional techniques and processes that are appropriate to the task. For example model making, assembling, 3D design. This will be done using media and materials, drawing materials e.g. plaster, clay, foam board, plastic, found materials, card etc.

Art (Fine Art)

GCSE

Course Leader:	Lucy Nichol
Contact Email:	lnichol@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	60% Coursework, 40% Examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4

There are many reasons to study art. Careers in the creative industry are one of the biggest growing sectors in the UK. Studying Fine Art gives students opportunities for self-exploration and self-expression, the chance to broaden horizons, build mental focus, physical dexterity and resilience.

What does the course involve?

Students who chose Fine Art are keen to continue their creative journey and to learn more about art and art practices by experimenting with a wide range of materials, media and techniques. Students should be self motivated and have the ability to work independently to meet the expectations of the course.

Over the two years students will produce work on two topics or themes which will make up your 'Personal Portfolio' worth 60% of your final GCSE.

During the course you will develop your art and design skills through drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed media. You must show an understanding of historical and contemporary art work and be able to express yourself verbally and visually, as well as through written documentation in your sketchbook.

Throughout your Fine Art journey you will research and analyse the work of contemporary artists and old masters. Applying this knowledge to inform the development and refinement of your own ideas, leading to creative personal responses to the sources you have studied.

You will have a final project to undertake in Year 11 which is your 'Externally Set Assignment' and equates to 40% of your final grade; 10 hours of which you will use to produce a final outcome under exam conditions.

Skills developed

A wealth of creativity, experimentation, self-evaluation and review will be seen as you develop your artistic pieces and portfolio. Your technical skills in a wide range of artistic techniques will also grow through the course.

Business Studies

GCSE

Course Leader:	Miss M Tolhurst
Contact Email:	mtolhurst@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	100% external written examinations (two papers)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Business is at the heart of modern society and this GCSE will provide you with a better understanding of the world around you and how it works.

What does the course involve?

You will learn about business concepts, marketing, innovation in technology, the economy, finance, ethics and the impact of business on individuals and wider society.

We will develop you as an enterprising individual with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, drawing on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems.

The course has two main themes; these are then assessed at the end of the course through two externally set examinations. Each exam is worth 90 marks.

Theme 1 – Investigating Small Business (50%)

the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for you to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business

Theme 2 – Building a Business (50%)

examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with an emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

In both themes you will be introduced to local and national business contexts and will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact business behaviour and decisions.

Skills developed

You will demonstrate a wide range of transferable employable skills, whilst empowering you to be a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind. You will also harness quantitative skills relevant to business, including using and interpreting data.

This course is best suited to those wishing to develop their analytical skills and knowledge of the world around them.

Computer Science

GCSE

Course Leader: Mr J Partrick

Contact Email: jpartrick@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% External Written Examinations (2 papers)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

The main reason to study Computer Science is that it is a dynamic and rapidly growing area that has become an integral part of the world today. A 2020 UK report showed that the growth in IT related job roles was 11% with nearly 3 million people in tech related roles, and that a tenth of all job vacancies were tech related. The World Economic Forum recently stated. "In the future, 90% of jobs will require digital skills", "In Europe, the impending skills gap will lead to 1.67 million vacancies for ICT professionals by 2025.

What does the course involve?

Component 1 – Principles of Computer Science (50%)

This section will assess all theoretical components which include:

Understanding binary representation, data representation, data storage and compression, encryption and databases. Understanding components of computer systems. Understanding computer networks, the internet and the worldwide web. Demonstrating an awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Component 2 – Application of Computational Thinking (50%)

Based on a given scenario, the main focus of this component will be: Understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to interpret, amend and create algorithms. Understanding how to develop program code and constructs, data types, structures, input/output, operators and subprograms. The scenario may also draw upon the range of computational elements as listed in component one.

Skills developed

Students will develop and apply computational thinking skills to analyse problems and design solutions across a range of contexts whilst gaining practical experience of designing, writing, and testing computer programs that accomplish specific goals. Students will develop an awareness of the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

This course is best suited to students with a high standard of mathematics and are confident in developing their use of new languages.

Dance

GCSE

Course Leader:	Miss K Benn
Contact Email:	kbenn@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	60% practical, 40% coursework

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

GCSE Dance allows students to develop their personal dance skills as well as to appreciate those of professional dancers and choreographer. It is a fun and social subject that also brings with it important skills in communication and confidence, which are transferable to so many other fields of employment.

What does the course involve?

This is a creative, exciting, and diverse course that challenges students' practical and theoretical ability in choreography, performance and appreciation. Students will build skills in organisation, time management, independent and collaborative work, selecting and refining information, as well as a host of others. The course is practically based which provides lots of opportunities for creative and performance work. From this course students can continue their study of dance at A level or Level 3 BTEC or look to careers in the Performing Arts such as performance, technical work, arts administration, teaching and community work.

Component 1: Performance- Learners will develop their dance skills and technique through lessons and will be assessed through a 1 minute solo performance as well as a 3-5 minute duet/trio performance piece.

Choreography- Learners will take part in lessons to develop their ability to create their own dances. They will then be given the opportunity to either choreography a solo or group piece in response to a theme set by the exam board.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation: Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills. In the written exam learners will be asked about their own performance and choreography pieces as well as the set professional works.

Skills developed

Critical analysis of professional dance; choreography skills; contemporary technical and performance skills; physical fitness; confidence; creative and problem solving; working with others; leadership and resilience; rehearsal discipline; and safe dance practice.

Product Design

GCSE

Course Leader: Mr C Ellis

Contact Email: cellis@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

The aim is to provide students the capacity to increase knowledge and understanding of how technology has and continues to affect us! This results in students having an astute awareness of the potential opportunities Design & Technology can offer.

Remembering... 'Awareness is Key!'

Thinking.... 'What 'subject' or 'career' hasn't and more importantly isn't affected by technology!'

By studying design and technology, you'll be able to build up your creativity, problem solving, planning, modelling/prototyping computer designing, evaluation skills and gain an awareness of new technologies. Multiple projects are done which have different disciplines which can lead to many careers.

Skills developed

The AQA GCSE Product Design explores the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating.

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

The GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

This course is best suited to students wishing to develop strong **theoretical** knowledge of **design principles** and **technical** knowledge of materials and **modelling**, usually in preparation for A Level Product Design, architecture, designing, creative courses, manufacturing.

Drama

GCSE

Course Leader:	Ms J Arrow
Contact Email:	jarrow@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	Eduqas (WJEC)
Assessment:	40% Devising workshop, 20% Performance exam & 40% written exam (live theatre review and practical study of play text)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Drama allows you to be creative and practical. It is a fun and social subject that also brings with it important skills in communication and confidence, which are increasingly significant in a variety of well respected industries.

What does the course involve?

The course is split into three sections and run over two years, combining practical and written elements.

Component 1: Devising Theatre. Students will be assessed on either acting or design. They will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre, using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. Students will document the process and will write an evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text. Students will be assessed on either acting or design. They will study two extracts from the same performance text. They explore the text in practical workshops and produce a final polished performance using sections of text from both extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre. Students will study a play text and explore it through practical workshops. They will also watch and review a live piece of theatre. Students will complete a final written examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.

Differences from Year 9

Students explore in depth a variety of genres and practitioners and use their ideas when devising their own piece of drama. Students will complete a written examination under timed conditions. They will also attend more than one theatre production as they will write about performance in the examination.

Skills developed

Students are assessed on devising, performing and interpreting theatre. They develop their communication skills throughout the course, as well as their performance skills and ability to reflect on and evaluate theatre. Students become more confident, cooperative and empathetic while studying drama. This subject allows their social and personal skills to flourish.

Engineering Design

Cambridge Nationals

Course Leader:	Mr C Ellis
Contact Email:	cellis@tgschool.net
Exam Board:	OCR
Assessment:	40% examination, 60% coursework

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

The world around us is designed in some way. Modern living relies on products and systems created to support how we live. Design comes from the ability to think creatively and to be able to imagine 'what if ...?' Some of the greatest human achievements have come from creative design engineering, allowing the realisation of some truly remarkable change in our world. We are surrounded by products that have been created to solve a problem. Design solutions are developed by following a design strategy or the iterative process and gaining an understanding of how products are manufactured to ensure that the ideas can be produced effectively.

Assessment:

The course consists of 3 units of study for students to be successful in this course. The course is run over 2 years and consists of a 1 hour and 15 minutes exam, 40% of the grade. In addition, it has 2 mandatory coursework units which are both worth 30% of the final grade. Students will have to submit a portfolio at the end of each unit for submission and these deadlines will be staggered throughout the 2 year course.

Students will have approximately 48 guided learning hours for the exam unit and 36 hours for each of the Non Exam Assessment (coursework) units.

What does the course involve?

The Engineering Design course is aimed at developing knowledge, understanding and drawing and digital modelling skills that would be used in the engineering and development sectors. Through a variety of activities the students will develop skills in both 2D and 3D engineering design techniques, designing new products that meet a design brief and communicating design ideas.

These skills will help the students to develop independence and confidence in using skills that can be used in life and work situations, such as; researching, analysis, evaluation and presenting ideas based on evidence. The tasks in the unit will also inform design ideas and will consider problem solving by exploring designing options and finding imaginative solutions through creative thinking.

What will students study as part of this qualification?

Unit 1: Principles of engineering design - Exam unit

Students will learn about the different strategies, the stages involved the design process,

the type of information needed to develop a design brief and specification and the manufacturing considerations that can influence a design. *1 hour and 15 minutes exam, 40% of the grade*

Unit 2: Communicating designs - 12-15 hours to complete a portfolio for submission

Students will learn how to develop techniques in sketching and gain industrial skills in engineering drawing including dimensioning and working to professional standards. They will enhance their confidence and capabilities using Computer Aided Design (CAD) software to produce accurate and detailed drawings and models that visually communicate the designs.

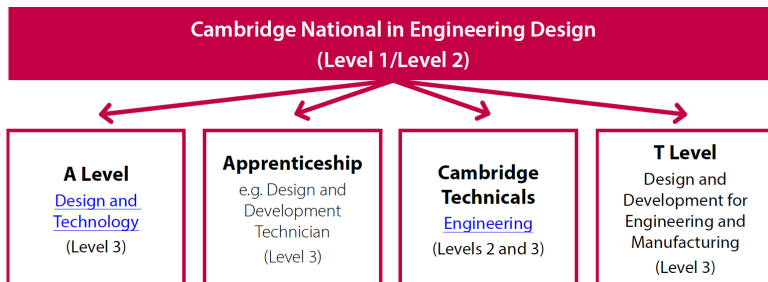
Unit 3 : Developing and presenting engineering designs - 12-15 hours to complete a portfolio for submission

Students will learn how designers can create and test models to develop a working prototype of a design. Developing virtual modelling skills using Computer Aided Design software and possible physical modelling skills to produce a high quality model that will simulate the prototype.

What knowledge and skills will the student develop and how might these be of use in further studies?

The Engineering Design course will enable students to learn about the design process, understand how it can be used to design effective solutions for a given design brief. Students will develop the ability to communicate their design ideas through the use of sketches and engineering drawings and computer aided design. The students will also be able to evaluate the design of a product, through the disassembly of existing products or the use of modelling for new designs.

These skills will help progress onto further study in the engineering design and development sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Engineering, A Levels, such as A Level Design and Technology, or one of the number of Design and Development Technician Apprenticeships. It is anticipated that these qualifications will also enable the students to progress onto a T Level such as Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing, when they are available.



Film Studies

GCSE

Course Leader: Dr D Clarke

Contact Email: dclarke@tgschool.net

Examination Board: Eduqas

Assessment: 30% coursework, 70% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Taking Film Studies for GCSE will equip you with the vital skills to explore film's dynamic meaning and importance in the world today. Excitingly, you will also undertake a film project of your own, allowing you to learn how and why we need to create film.

What does the course involve?

As a film student, you will explore the visual or aesthetic qualities of films, the characters and ideas they represent, the ways in which they are filmed, and the evolution of film genres, such as the vampire subgenre. Students will be taught the necessary film language which will enable them to be successful when analysing key sequences. The starting point for all film students will be understanding the micro and macro elements of film. From this base, you will demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making, and analysis by acquiring knowledge and understanding of a range of important social, cultural, and historical issues raised by films. This will allow you to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements, and draw conclusions about the artistic decisions taken by those in the film industry.

Our study of the films will be organised according to the time periods and cultural contexts in which they were produced. We will begin with an exploration of Hollywood genre film before looking at American independent cinema (component 1). Our journey then takes us to more culturally diverse contexts, and you will explore films from outside of Hollywood: *Jojo Rabbit*, *Girlhood*, *Attack the Block*, and *Submarine* (component 2).

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film

US Comparative Study (Genre film focus): *The Lost Boys* (Schumacher, 1987) and *Dracula* (Browning, 1931)

US Independent Film: *The Hate U Give* (Tillman, 2018)

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style

Global English Language Film: *Jojo Rabbit* (Waititi, NZ, 2020)

Global non-English Language Film: *Girlhood* (Sciamma, France, 2014)

Contemporary UK Film: *Blinded by The Light* (Chadha, UK, 2019)

Component 3: NEA - Filmmaking and scriptwriting

Students will plan, storyboard, script, and film a short 5-minute piece of genre film, incorporating the stylistic influences and techniques they have learnt about on components one and two.

Skills Developed

As a student of film, you will learn to demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, and analysis, whilst developing your ability to compare films. You will develop an understanding of character and themes, people and places, and historical moments, all of which can bolster your skills in other subjects such as English, History, Geography, and Philosophy. The skills you will learn in how to plan, storyboard, script, and produce films are highly sought after by employers in the media industry. They are also incredibly valuable for those wanting to go into film- or media-based design and part of a college course. Equally for those wanting to pursue high-quality art and humanities courses that spark and develop your intellectual curiosity and cultural fluency. This could be the first step on your path to becoming a film critic or a filmmaker.

Assessments

There is a written exam, which is taken at the end of Year 11. The exam unit underpins the knowledge required to complete the coursework units. The coursework units are assessed by teaching staff and once taught, are completed independently by the student. This means that all students must be well organised, diligent and hard-working from the very start of the course.

Progression routes: A-Level Film and/or Media Studies; A-Level English; Apprenticeships in the film and media industries; BTEC in Media.

Complementary subjects: History, Photography, English, Geography, RPE, IT.

Food Preparation & Nutrition

GCSE

Course Leader: Mrs E Irwin

Contact Email: eirwin@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 50% Exam (1 section)

50% Non - Exam Assessed which consists of 1 investigation 1,500 - 2,000 word report. 1 Food Preparation Assessment which consists of a written report and a three hour practical exam. You will be expected to prepare and cook three dishes within three hours. (NEA: 15% Study, 35% Practical Task)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Learning about food and nutrition is a useful life skill. The course gives you the knowledge and understanding to prepare and cook a variety of dishes and understand nutritional needs through life.

The course is a good foundation for those who wish to pursue a career in the food industry.

What does the course involve?

This is an excellent qualification for those wishing to go into the food industry but also for those wishing to learn a life skill.

- Key Focus developing cooking skills
- Understanding and application of key nutritional principles
- Understand of food provenance
- Knowledge and application of the working characteristics and properties of food materials
- Students will be expected to provide most ingredients but products should be suitable for home use.

Differences from Year 9

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition develops knowledge and understanding about ingredients and how products are made. It looks at functional properties, nutritional choices as well as creative indulgent options. KS3 sets the foundation knowledge of nutrition and begins the development of key skills. If you want to learn to cook for life, this is your option. Also suitable for students interested in the many career opportunities the food and dietetic industry offers.

Skills developed

These include a full range of practical skills to prepare and cook food alongside many 'transferable skills' including literacy, numeracy, communication, decision making and detailed skills in analysis & evaluation. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of food, provenance and how to 'fuel your body' for optimum health. You will learn about the function and properties of ingredients and how these change with processing and cooking techniques. By the end of the course you will be able to use food as a social vehicle for spending time with family and friends. You need to eat to live, and you live better if you eat well - by taking this subject you'll be able to! It is also an excellent platform for considering careers in health, nutrition, food technology, teaching and food preparation, food science and service work. If you wish to continue your studies in KS5 we offer a two year course in Food Science and Nutrition which builds on the topics covered at KS4.

French

GCSE

Course Leader:	Mrs H Frid
Contact Email:	hfrid@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	100% exam (25% listening, 25% speaking, 25% reading and 25% writing)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

One language sets you on a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way! Language skills can be a significant competitive advantage that sets you apart from your monolingual peers - English is no longer enough! They are among the top 8 skills required of all occupations. Language is the most direct connection to other cultures and being able to communicate exposes us to and fosters an appreciation for the traditions, religions, arts and history of the people associated with that language. And what's more, travelling as a speaker of the local language can revolutionise a trip abroad!

Opting for GCSE French means you will embark on a journey which you will be forever grateful for. It will allow you to open your eyes and mind to the world around you, it will help you to explore the language and culture of French speaking countries, it will allow you to set yourself apart from your monolingual peers in the search for employment. With knowledge of French you can travel to places like France, Canada, Monaco, Switzerland, the Seychelles, the list is endless, and you won't feel like a stranger.

What does the course involve?

GCSE French helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in France to international campaigns and events. You will learn about French culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and other Francophone countries.

Differences from Year 9

During Year 9, you will have prepared for the GCSE course by completing extended writing tasks and conversation topics as well as practising role-plays and translations.

During Years 10 and 11, you will continue to prepare extended writing pieces on various topics, such as local area, holidays, schools around the world, work experience and voluntary work.

You will also rehearse role-plays, prepare spoken and written picture descriptions and you will be given regular opportunities to develop your skills in translation to French and English.

You already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you will need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live and school. You will build up on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move on to new topics. You will be regularly tested on GCSE vocabulary learning and will use your revision guides at home for independent work.

Skills developed

The ability to listen to, understand and speak French in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes; develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly; develop an interest in and a knowledge of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken. You will also practise translation skills, which will prepare you for a smooth transition into AS and A Level.

You will cover the following topics:

1. **People and lifestyle** - Identity, Relationships with others, Healthy Living and Lifestyle, Education and Work
2. **Popular culture** - Free Time Activities, Customs, Festivals and Celebrations, Celebrity Culture
3. **Communication and the world around us** - Travel and Tourism, Media and Technology, The Environment and where people live

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE French means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV.
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad. Be able to work or study in a French-speaking country in later life.
- Be able to study AS and A level French courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture. Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

Geography

GCSE

Course Leader: Mrs J Perkins-Taylor

Contact Email: jperkins-taylor@tgschool.net

Examination Board: Eduqas

Assessment: 100% examination.

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Geography is about understanding the world we live in and our impact on it. There is no more relevant time to study it.

What does the course involve?

You will study three units which cover:

- Changing Places – Changing Economies. Here students will cover key ideas such as 'urbanisation in contrasting global cities' and 'global development issues.'
- Changing Environments. Here students may cover ideas such as flooding, coastal erosion 'extreme weather' and examine 'climate change – cause and effect'
- Environmental Challenges: Here students cover ideas such as 'ecosystems under threat,' 'desertification' and 'water shortage and drought.'

Exam 1 will cover all 3 themes while Exam 2 will adopt a problem solving approach to a contemporary geographical issue. Exam 3 will be based on a minimum of 2 days of fieldwork from a human and physical geography context.

Differences from Year 9

GCSE Geography is a demanding, rigorous and academic course, with an emphasis on extended writing, thinking skills and the application of geographical knowledge. Some of the content studied at Key Stage 3 will be developed further but many of the topics will be new.

Skills developed

As a geographer, you will learn to use a wide range of resources, data analysis, maps and GIS. You will understand processes and to discuss issues and understand different points of view, justify your opinions and evaluate as well as offer solutions to problems both in the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. Fieldwork will develop teamwork and report writing skills.

German

GCSE

Course Leader:	Mr A Blagona
Contact Email:	ablagona@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	100% exam (25% listening, 25% speaking, 25% reading and 25% writing)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Ludwig Wittgenstein, one of the greatest thinkers of the modern world, once said "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world". Learning any new language doesn't just offer you a new skill - it offers you an insight into a culture, a people, their history and their whole world. It really is a key to a door that, very often, you didn't realise existed. If you want a more concrete reason to learn a new language, how about the fact that German is the second most used scientific language? Or maybe that German is the most widely spoken mother language in the European Union, and around 7.5 million people in 42 countries worldwide belong to a German-speaking minority? If you want to earn money, then German has been ranked 3rd for economic value in the world, and the highest paid foreign language for British people to learn. In terms of your lessons at KS4, be prepared not to just use a textbook, but to use online, interactive resources like Quizlet, watch film and TV excerpts, listen to German-language music, and maybe even get on a plane and visit Berlin or a Christmas market!

What does the course involve?

GCSE German helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Germany to international campaigns and events. You will learn about German culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

Differences from Year 9

You already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you'll need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live and school. You'll build on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move onto new topics.

Skills developed

The ability to listen to, understand and speak German in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes; develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly; develop an interest in and a knowledge of the culture of countries and

communities where German is spoken. You will also practise translation skills, which will prepare you for a smooth transition into AS and A Level.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE German means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV.
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad. Be able to work or study in a German-speaking country in later life.
- Be able to study AS and A level German courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture. Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

Graphic Communication

GCSE

Course Leader: Mrs C Spinks

Contact Email: cspinks@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 60% Coursework, 40% Examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Careers in the creative sector are one of the biggest growing sectors in the UK. Employers like to employ people who are innovative, have the ability to problem solve and come up with new solutions. There are many transferable skills with the main one being how to communicate effectively. The creative field is really reaping the benefits of the rise of new technologies hence there being a multitude of job prospects.

What does the course involve?

Graphic Communication explores a variety of graphic art forms including poster and advertising design, typography and packaging design. You will look at a variety of contextual sources in the development of your portfolios, respond to briefs and develop outcomes. During your work you will analyse the strengths and weaknesses of other forms of graphic communication and respond to them through the development of your own. You will employ a combination of digital/online portfolios, digital editing and rendering, as well as three dimensional and practical based modelling, printmaking and other experimental techniques depending on a student's own intentions. You will explore a variety of contextual sources throughout the projects, and consider how your work can be developed with a specific client, audience or purpose in mind. Your responses to designers/artists will need to be expressed verbally and visually, as well as through written documentation in a digital portfolio.

Skills developed

Over the two year course and within a wide range of activities you will build up a varied skill set by responding to and working within the parameters of a client/target market and focusing on their needs, using varied hand rendering and drawing methods, colour theory, lay-out, experimentation through printmaking, using digital media to show development and progression of ideas whilst being creative, experimental and original. You will also develop transferable skills. You will learn to progressively develop experiments, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of your work as you progress: you will practise the skills of analysis and evaluation, and use them to refine your emerging practice.

Health & Social Care

BTEC Tech Award

Course Leader:	Mrs J Power
Contact Email:	jpower@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	60% coursework, 40% external assessment

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

BTEC level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care provides you with the knowledge and employability skills needed to succeed in higher education and employment. This course gives you the opportunity to examine the many different roles within the Health and Social care sector and gain an understanding of the skills and qualifications needed.

What does the course involve?

This BTEC Tech Award gives you the opportunity to build skills that show an aptitude for further learning both in the health and social care sector and more widely.

The two internally assessed components focus on:

- Human growth and development
- How people deal with major life events
- Health and social care services
- Health and social care values and how they are applied in practice.

The component 3 external examination assessment builds directly on the two internally assessed components and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation. You will assess an individual's health and wellbeing and use this to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through a number of controlled assessments for component 1 will take place during lesson time in Year 10. In Year 11 you will complete component 2 and then you will be assessed by an external exam that takes place in May.

Skills developed

You will develop transferable skills, such as written communication, skills in applying care values which are common across the sector (some of which are transferable to other sectors that involve interactions with clients or customers) and skills in analysing information and communicating for a specific purpose. All these will support your progression to Level 3 vocational or academic qualifications.

History

GCSE

Course Leader: Mr P Billimore
Contact Email: pbillimore@tgschool.net
Examination Board: Edexcel
Assessment: 100% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

History has some great stories and they are real, sometimes all too real, as you will discover on this course!

What does the course involve?

The course involves studying four very different types of History.

- **A British depth study based on Norman and Anglo-Saxon England c 1060-1088;** will focus on the Norman invasion under William the Conqueror and its impact on all aspects of English society.
- **A thematic study of Medicine in Britain from c 1250 to the present;** We will consider why and how medical practice has changed and progressed through the centuries. As part of this section of the course a special study will be made of the historic environment in this case it will be injuries, treatment and the trenches in the British of the Western Front in the First World War.
- **A period study of the American West c 1835-1895;** we will consider the clash of cultures between the American Indians and the European Settlers in the nineteenth century.
- **A study of Modern America 1954-1975;** the course will focus on the struggle for Civil Rights and the conflict in Vietnam.

Differences from Year 9

GCSE History builds on the work done at key stage 3. The skills learnt will be built upon and a range of new skills will be developed, most of the content will be new and studied more in depth.

Skills developed

Studying History at GCSE level will allow you to develop your thinking and reasoning skills, improve your analysis of different types of evidence and will allow you to produce cogent arguments.

Digital IT

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Course Leader:	Mr J Partrick
Contact Email:	jpartrick@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	EDEXCEL
Assessment:	60% coursework, 40% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for those who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts developing:

- skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology.
- processes that underpin effective ways of working in digital information technology.
- attitudes that are considered most important in digital information technology.
- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector.

What does the course involve?

Component 1: Exploring user interface design (30% Coursework)

You will develop your understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. You will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data (30% Coursework)

You will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making, and will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices (40% Examination)

This component will give you an opportunity to explore how the developments in technology over recent years have enabled modern organisations to communicate and collaborate in more inclusive and flexible working environments.

Skills Developed:

You will be equipped with a range of skills and provided opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, testing and reviewing as well as specific skills required in the IT industry.

Progression routes

This component will support you in progressing to a Level 3 qualification in the digital sector. The knowledge and skills you develop will give you a basis for further study in a range of subject areas, including computing, IT, engineering, creative and scientific, or you may go on to an apprenticeship or entry-level employment where your understanding of technology will be relevant.

Latin

GCSE

Course Leader:	Mr A Clinch
Contact Email:	aclinch@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	Eduqas
Assessment:	100% Written Examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Latin GCSE has long been a cornerstone of a classical education. Latin not only allows a basis for the study of Romance languages but also for English. The skills that you will develop from your studies will allow for a greater understanding of the grammar and structure of the English language. You will also study Roman civilisation, which allows you to look back into the lives of Britons and Romans living in our area nearly 2000 years ago. We also look at ancient beliefs regarding magic, superstition, and witchcraft. Latin is highly valued by universities and colleges and is also fun to learn!

What does the course involve?

The makeup of the course consists of external written examinations only. There is no coursework element. Latin is assessed at the end of Year 11. Latin is the basis of all of the romance languages and is still a much sought after subject. The EDUQAS Latin course uses the Cambridge Schools Latin Project as a basis for the language and background. You will not only translate and begin to form short Latin sentences yourself, you will learn about the civilization of Ancient Rome and look at Rome's greatest authors, orators and statesmen.

Course Structure

Component 1 – Latin Language written examination. 1hr 30 minutes: 50% of the Qualification

The paper is divided into two sections.

Section A - A range of short comprehension questions testing understanding of the storyline (55% of the marks for this component). Translation of a passage from Latin to English, with a graduation of difficulty (35% of the marks for this component).

Section B - Latin Grammar: Recognise, analyse and explain in terms of syntax and accidence. (10% of the marks for this component).

Component 2 – Latin literature and Sources (Themes) Written Examination: 1hr 15 minutes: 30% of the Qualification

A prescription of Latin Literature, both prose and verse, on a theme together with prescribed ancient course materials on the same theme. The theme is magic and superstition. This is an open book assessment.

3b: A prescribed topic on Roman Civilisation, a choice of one or two topics offered.: 1hr: 20% of the Qualification

Music

GCSE

Course Leader:	Mr N Reynolds
Contact Email:	nreynolds@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	Eduqas
Assessment:	60% coursework (30% performance, 30% composition), 40% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

This is an excellent qualification for current musicians, particularly if it is your hobby and you enjoy it. The course will help develop your knowledge and understanding of music theory and its history, improve your playing and develop your composing.

What does the course involve?

The course is divided into three parts:

- **Performing** – you have to perform one solo piece and one ensemble piece.
- **Composing** – you compose several pieces in different styles before choosing your most successful composition to develop further. You then compose a second piece from a brief set by Eduqas.
- **Listening and Appraising** – you study different structures and conventions in music from a wide range of styles. You have to analyse two set works and must therefore be willing to understand and learn about music theory.

It is advisable that you are having instrument or singing lessons throughout the course as all work is centred around a basic knowledge of music. **If you currently do not play an instrument or sing it is expected that you start focusing on a performance straight away and where possible take lessons with a specialist teacher.** Students will be asked to take part in extracurricular activities and concert performances either through performance or backstage work.

Differences from Year 9

We will spend more time understanding how music works and relating this to four different areas of study. We will learn to compose using notation software as well as programs such as GarageBand and Logic Pro X.

Skills developed

Within your study of GCSE Music, listening skills, confidence through performing, creativity through composing, literacy, numeracy and foreign languages are all skills that you develop. Music is a subject where you are continually striving to improve through setting and evaluating your own targets – a skill that will always make you successful in life.

How will this course help me in the future?

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work. When business leaders across the world were asked, they voted Creativity as their most important workplace skill to help their business grow and survive.

Studying Music is becoming even more important and relevant to young people as a way in which to succeed - whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing, both independently and as part of a wider community.

Music Technology

RSL Level 2 (Vocational)

Course Leader: Mr N Reynolds

Contact Email: nreynolds@tgschool.net

Examination Board: NCFE

Assessment: 40% Exam, 60% Coursework

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

This unique and popular qualification provides a vocationally relevant course in popular music, which allows for progression into the music or recording industry. You can study this course and not need to play an instrument.

What does the course involve?

The course is split into five units which are studied in Year 10. When you get to Year 11, you apply your skills to complete coursework, and then take and complete an exam.

Content area 1: Introduction to music technology and the music business

Content area 2: The digital audio workstation (DAW)

Content area 3: Musical elements, musical style and music technology

Content area 4: Sound creation

Content area 5: Multitrack recording

Differences from Year 9

At Key Stage 3, you will have experienced elements of Music Technology and found this side of Music fun. This course expands on this work, develops a wider knowledge of Music Technology, and gives you the practical freedom to experiment and refine your skills.

Skills developed

You will develop vocational skills required to support your journey into the music industry. You will become familiar with Logic Pro X and microphones, as well as plugins and effects required for a professional recording.

How will this course help me in the future?

You could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto apprenticeship in the Music Industry through various occupations that are available, such as a producer, engineer, technician and arranger.

Photography

GCSE

Course Leader: Mrs Hellaby- Pearson

Contact Email: dhellaby-pearson@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Careers in the creative Industry are one of the biggest growing sectors in the UK. As we live in a digital age it is important to be able to record and manipulate images of the world around us. Studying photography and learning to experiment with darkroom techniques and digital processes gives you an excellent foundation to study a range of creative subjects at key stage 5

What does the course involve?

GCSE Photography is an extremely broad course in which students are exposed to a wide variety of techniques, processes and contextual references as they develop their skills and understanding of the context of modern day Photography. During Year 10, students study the history of Photography and development of processes, experimenting with pinhole Photography, Darkroom techniques, photomontage and Macro photography. Students study different approaches to composition and the impact of Photography on public perception. In Year 11, students develop a personalised project which challenges their ability to create independent experiments, before moving on to the final, externally set exam project. When presenting your work, you will employ both practical, sketchbook based techniques and digital/online portfolios, thereby demonstrating versatility in your approach.

Skills developed

Within a wide range of activities your photographic skills (in the use of light, viewpoints, composition, depth-of-field and darkroom techniques) will be developed alongside essential project work skills. You will develop both digital image gathering and editing, and manual chemical skills and experiment with a broad range of processes. You will learn to progressively develop experiments, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of your work as you progress: you will practise the skills of analysis and evaluation, and use them to refine your emerging practice. The skills you develop during this course will be ideally suited to further study at Key Stage 5, or a further career in lens and light based careers.

Physical Education

GCSE

Course Leader: Mr R Myhill

Contact Email: rmyhill@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 40% practical assessment (30% performance in 3 activities & 10% analysis & evaluation)
60% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Year on year, the sport industry shows continued growth in employment and forecasts suggest this trend will continue. This comes from increased knowledge and understanding of the benefits of regular participation in sport and physical activity. You will explore how all the body systems work together to produce movements and perform to the desired level. You will delve into sponsorship, commercialisation and media within sport. If you are interested in all the PE and sports domains this course is for you.

What does the course involve?

The Physical Education course has a practical (40%) and a theoretical component (60%).

Theoretical Component

In the theoretical component you will study the following topics: applied anatomy and physiology, including the skeletal, muscular, cardio-respiratory systems, movement analysis including levers and planes of movement. They will also study physical training including components of fitness and methods/ principles of training. Sports psychology is also taught including skill classification, information processing and feedback. Socio-cultural influences and how this affects performance and participation as well as health, fitness and well-being and the use of data.

Practical Component

In the practical component you will be assessed as a player or performer in one individual activity, one team activity and an additional team or individual activity. It would be a significant advantage if you participate in school sports or take part in sports activities outside school.

Differences from Year 9

The course has three lessons a fortnight, 1 theory lesson per week and 1 practical lesson a fortnight throughout Year 10 and 11. The majority of the theory lessons are based in a classroom. Core PE lessons will also be used to assess your practical activities.

Skills developed

As well as your sporting skills, you will also develop essential communication and teamwork skills. Through your activities you will also refine your analysis and evaluation skills as you reflect on performance. Your ability to work independently will also be developed.

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

GCSE

Course Leader: Miss B Fairs

Contact Email: bfairs@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% external examination, 2 x 1 hour 45 minutes exams

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

This is a very engaging course about people and what they believe. You will examine a range of beliefs and actions, which will help you understand the diverse world we live in.

What does the course involve?

Students will be following the AQA GCSE 'Religious Studies A' specification (Route A) which consists of two components:

Component 1 is the study of religious beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam.

Christian beliefs: Key beliefs in Christianity and how beliefs influence Christians today as individuals, communities and societies. **Christian practices:** A study of how Christians put the teachings of Jesus into practice in their everyday lives. What impact does this have on society? How do Christians worship?

Islamic beliefs: Key beliefs in Islam and how they influence Muslims today as individuals, communities and societies. **Islamic practices:** A study of how Muslims put their faith into action. How do Muslims pray? How can they put their beliefs into practice in their everyday lives? What impact does this have on society?

Component 2 is the thematic study of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes.

Relationships and Families: This topical, current affairs unit will involve students learning about different societal attitudes, non religious and religious views on sex, marriage, family, contraception, divorce and gender equality.

Religion and Life: A philosophical and ethical investigation into questions such as Why are we here? How did the world begin? What is the purpose of human life? Issues of abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation will be discussed.

Crime and Punishment: What are the different reasons people commit crime? What are the ethical and philosophical implications of capital punishment, corporal punishment and forgiveness?

Human Rights and Social Justice: A philosophical and ethical investigation into issues surrounding justice and injustice in the world. Human rights and social responsibility, equality and justice.

Skills developed

GCSE RPE will develop your communication skills through extensive debating. The ability to listen, have empathy for others, express your opinions and consider the viewpoints of others will all be key skills as you learn more in this subject. This subject will also develop your skills as a critical and abstract thinker, your ability to write persuasively and with analytical detail.

Spanish

GCSE

Course Leader:	Mrs L Hurtado-Read
Contact Email:	lhurtado-read@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	AQA
Assessment:	100% exam (25% listening, 25% speaking, 25% reading and 25% writing)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

There are more than 400 million Spanish speakers in 21 countries where Spanish is the national language. It is considered one of the easiest languages to learn and is completely phonetic, meaning that its pronunciation is relatively straightforward. More than 2 million British people visit Spain for a holiday each year, attracted by its sunny climate and lengthy coastlines. Mexico is also becoming an increasingly popular holiday destination.

By studying Spanish to GCSE, you gain a useful level of fluency that will enable you to travel as well as enjoy a wide range of Hispanic culture that is becoming increasingly accessible. In addition, it will offer you a useful qualification that will enable you to study Spanish at A level or to pick it back up as an option as part of your university course.

What does the course involve?

GCSE Spanish helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Spain to international campaigns and events. You will learn about Spanish culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.

Differences from Year 9

During Year 9, you will have prepared for the GCSE course by completing extended writing tasks and conversation topics as well as practising role-plays and translations.

During Years 10 and 11, you will continue to prepare extended writing pieces on various topics, such as local area, holidays, schools around the world, work experience and voluntary work.

You will also rehearse role-plays, prepare spoken and written picture descriptions and you will be given regular opportunities to develop your skills in translation to Spanish and English.

You already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you will need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live and school. You will build up on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move on to new topics. You will be regularly tested on GCSE vocabulary learning and will use your revision guides at home for independent work.

Skills developed

The ability to listen to, understand and speak Spanish in a range of contexts and for a variety of purposes; develop language learning and communication skills which can be applied broadly; develop an interest in and a knowledge of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. You will also practise translation skills, which will prepare you for a smooth transition into AS and A Level.

You will cover the following topics:

1. **People and lifestyle** - Identity, Relationships with others, Healthy Living and Lifestyle, Education and Work
2. **Popular culture** - Free Time Activities, Customs, Festivals and Celebrations, Celebrity Culture
3. **Communication and the world around us** - Travel and Tourism, Media and Technology, The Environment and where people live

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE Spanish means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV.
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad. Be able to work or study in a Spanish-speaking country in later life.
- Be able to study AS and A level Spanish courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture. Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

VCERT Health & Fitness

Level 1 / 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness

Course Leader:	Mr R Myhill
Contact Email:	rmyhill@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	NCFE
Assessment:	40% Written exam, 60% Non-Assessed Exam (NEA)

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Year on year, the sport industry shows continued growth in employment and forecasts suggest this trend will continue. This comes from increased knowledge and understanding of the benefits of regular participation in sport and physical activity. This qualification enables learners to develop sector specific skills such as health and fitness analysis, personal skills such as communication, planning and time management, through practical and skills-based approaches. In addition to this students will investigate provisions for health and fitness including equipment and facilities to enhance fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.

What does the course involve?

The VCERT course involves modules on Structure & Function of Body Systems, Effects of Health and Fitness on the Body, Health and Components of Fitness, Principles of Training, Testing and Developing Components of Fitness, Impact of Lifestyle on Health and Fitness, Fitness Analysis and Setting Goals, Structure of a Fitness Programme and Preparing Safely.

The NEA will focus on Components of Fitness, Principles of Training, Methods of Training and FITT, PARQ and Lifestyle Questionnaire, SMART Targets, Fitness Tests, Test Result Analysis, 4 Week Training Programme, Training Programme Review

Differences from GCSE

You are not assessed on your practical ability. Practical lessons will take place to consolidate understanding of topics taught. The practical will involve students planning, performing and analysing a training programme.

Skills developed

The VCERT framework comprises skills that are essential to success in learning, life and work. In essence, the framework captures the essential skills of managing yourself, managing relationships with others, managing your own learning, performance and work. It is these skills that will enable you to enter level 3 courses, including BTEC Level 3 in Sport and A level Physical Education, and adult life more confident and capable.

Statistics

GCSE

Course Leader:	Mr B Mills
Contact Email:	bmills@tgschool.net
Examination Board:	Edexcel
Assessment:	100% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Statistics provide efficient and precise ways of describing real world phenomena resulting from the collection of “good data”. The processes of collecting, organising, analysing, interpreting, and most importantly presentation of results provide organisations the information to “do what they do” efficiently and effectively.

What does the course involve?

The age of statistics is upon us. Statistics are being collected and used at an increasing rate in business, politics and science. In the real world we are constantly bombarded through the media with graphs, economic data such as retail price index (RPI) and various other statistical statements.

You will need very little previous statistical knowledge to be able to take this course. In Key Stage 3 you will already have covered some data-handling work in maths lessons, which will be repeated at the beginning of this course.

Foundation students need to have a basic understanding of accuracy, fractions, decimals and percentages. Whereas Higher-level students need, in addition, to be familiar with the equation of a straight line and have a basic understanding of the shapes of exponential curves. In this course, you will learn:

- how to collect, summarise and represent unbiased data
- the skills necessary to read, analyse and interpret data and various diagrams and statistical statements accurately
- to develop your ability to reason and discuss results
- how to predict what will happen in the future by making forecasts based on statistical results and considering the probability of something happening.

Skills developed

By the end of the course you will be able to plan an investigation, collect and analyse data and how to interpret the meaning of your results. This would be very useful for a range of careers and further study at age 16 e.g. Actuary, Accountancy, Computer Programming, Environmental Scientists, Forensics, Pharmaceuticals, Psychology and Insurance to name a few. This course will also support your learning towards your Mathematics GCSE.

Textile Design

GCSE

Course Leader: Mrs F Raleigh

Contact Email: fraleigh@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

Careers in the creative industry are one of the biggest growing sectors in the UK. During the course students learn to manipulate a range of materials into three dimensional products, experimenting with shape and form. This gives students a solid foundation to study at key stage five product design, printmaking, textiles and fashion.

What does the course involve?

Students who choose to study Textile Design at GCSE are keen to design and make creative and unique pieces of textile work, working with a range of materials such as fabrics, papers and plastics. It is an exciting subject which encourages you to consider technological advances, as well as traditional textile skills.

Knowledge and Understanding.

You will work towards two given themes/topics throughout the course which will make up your 'Personal Portfolio' worth 60% of your final GCSE.

You will learn about different areas of textile design such as fabric construction, manipulation, surface decoration, pattern and repeated design, and will gain an understanding of fibres, fabrics and components.

You will be creative in your approach and learn how designers get inspiration for design ideas; understand the issues which influence textile design; investigate methods to colour, decorate and stitch textile products; as well as researching and analysing a range of contextual sources to help influence and inspire your creative thinking.

Your design journey will lead to the development and refinement of your own personal ideas in response to the sources you have studied. You will have a final project to undertake in year 11 which is your 'Externally Set Assignment' and equates to 40% of your final grade; 10 hours of which you will use to produce a final outcome under controlled conditions.

Skills developed

Over time you will be able to produce exciting and creative designs, to develop a range of textile techniques and construct a range of craft products. Individual work on projects will be essential and develop your time management skills. You will learn to progressively develop experiments, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of your work. You will practise the skills of analysis and evaluation, and use them to refine your emerging practice. The skills you develop during this course will be ideally suited to further study at Key Stage 5, or further a career in a Textiles based role.

Triple Science

GCSE

Course Leader: Mrs S Luxon

Contact Email: sluxon@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% Examination,
6 x 1 hour 45 minute exam two papers for each Science

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

This course gives you a more challenging and in depth understanding of the three Sciences and allows you to gain three GCSEs. If you enjoy learning STEM, discovering new things, applying your skills and learning a large amount of facts, this is the option for you. Triple Science could lead to an easier transition to A Levels in the Sciences and help gain a career in the Science sector.

What does the course involve?

You have to study Science at school, but in Triple Science there are different topics and often more detailed concepts compared to Combined Science.

Here are the topics covered:

Biology Topics	Chemistry Topics	Physics Topics
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cell biology2. Organisation3. Infection and response4. Bioenergetics5. Homeostasis and response6. Inheritance, variation and evolution7. Ecology8. Key ideas	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Atomic structure and the periodic table2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter3. Quantitative chemistry4. Chemical changes5. Energy changes6. The rate and extent of chemical change7. Organic chemistry8. Chemical analysis9. Chemistry of the atmosphere10. Using resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Energy2. Electricity3. Particle model of matter4. Atomic structure5. Forces6. Waves7. Magnetism and electromagnetism8. Space physics

Differences from Double Combined Science

Some differences have been explained above but the main differences are:

Triple students study a third more content than Combined students and are expected to be actively engaged with learning that amount of content.

Combined Science gives you 2 GCSEs, Triple Science gives you 3 GCSEs.
Both pathways have 6 exams but the Triple papers are 30 minutes longer.

Skills developed

Working scientifically during the course, especially during required practicals.

Maths skills are very important in Science, many calculations need rearranging and solving. Formulas need applying.

Literacy skills are developed, keywords and definitions need to be learnt, understood and explained. 6 mark questions need to be coherently and logically answered.

Exam skills will be gained to be able to correctly answer questions and achieve marks.

Thomas Gainsborough School

Wells Hall Road, Great Cornard
Suffolk CO10 0NH

01787 375232

More information is available at:

www.tgschool.net/subjects

www.tgschool.net/ks4-options