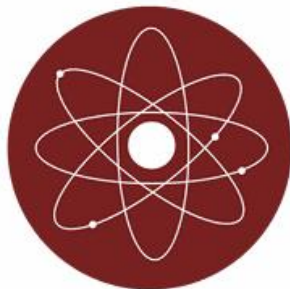




The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form

'Inspiring learners for their future'



KS4 Options 2020

Introduction...

Background Information for Year 9 2020-21

Year 10 and Year 11 offers an opportunity for students to study those subjects they wish to choose. The school offers a choice of three option subjects and for some students the possibility of a fourth option. We endeavour to create a timetable that allows most students to have their preferred choice of subjects, however this is not always possible for everyone. There are financial constraints regarding the number of classes we can afford to deliver and where too few students choose a subject, it may not be viable to run. If this is the case we will meet with students to look at alternative options.

Over the last few weeks students have received information regarding careers and the options available to them through assemblies, careers advice, mentoring sessions and with subject staff at the Year 9 Parents Evening. We believe it is essential that students identify subjects that they are both passionate about and competent in. Additionally, when deciding their three options students should give consideration to how their GCSE/BTEC/Cambridge National choices will lead to a future pathway at A Level, Level 3 BTECs or an Apprenticeship.

The table below shows the choices students have available to them and the options form can be found on page 33.

| Core | Choice of one | Choose two from the following: | | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Maths | French | Art & Design or Textiles | Drama | History |
| | | | Hospitality & Catering | Music |
| English Lang | German | Business or Economics | French | Religious Studies |
| English Lit | Spanish | Enterprise and Marketing | German | BTEC Engineering |
| Science | History | Children's Learning & Development | Spanish | GCSE PE or Sports Studies |
| Core PE | Geography | | Geography | Technical Award in Graphic Design |
| | Computer Science | Computer Science | | |



At The Ridgeway, our Year 10 curriculum requires that ALL students study English, Maths and Science. Students have three option choices. They will also do core PE. During this time they can either do core PE (enjoyment of physical activity is important during their challenging GCSE years) or alternatively take GSCE PE or BTEC Performing arts during this time. Further information will be provided on the options evening.

We expect those students who can readily achieve a grade 5 or above in a Modern Foreign Language to study it, as it is our strong belief that many students will in their future lives be working for global companies and in many cases spend periods working abroad. Studying a language will allow students to compete in the international job market and give them the basics for learning elements of a new language and understanding other cultures.

Mr Wakefield is co-ordinating the options process so if you do have any questions please direct them to him in the first instance on wakefieldm@ridgewayschool.com

Best wishes

James Povoas,
Principal

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Things to Consider

- Don't presume that subjects will be just the same as they are in Key Stage 3. Find out as much as you can about the subjects you are interested in before you make your choices.
- Choose a subject because you want to do it, do not choose it just to be with your friends.
- If you are still unsure about your choices talk to your Progress Mentor Co-ordinator, Mr M Wakefield or your mentors.
- In CPA students can do an option subject that they have not studied in Year 9. Just because the subject has not been studied in Year 9, that does not mean that they can not opt for it at GCSE.
- You can only choose one of the following:

PE GCSE
or
Sport Studies

Art and Design
or
Textiles

Business or Economics
or Enterprise & Marketing

Consider:

- Breadth and balance of choices
- Enjoyment of the subject
- What you are good at!
- Future pathways and career plans

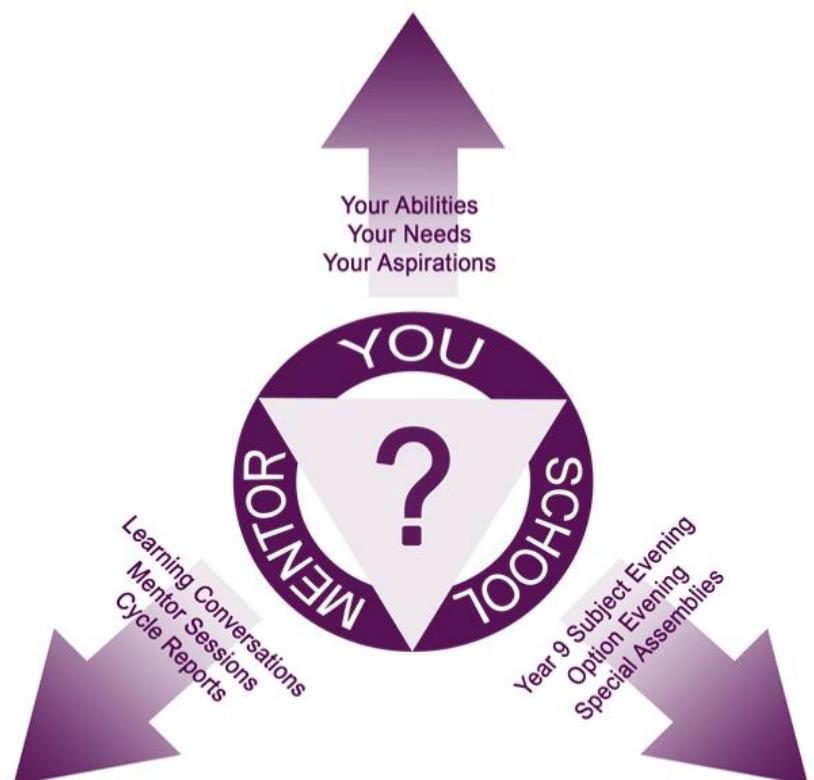
Talk to:

- Subject teachers
- Mentors
- Students already studying KS4
- Parents/carers and your wider family

Please note:

There is an opportunity to study an additional GCSE during Core PE. Students can do Core PE (non-examined PE) or use the time to study GCSE PE or BTEC Performing Arts.

How do I choose?





Core Subjects



English Language

Faculty Leader - Mrs H Siebenaller
Mr M Webber

Email - siebenallerh@ridgewayschool.com
webberm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE English Language
Board - AQA
Code - 8700

There are two formal examinations worth 100% at the end of the course. AQA has developed two equally-balanced papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way. The final grade is awarded for students' performance in the examinations.

Course Content:

This new English Language specification is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are accessible to all students. Students will develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

What will I study on this course?

You will explore creative reading and writing and writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

In order to gain accreditation you will also be required to complete a stand-alone spoken language presentation. This assesses:

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

This does not contribute to the English Language GCSE but must be completed in order to pass the course.





English Literature

Faculty Leader - Mrs H Siebenaller
Mr M Webber

Email - siebenallerh@ridgewayschool.com
webberm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE English Literature
Board - AQA
Code - 8702

There are two formal 'closed book' examinations worth 100% at the end of the course.

The final grade is awarded for students' performance in the examinations.

Course Content:

This new English Literature specification is designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, regardless of ability level. We cover a range of texts including some that will be familiar, as well as new ones that will inspire teenage readers. The course is fully co-teachable with GCSE English Language, so students will benefit from the transferable skills and be awarded a second GCSE certified by AQA.

What will I study on this course?

You will study whole texts including:

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *An Inspector Calls* by J.B Priestley
- Power and Conflict Anthology poetry
- Unseen poetry

**All students are required to take both
Language and Literature**





Mathematics

Faculty Leader - Mrs C Horton

Email - hortonc@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Mathematics (9-1)
 Board - OCR
 Code - J560

Assessment of Course:

Foundation Tier (grades 5 to 1)

Paper 1 1 hour 30 minutes
 Calculator permitted
 Paper 2 1 hour 30 minutes
 Calculator not permitted
 Paper 3 1 hour 30 minutes
 Calculator permitted
 Each paper has an equal weighting

Higher Tier (grades 9 to 4)

Paper 4 1 hour 30 minutes
 Calculator permitted
 Paper 5 1 hour 30 minutes
 Calculator not permitted
 Paper 6 1 hour 30 minutes
 Calculator permitted
 Each paper has an equal weighting

Assessment of Course:

Maths is one of the core subjects of the National Curriculum and is compulsory.

Year 10 will be studying the new GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics. Many features of the new exam will be similar to the previous GCSE exams, however there is an increased emphasis on students being able to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and apply their mathematical skills through problem solving based in a range of contexts.

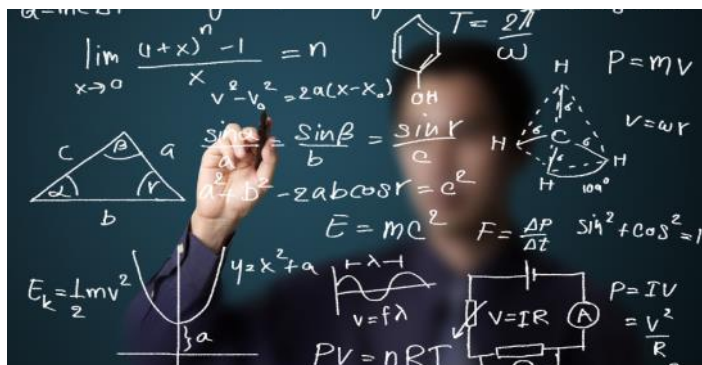
There is no coursework or controlled assessment in Maths, just 3 exams all of which will be sat at the end of Year 11.

As with previous maths GCSE exams the papers are a mixture of calculator and non-calculator exams and students will be entered at either Higher or Foundation Tier.

For all maths exams you will need some specialist equipment:

- A protractor
- A pair of compasses
- A scientific calculator

(Casio scientific calculators are available to purchase from the Maths team through parentpay)





Science

Faculty Leader - Mr T Pittaway

Email - pittawayt@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| GCSE Biology | AQA 8461 |
| GCSE Chemistry | AQA 8462 |
| GCSE Physics | AQA 8463 |
| GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy | AQA 8464 |

Course Content:

**The Science team are dedicated to produce:
Ridgeway scientists who are knowledgeable,
confident, curious, can link ideas and are
resilient problem solvers who enjoy science.**

**Excellent outcomes which enable students to
take the next steps in their education.**

This will be achieved via...

The Science curriculum is based on a study of the 4 key models that underpin scientific understanding; Cells, Particles, Forces and Energy. Alongside this students will be taught the skills they need to work scientifically. They will learn to use equipment with accuracy and precision, to work as a team, to plan their time and resources effectively and about the wide variety of ways in which results can be presented.

Students at KS4 complete either two or three GCSEs in Science. One pathway sees students study three single science GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and

Physics. Alternatively students will study all three sciences and then sit combined science exams worth two GCSEs. The final decision on which courses students will follow will be made by the Science Faculty.

Neither GCSE route inhibits A level progression, applications to University (including medical courses) or the ability to gain top grades.

Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Students studying Separate Sciences will complete 3 different GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will enjoy lessons in each of the sciences taught by subject-specialists. Students will follow the new GCSE specifications where they will be awarded numerical grades from 9 to 1. These new GCSEs are assessed entirely through examinations taken at the end of Year 11.

Combined Science: Trilogy

Students studying Combined Science will study all three science disciplines throughout Years 10 and 11 before taking combined exams covering all three sciences at the end of Year 11. This follows the new GCSE specifications which see students awarded a numerical grade on a 17-point scale (9-9, 9-8, 8-8, 8-7 etc.).

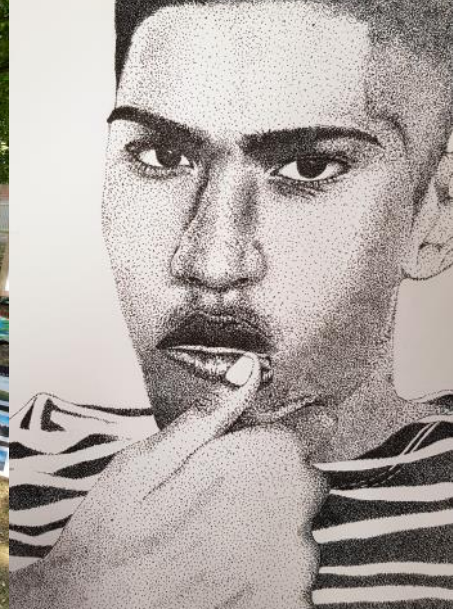
Required Practicals

The new science GCSE contain no coursework or controlled assessment – they are assessed only through exams sat at the end of Year 11. There are however a number of required practical tasks (21 for Combined Science and 28 for Single Sciences) which students will complete during the two years. There will be questions in the final exams based on these practical tasks.



Option Subjects





Art and Design

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs H Watts
Email - wattsh@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:
Name - Art & Design
Board - AQA
Code - 8202

Assessment of Course:

Portfolio - 60% of total marks
10 hour exam - 40% of total marks

Art Results:

| <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|
| GCSE 100% 4-9 | 100% pass rate |
| A Level 100% A*-C | 75% Grade 6-9 |
| A Level 80% A*-A | 60% Grade 7-9 |



Course Content:

You will have the opportunity to explore a number of different ideas and materials as you follow set themes. It is expected that you will develop the skills and processes that you have already tried in earlier years in KS3 as well as trying out new, exciting ideas and developing these with new materials and techniques.

Most of the course is taken up with developing your coursework portfolio. This allows you to explore interests in the subject and experiment with a wide range of art processes and materials, creating exciting and individual responses. You will also link your practical work with the study of artists, designers and craftspeople.

You will produce a portfolio selected from work undertaken during the course. This must include more than one project. This unit is worth 60% of your total marks.

You will be required to produce a personal response from one starting point provided within the exam paper. This consists of a period of preparatory time and a 10 hour exam. Papers will be issued to you from 1 January in the year of your examination. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

GCSE art and design is a recognised qualification for further study of AS and A level in the Sixth Form. It is a desirable qualification to have as you start on your courses that will lead to further education or the world of work.

“Every child is an artist. The problem is how we remain an artist once we grow up.”
Pablo Picasso



Business

Subject Staff Leader - Mr J Edwards

Email - edwardsj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - Edexcel

Units & Codes:

1BSO/01— Exam : 1 hour 30 mins

- Investigating Small Businesses; Spotting opportunities, putting ideas in to practice and how to make the business successful.

- 50% of the course

1BSO/02— Exam: 1 hour 30 mins

- Building a business; Growing a business through the marketing, operational, financial and human resource management decisions.

- 50% of the course

Assessment of Course:

The Business exam paper is not tiered. This means that you have as much chance of getting a 9 as anyone else in your class.

There are two examined papers with a variety of questions styles allowing students to display a range of skills. All topics will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Course Content:

Ever wondered what makes some businesses so successful? Have you thought about which are the best companies to work for? Or do you fancy running your own business?

As a customer, student, and member of the community you are a stakeholder in many businesses. Now find out more behind what you see and experience to discover what makes a business really work.

Throughout the course we will look at how entrepreneurs find gaps in the market to target, how they launch a product to customer, the logistics behind the production of products and how they fund starting up a business.

Business develops your skills of research, problem solving, communication and team work, all of which are essential in the job market.

There are a range of career paths that can be taken with the study of Business including marketing, banking, accountancy, sales, as well as how to manage other people. GCSE Business will allow students to carry on to A Level or University, but it is not an essential requirement.





Child Development - Cambridge National L2

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs K Gray
Email - grayk@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - OCR

R019 - Coursework Research Task

Carry out an in depth research study on key factors to consider when choosing equipment for a baby (0-12 months) and a child (1-5 years), the nutritional guidelines and requirements for a child from birth to 5 years old and a practical task (comparing breastfeeding vs. bottle feeding and making up a bottle feed).

R020 - Coursework Child Study

Investigating the developmental norms from 0-5 years, exploring different types of play and the benefits of play, planning and carrying out two short play activities with a child and evaluating the activities and the child's development.

R018 - Exam: 1 hour 15 mins

Development of a child from pre conception to 5 years old. Topics that are studied include: antenatal care, stages of labour, pain relief, different types of birth, postnatal care, safety around the home and childhood illnesses.



Assessment of Course:

The technical award has the same weighting as a GCSE and will count as equivalent to one GCSE.

There are two pieces of coursework: one will be completed in Year 10 the other in Year 11. All topics for the exam will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Course Content:

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning more about how babies and children develop from conception until 5 years old. There are some excellent opportunities to build your knowledge base in some really interesting topics such as how a baby develops in the uterus, the importance of antenatal classes and the stages of labour. It can help to prepare you for further study and employment within the childcare sector if this is something you are interested in pursuing when you are older.

It will particularly appeal to learners who are looking for a course that has a practical element to it. It also has a balance of controlled assessment and an exam which makes it 'equally weighted'.

The Technical Award in Children's Learning and Development will give learners the opportunity to study children aged 0 to 5 years, developing an understanding of:

Reproduction and the roles and responsibilities of parenthood

Antenatal care and preparation for birth

Postnatal checks, postnatal provision and conditions for development

How to recognise, manage and prevent childhood illnesses

Child safety

Physical, intellectual and social development

Play

This course will offer a progressive route through to the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development that we offer at the Ridgeway School. It also works well alongside A Levels such as Sociology and Psychology.



Computer Science

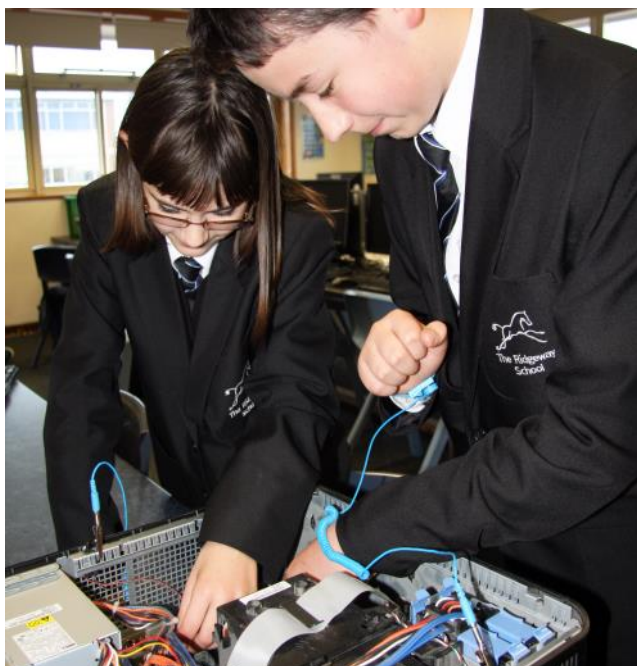
Subject Staff Leader - Mr G Mitchell
Email - mitchellg@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Computer Science
Board - OCR
Code - J277

Assessment of Course:

Assessment is based on a written exam, a practical investigation and programming tasks.



Course Content:

This exciting course is a natural progression from Year 9 computing lessons and gives you an excellent opportunity to solve problems, investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills.

This course is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. Assessment is based on two written exams.

Component 01: Computer systems

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming

Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).

Due to the nature of this course it is only recommended for students who achieve a 5 or above in Maths and / or Computing by the end of Year 9. All Computing students gain access to DreamSpark where all the software required for the course can be downloaded for free including Windows 7 and 8.

This subject can be taken at A Level without having studied it at GCSE.



Drama

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs S Hodge
Email - hodges@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Drama
 Board - OCR
 Code - J316

Assessment of Course:

GCSE Drama is made up of three units, all of which are explored practically.

Component 1 is **Devising Drama** where you will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create your own piece of devised Drama. You are also marked on a portfolio that you will create, detailing your decision making process and outlining the journey you have made. 30% of the total GCSE.

Component 2 is **Presenting & Performing Texts** this is where you will present two extracts from a play to a visiting examiner. 30% of the total GCSE.

Component 3 is **Performance & Response** you will practically explore a play and learn to evaluate Live Theatre performances. You will then demonstrate that knowledge and understanding in a final written exam. 40% of the total GCSE.

Course Content:

GCSE Drama is a highly appealing course due to the diverse range of activities, combining both practical and theoretical approaches to learning. This combination of academic and creative challenge with a practical focus makes for a dynamic and engaging course.

- Creative approaches : Actor, Deviser & Designer options
- Themed projects where you can create and perform
- Script Work where you will bring text to life and perform extracts to a visiting examiner
- Devised performance inspired by a given stimulus and performed to an audience
- Portfolio where you will reflect on the process and evaluate Drama

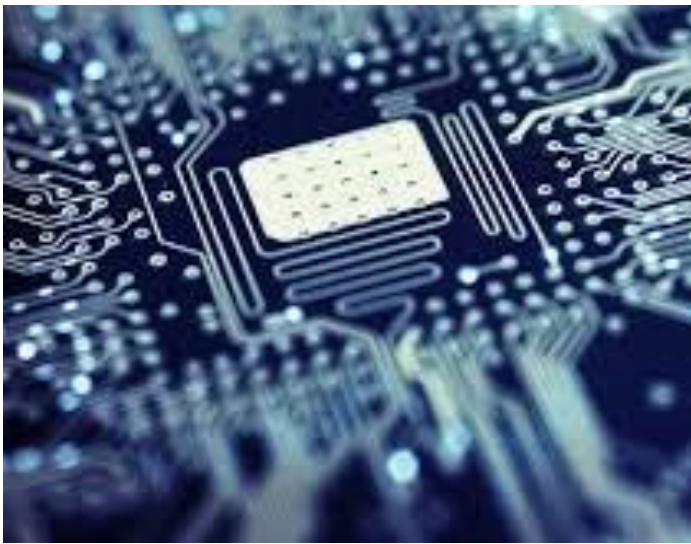
Drama GCSE can offer so much more than just an opportunity to perform. You will develop generic study skills that feed into all courses: speaking and listening, research and investigation, analysis and evaluation, public speaking and literacy.

You will also be developing skills that all employers value in a **workplace**. You will be acquiring skills like working with others, problem solving and communication. You will find that Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people.

The course is largely practical and almost all your time will be spent in the Drama studios exploring the play texts, developing your own performance ideas, working in groups and most importantly creating exciting, live theatre.

“The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create.”

Barack Obama



Engineering - Technical Award

Subject Staff Leader - Miss L Hodge
Email - hodgel@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - NCFE

Unit 1 – Externally assessed Unit

A written exam. Students will explore materials and their properties, workshop tools, health and safety etc. The exam will include mathematical and science based content.

Unit 2 – Internally Assessed Unit - Extended making project

Students will explore the types of materials, components and processes used to make a product, then reproduce and test a product.

Assessment of Course:

The Technical Award has the same weighting as a GCSE and will count as equivalent to one GCSE.

The course has one internally assessed units worth 50% and one externally assessed exam, worth 50% of the final grade.

Course Content:

This qualification is intended for students interested in understanding the working properties of woods, metals and polymers (plastics) and wish to use these materials in a practical way. It will particularly appeal to students who are looking for a course that provides the fundamental skills of engineering to prepare them for further study in this field.

The Technical Award in Engineering will give learners the opportunity to develop an understanding of:

- materials and their working properties
- processes and manufacture
- joining, components, adhesives and finishes
- commercial practice
- sustainability
- careers opportunities.

The Technical Award will appeal to anyone who finds that the application of skills and observations of outcomes aids their learning of theory.

The skills and knowledge gained will allow students to progress to a range of Level 3 courses or an apprenticeship in a related area of employment.





Enterprise & Marketing

Cambridge National Level 2

Subject Staff Leader - Mr J Edwards

Email - edwardsj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - OCR

Units & Codes:

R064: Enterprise & Marketing Concepts

Externally assessed exam paper

Students explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers.

R065: Design a Business Proposal

Internally Assessed

Students are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal. They will carry out market research, present data, use idea generation tools, seek and act on feedback, and cost their proposals.

R066: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal

Internally Assessed

Students prepare for and pitch the business proposal that they developed in the previous unit. They develop a brand identity and investigate how best to promote their product and then plan, practise and finally deliver their pitch. Afterwards they review both their performance and their business proposal.

Assessment of Course:

The technical award has the same weighting as a GCSE and will count as equivalent to one GCSE. There are two units which focus on internally set course work tasks which will be assessed and moderated internally. There will also be an external exam which will be 1h30m. This will focus on concepts of enterprise and marketing.

Course Content:

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning and applying both practical and theoretical skills in marketing and enterprise.

The first topic underpins the wider learning in this qualification. Learners will develop essential knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts, which can be applied to the other units within the qualification. This will be assessed through an external exam. A range of different types of questions will be used, including multiple choice questions, short/medium answer questions and extended response analysis and evaluation questions.

Through the first topic learners will understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business, and what the key factors are to consider when starting up a business.

In the second topic, learners will develop the skills to design a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge. They will identify a customer profile for a specific product, complete market research to generate product design ideas, and use financial calculations to propose a pricing strategy and determine the viability of their product proposal.

In the third topic, learners will develop the skills to create a brand identity and promotional plan for their specific business product proposal. They will develop pitching skills in order to pitch their business proposal to an external audience. Finally, they will review their pitching skills and business proposal using their learning, self-assessment and feedback gathered.

The knowledge and skills developed by completing this topic will be transferable to further, related learning in areas such as enterprise, marketing or business at Level 3.



French

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs I Beaurain
Email - beauraini@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE French
Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

The language is assessed through examination at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 listening 25%
- Paper 2 speaking 25%
- Paper 3 reading 25%
- Paper 4 writing 25%

Topics and themes covered:

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

Course Content:

Planning to go to University? Want better job prospects? Interested in other cultures? Want to become a better communicator? Enjoy making new friends? Want to travel? Planning to teach in primary schools?

THEN YOU SHOULD BE CONTINUING WITH A LANGUAGE!!!

Keeping up a language will help in the future, if you want to learn other Western or Eastern European languages. Not only that, but you'll be a great asset to your employer.

In any environment, speaking a language can open the door to a whole new world! Whether on holiday, meeting people at work, socialising or discovering other cultures, your language skills will widen your horizons, create new opportunities and increase your appreciation of what's out there. Not only that, it's likely you'll be paid more too! According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8-20%!

We live in a multilingual world and British companies are increasingly aware of the advantages of hiring young people with language skills. We can no longer rely on the reassuring motion that 'everyone speaks English', because 75% of the world does not!

What the papers say

"Languages graduates are more employable than those in computing, or science, or even business studies. Employers cannot get enough people with language skills. Surveys show that agencies believe they have lost business because of language skills failure."

"Language skills are the key to success in today's globalised job markets."





Course Content:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35% of GCSE) – Exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

- Tectonic hazards
- Weather hazards
- Climate change

Section B: The living world

- Ecosystems
- Tropical rainforests
- Cold environments

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

- Coastal landscapes in the UK
- River landscapes in the UK

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35% of GCSE) – Exam 1 hour 30 mins.

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

- Urban growth
- Urban sustainability

Section B: The changing economic world

- Development
- Changing economy of Nigeria
- Major changes in the UK economy

Section C: The challenge of resource management

- Water

Paper 3: Geographical applications (30% of GCSE) Exam 1 hour 15 mins.

Section A: Issue evaluation

- Critical thinking and problem solving using a pre-released resource booklet

Section B: Fieldwork

- Students will be examined on two geographical enquiries, each of which will require them to collect and interpret primary data from a fieldtrip.

Why we study Geography?

Successful geography students are among the most employable people as they develop the skills necessary for any job in the future. This is because the subject combines a knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts.

A good grade in Geography is evidence to employers and universities that you have an advanced understanding of the world.

During the course you will use a wide range of mathematical and graphical skills related to geographical concepts and issues. Studying Geography allows you to develop your decision making abilities, something that will be useful for whatever you choose to do in the future.

Geography

Subject Staff Leader - Miss A Curtis-Slater

Email - slatera@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Geography
Board - AQA
Code - 8035

Assessment of Course:

The world is constantly changing.

To be a successful person in today's society, knowing how and why it changes is important.

That is why Geography is a great subject to study.

This is an exciting course teaching you about the world today!





German

Subject Staff Leader - Mr J Robertson
 Email - robertsonj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE German
 Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

The language is assessed through examination at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 listening 25%
- Paper 2 speaking 25%
- Paper 3 reading 25%
- Paper 4 writing 25%

Topics and themes covered:

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



Course Content:

- Planning to go to uni?
- Want better job prospects?
- Interested in other cultures?
- Want to become a better communicator?
- Enjoy making new friends?
- Want to travel?
- Planning to teach in primary schools?

THEN YOU SHOULD BE CONTINUING WITH A LANGUAGE!!!

Keeping up a language will help in the future, if you want to learn other Western or Eastern European languages. Not only that, but you'll be a great asset to your employer.

In any environment, speaking a language can open the door to a whole new world! Whether on holiday, meeting people at work, socialising or discovering other cultures, your language skills will widen your horizons, create new opportunities and increase your appreciation of what's out there. Not only that, it's likely you'll be paid more too! According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8-20%! We live in a multilingual world and British companies are increasingly aware of the advantages of hiring young people with language skills. We can no longer rely on the reassuring motion that 'everyone speaks English', because 75% of the world does not!

What the papers say

"Languages graduates are more employable than those in computing, or science, or even business studies. Employers cannot get enough people with language skills. Surveys show that agencies believe they have lost business because of language skills failure."

"Language skills are the key to success in today's globalised job markets."



Graphic Design - Technical Award

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs P Lane
Email - lanep@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:
Board - NCFE

Unit 1 - Introduction to Graphic Design
Develop an understanding of the components of graphic design.

Unit 2 - Graphics Design Practice
Examine the work of recognised designers, select one designer and work in their style.

Unit 3 - Responding to a Graphic Design Brief
Analyse the requirement of a design brief, develop ideas to meet the brief, further develop an idea and present a final graphic design.

Unit 4 - Graphics Design Portfolio
Explore working in the design industry. Design and create a portfolio and review how it presents your skills as a Graphic Designer.

Assessment of Course:

An internally assessed and externally moderated portfolio of evidence and an externally set task-based assessment.

To achieve a Level 2 qualification students must achieve in all units and a minimum pass in the external assessment.

Final overall result is graded Pass, Merit or Distinction - equivalent to GCSE grades 4 - 8.5

Course Content:

Students will develop their understanding in:

- colour, tone, line, composition, typography, imagery
- the characteristics of recognised graphic designers
- technical skills, processes, techniques, equipment, material, composition
- working in the graphic design industry

Students will develop skills and knowledge:

- in using tools and equipment competently
- when experimenting with materials and techniques
- in adapting their own ideas and responding to feedback
- in evaluating
- that are essential for the workplace - team working, presentation of skills, independent working, working to deadlines, efficient use of resources

The skills and knowledge gained will allow students to progress to a range of Level 3 courses or an apprenticeship in a related area of employment. It prepares students for a career such as a graphic designer, cartographer, illustrator, web designer, typography or packaging designer.

Students will also develop transferable skills in teamwork and communication that will be of value to them no matter what career they choose to follow.





History

Subject Staff Leader - Mr J Bister
Email - bisterj@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Board - Edexcel
Units & Codes:

1HI0/11 - Exam : 1 hour 15 mins

- Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914:1918: Injuries, treatment and the trenches, - 30%

1HI0/ B1/P4 - Exam: 1 hour 45 mins

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, - 20%
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c.1060-88, - 20%

1HI0/31 - Exam: 1 hour 20 mins

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39, - 30%

Assessment of Course:

The History exam paper is not tiered. This means that you have as much chance of getting a level 9 as anyone else in your class.

There are three examined papers with different sections that are worth different weightings. All topics will be taught along with exam skills over the two year course.

Course Content:

History GCSE is focused on the development of Medicine in Britain, the impact of war on surgical development, superpower relations during The Cold War, the Norman conquest of England and Nazi Germany.

The course will enable you to develop a variety of skills, which will help you in your general academic studies and transfer to your future career.

History GCSE enables you to develop your ability to analyse key features and events, evaluate a range of sources of information including interpretations of events, people and issues, and develop your ability to structure arguments.

These skills are useful in every aspect of life, even if you do not study History after GCSE.

The History department currently visits Berlin in Year 10 to learn more about the key events in Germany's history whilst under Nazi rule.

We will ensure further extra curricular History opportunities are available to support the learning of our students. The skills which you develop on the course means that it is highly valued by universities and employers. It is a favoured subject by many top universities. It is useful for a huge range of careers including law, journalism, media, the police, the armed forces, teaching, medicine and business.





Hospitality & Catering

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs K Stamp

Email - stampk@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - L1/2 Hospitality & Catering

Board - Eduqas

Assessment of Course:

Exams consist of two units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

- 40% of qualification
- External written exam
- 1 hour 30 mins

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

- 60% of qualification
- Non examination assessment: Internally assessed, externally moderated.
- 9 hours which includes 3 hours practical exam.
- Outcome: coursework plus a 2 or 3 course meal for two people with accompaniments.

This course is graded at a **pass, merit and distinction**.

Course Content:

L1/2 Hospitality & Catering focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of the food industry. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Areas of study:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Jobs roles and the catering industry
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Throughout the course of study students will develop links with local establishments and industries.

Career opportunities in Hospitality & Catering include:

Nutritional sciences, dietetics, sport science, restaurants, hotels, environmental health, marketing, product development, airlines, journalism, health care agencies, institutional management, the armed forces, teaching and running your own business.





Music

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs R Jankinson
 Email - jankinsonr@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Music
 Board - AQA
 Code - 8271

Assessment of Course:

Understanding Music - 40%

External Exam

Section A - Listening (68 marks)

Section B - Contextual Understanding (28 marks)

Performing Music - 30%

Internal Assessment – Practical Coursework

1. Solo performance (36 marks)

2. Ensemble Performance (36 marks)

Composing Music - 30%

Internal Assessment – Practical Coursework

1 Composition to a set brief (36 marks)

2 Free composition (36 marks)

Course Content:

“Music is an essential part of everything we do. It has an abstract quality which speaks to a Worldwide audience in a way that nourishes the soul. If you can speak in the language of music, you can communicate with anybody.”

Jim Henson

Why should I study Music?

- You enjoy playing or making music
- You are interested in how music is made
- You like making up your own music
- You want to study music at a higher level
- You play an instrument or enjoy singing

Music is a creative and valuable subject. It is accessible to all students who enjoy creating music and who play an instrument or enjoy singing. It is a well-regarded GCSE which will enable you to go on to study either Music or Music Technology at a higher level. The skills developed will benefit you in many areas, such as building your confidence, working in a team and exploring your creativity. Music is the universal language – come and learn how to speak it effectively.





BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs S Hodge

Email - hodges@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts
Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

You are continually assessed throughout the course through assignment based project work. Although the course is primarily vocational and practical in nature you will need to develop and use research, presentation and written skills.

Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded a BTEC First Award in Performing Arts.

This is a fully recognised national qualification equivalent to one GCSE grade 1-9.



Course Content:

The BTEC First Award in Performing Arts offers an introduction to the Performing Arts Business and to the disciplines and commitment required to work in the Performing Arts industry. It is centred on the development of vocational skills in a professional environment. It also provides an excellent basis for further education and development. The classes are assignment and workshop based and will provide students with opportunities to develop a range of skills which are equally valuable in areas of employment other than the Performing Arts Industries.

You will complete three components:

- Exploring the Performing Arts
- Developing Skills and Techniques in Performing Arts
- Responding to a Brief

With BTEC, you'll be assessed throughout the course, on a range of assignments, rather than in one final exam. BTECs let you present your work in a way that suits your style and makes the best of what you produce. For example through audio and video, through journals and log books and through live performances.

If you are interested in building your confidence in drama, dance or music, if you would like to discover if performing arts is a career option for you in the future, if you like working in a professional environment creating productions and performances or if you like the sense of working in a team, communicating ideas and feelings, expressing emotions and attitudes then the BTEC First Award in Performing Arts may be the course for you.



Physical Education GCSE (Sports Science)

Subject Staff Leader - Mr M McMeeking
Email - mcmeeekingm@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Physical Education
Board - AQA
Code - 8582

Assessment of Course:

The course is 40% practical and 60% theory. Candidates are assessed in a range of practical activities and the best combination of marks are submitted. There are two 1¼ hour exam taken at the end of the course.

- Human Body and Movement 30% of GCSE. 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Social Cultural Influences and Well-being 30% of GCSE. 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Practical Performance. 40% of GCSE.



Course Content:

You must be fit, we regret that students with long term injuries are not eligible for this course.

You must have shown a commitment to physical education in Y7-Y9 and willingness to take part in extra curricular sport either in or outside of school. Students must be prepared to perform in individual and team sports to comply with the new practical assessment.

Students practical performance in Y7-Y9 will determine their suitability on the course as 3 strong practical grades (at least three x 6+ grades) are required to fulfil the significant practical element of the course worth 40%.

Theory includes

Health fitness and well being applied anatomy and physiology.

Movement analysis physical training.

Use of data.

Sports psychology.

Social cultural influences.

Factors that effect performance.

Practical includes

A range of practical activities are studied from activities such as football, netball, athletics, swimming and trampolining. You can also be assessed in activities that you participate in outside school, for example, horse riding or skiing. Three activities count towards your final mark.

Into the future:

- You can go on to do AS/A Level Physical Education
- You can go on to Level 2 and Level 3 vocational courses in Physical Education, Sport or Leisure
- Work in the leisure industry
- Armed forces and the police

This subject can be taken at A Level without having studied it at GCSE.



Religious Studies

Subject Staff Leader - Ms B Lee

Email - leeb@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Religious Studies A
 Board - AQA
 Code - 405002 / 405009

Assessment of Course:

Two Units

- Two written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))
- Each 50% of GCSE

Course Content:

In this GCSE course we focus on Christianity and Islam.

We discuss and debate a range of ethical issues that are all relevant to society today as well as the key beliefs and teachings and practices of each religion. Students should not choose Religious Studies just to cover the ethical topics as this is only 50% of the course. There is an in depth study of the religious motivations and practises of both Muslim and Christian believers.

All study concentrates on developing skills of analysis and academic enquiry and requires students to be able to write in an extended manner.

Paper 1 - Christianity and Islam:

Islam

Key beliefs: Nature of God/ Life after Death
 Authority: Holy books and prophet hood
 Worship: The Five Pillars and prayer
 Duties: Pilgrimage of Hajj and Jihad
 Festivals: commemorations and their importance for Muslims in Great Britain today

Christianity

Key beliefs: Nature of God and heaven and hell
 Jesus Christ and Salvation: Crucifixion and sin
 Worship and festivals: Use of the bible and prayer and a comparison of Christian festivals and pilgrimage.
 The role of the Church in the local and wider community: Food banks, street pastors and looking at a Christian aid group.

Paper 2 - Christianity and Islam: Thematic Studies

Relationships and families

Topics include: Contraception/ Sexual relationships before marriage/ Homosexual relationships/ Family planning/ Gender discrimination

Religion and life

Topics include: Abortion/ Euthanasia/ Animal experimentation/ Origins of the universe/ Value of human life

Religion, peace and conflict

Violence/ Weapons of mass destruction/ Pacifism/ Terrorism/ Forgiveness/ Holy War

Religion, crime and punishment

Corporal punishment/ Death penalty/ Forgiveness/ Causes and aims of crime and Punishment

Religious Studies is ideally suited to careers in medicine, law, journalism, politics, philosophy and any career related to dealing with people.

Oxford University says, "We are looking for students who have the ability to think, can formulate ideas, and be questioning — intellectual skills. RS provides these in abundance."



Spanish

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs I Munoz

Email - munozi@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - GCSE Spanish
Board - Edexcel

Assessment of Course:

The language is assessed through examination at the end of the course.

- Paper 1 listening 25%
- Paper 2 speaking 25%
- Paper 3 reading 25%
- Paper 4 writing 25%

Topics and themes covered:

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



Course Content:

- Planning to go to uni?
- Want better job prospects?
- Interested in other cultures?
- Want to become a better communicator?
- Enjoy making new friends?
- Want to travel?
- Planning to teach in primary schools?

THEN YOU SHOULD BE CONTINUING WITH A LANGUAGE!!!

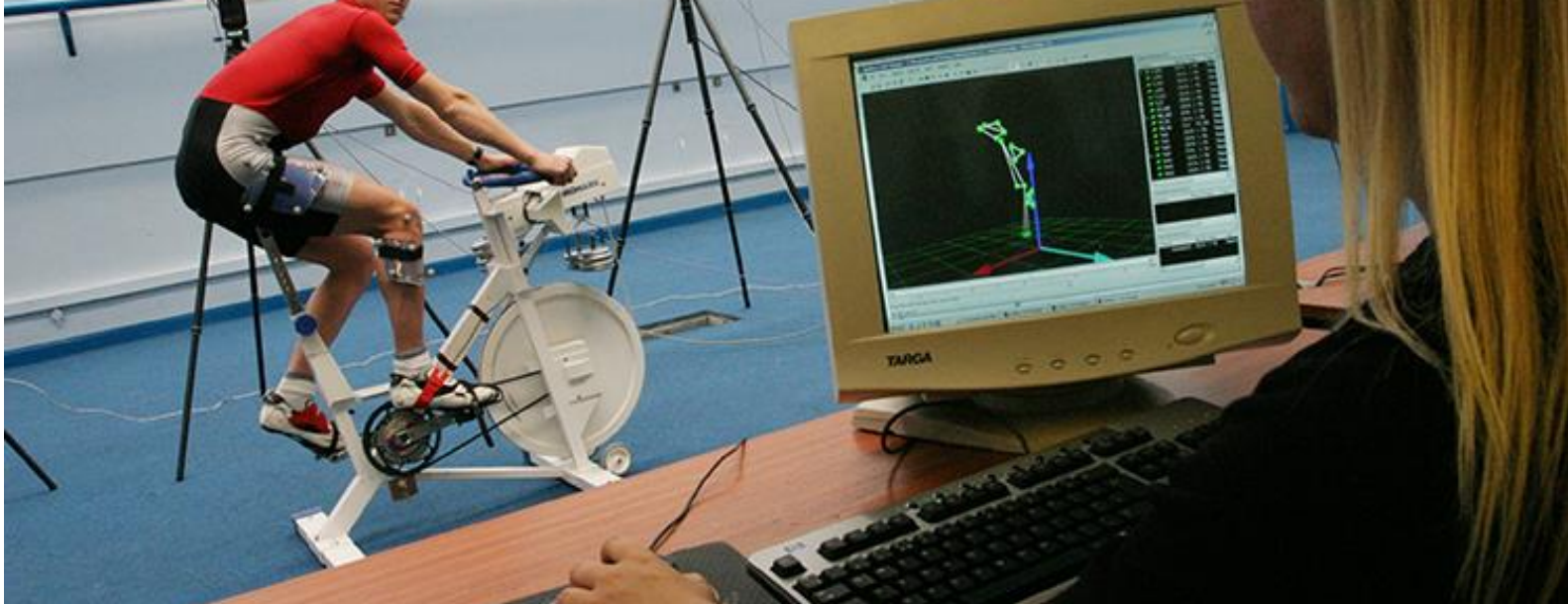
Keeping up a language will help in the future, if you want to learn other Western or Eastern European languages. Not only that, but you'll be a great asset to your employer.

In any environment, speaking a language can open the door to a whole new world! Whether on holiday, meeting people at work, socialising or discovering other cultures, your language skills will widen your horizons, create new opportunities and increase your appreciation of what's out there. Not only that, it's likely you'll be paid more too! According to recruitment agencies, salary uplift for those using languages at work can be anything from 8-20%! We live in a multilingual world and British companies are increasingly aware of the advantages of hiring young people with language skills. We can no longer rely on the reassuring motion that 'everyone speaks English', because 75% of the world does not!

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"Language skills are the key to success in today's globalised job markets."



Sport Studies – OCR Cambridge National

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs R Brennan
Email - brennanr@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:

Name - Cambridge National Sport Studies
Board - OCR

Assessment of Course:

This course is 25% examination based and 75% coursework based. The external assessment will be sat in January and is made up of a range of multiple choice, short and extended answer questions. The coursework element requires the learner to complete a wide range of assessments focusing on different aspects of sport. These will include; ICT and written, oral, essays, questionnaires, practical, video.



Course Content:

This sports based course gives you the opportunity to complete an examination (25%), and assignments (75%) based on activities in realistic situations, linked to working in the sport and leisure industry. It will give you a good feel for what it will be like to work within the industry as well as developing your practical, communication, ICT and teamwork skills. This level 2 qualification can result in achievement at 2 levels, level 1 and level 2.

This qualification comprises of 4 separate units.

- R051 (Contemporary Issues) - 1 x external assessment (One hour written paper)

3 x coursework/ internally assessed units.

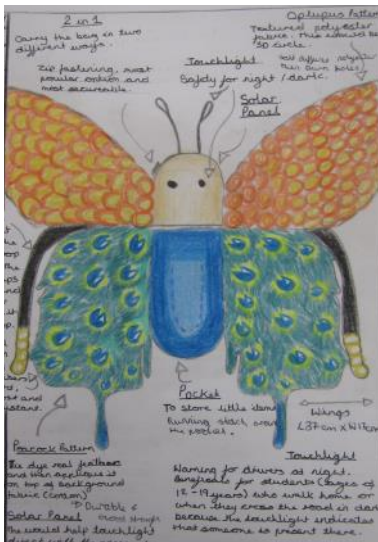
- R052 (Developing Sports Skills)
- R053 (Sports Leadership)
- R054 (Sport and the Media)

Entry requirements

You must have an interest in sport and a basic level of fitness. The course is examination and coursework based and requires the submission of several assignments, therefore independent learning and excellent organisation is crucial. Learners will be expected to bring their PE kit to all lessons and compete to the best of their ability.

Where does this lead?

- Progression onto KS5 Sports based courses
- Careers within the sports/ leisure industry
- Careers within the sports coaching/ teaching sectors



Textile Design - GCSE

Subject Staff Leader - Mrs P Lane
Email - lanep@ridgewayschool.com

Specification:
Board - AQA

There are two components:

Component 1 Portfolio:
A Coursework portfolio which includes a sustained project developed in response to a theme, task or brief and a selection of further work completed during the two year course.

Component 2 Externally set assignment:
A portfolio and final piece with the starting point chosen from a selection set by the exam board. It includes a 10 hour practical exam.

Assessment of Course:

Component 1: Portfolio
Assessed across 4 Objectives with total marks of 96. Worth 60% of the final GCSE grade. Set and marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit.

Component 2: Externally set assignment
Assessed across 4 Objectives with total marks of 96 and includes 10 hours of supervised exam time. Worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. Set by AQA, marked by the school and moderated by AQA during a visit.

Course Content:

This qualification is intended for students interested in using textiles in a practical way. Students will make a range of products, and samples using traditional skills and modern technologies. They will gain an understanding of commercial practice and potential career opportunities in the fashion and textiles industries.

Textile Design will give students the opportunity to design products from woven, knitted, stitched, printed and decorated textiles.

- Areas of study include:
- Fashion design and illustration
 - Costume design
 - Constructed textiles
 - Printed, dyed and decorated textiles
 - Digital textiles

The skills and knowledge gained will allow students to progress to a range of Level 3 courses or an apprenticeship in a related area of employment.

It opens the door to lots of exciting careers. Here are some of them: Fashion Design, Interior Design, Fashion and Colour Consultancy, Fashion Journalism, Textile Buying, Textile Research, Theatre Design, Retail Management.

It develops transferable skills in problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, teamwork and communication that will be of value no matter what career is chosen.





A Few Hints From Sixth Form...

You may think it a bit strange to find a page about the Sixth Form in your GCSE options booklet! I mean why think about what you hope to do post-16 when you haven't even decided on which GCSEs to take! Well it's not so strange because what you might want to do in the future may influence your choice of GCSE! For example, if you think you might be interested in becoming a doctor, dentist or vet, you will need to take sciences and maths and be pretty certain you will get grades 8 or 9 in all of your GCSEs. If you are thinking about Law then you will certainly need English Literature or History. A foreign language is useful too. In fact, taking the EBacc subjects will keep your options open as it makes sure you have a wide range of subjects and should not close any doors to later study.


So you should think way ahead; if you have a specific career in mind or think you might be interested in studying at university, you should:


- Look at careers web-sites to see what degree courses you might like to follow.
- From this, you should identify typical entry qualifications and experience, including GCSEs and 'A' Levels, required to gain access to the profession or degree, and ensure your GCSE choices don't restrict you.
- Look at this link which gives you an overview of which qualifications you need to study certain subjects at university informedchoices.ac.uk

Is this blowing your mind? Don't panic! Help is at hand!

So how can  help?

Well we can help you choose the subjects that are right for you! Take a look at our stand or visit the Sixth Form area to find out more and ask any questions!

 offers a unique package for post-16 education:

- Courses that are tailor made for you!
- Teachers who know you well!
- Excellent pastoral care from a dedicated Sixth Form team!
- A fantastic environment for everyone, with our dedicated Study Centre and  Café!



Year 9 Option Choices 2020

Name:

Mentor Group:

Your subjects will include

English
Language

English
Literature

Maths

Science

Core PE**

You can choose ONE option from the following subjects

French
Geography

German
History

Spanish
Computer Science

Option 1

Choose a further TWO subjects from the list below

Art & Design **or** Textiles

Music

Drama

Technical Award in Graphic
Design

Children's Learning &
Development

French

German

Spanish

History

Geography

Religious Studies

BTEC Engineering

Computer Science

Business Studies **or** Economics
or Enterprise & Marketing

GCSE PE **or** Sports Studies

Hospitality & Catering

Choice 1

Choice 2

Please identify a fourth option below, this will be your **RESERVE** option choice (**Mandatory**)

**There is an opportunity to study an additional GCSE during Core PE.

Students can do Core PE (non-examined PE) or use the time to study GCSE PE or BTEC Performing Arts.

Please identify in the boxes below how you would like to use your Core PE time.

Core PE

GCSE PE

BTEC Tech Award in
Performing Arts

***To study PE in Core or Economics, you need to be predicted a 6 or above in Maths.**

CPA students can choose an option subject that they have not studied in Year 9.

Please return your form to your Mentor by Monday 10th February 2020



If you have any questions or concerns about your option choices please contact Mr M Wakefield on wakefieldm@ridgewayschool.com or if it is with regard to specific courses offered in this booklet please contact the course leader:

| Course | Course Leader | Course leader contact details |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Art and Design | Mrs H Watts | wattsh@ridgewayschool.com |
| Business | Mr J Edwards | edwardsj@ridgewayschool.com |
| Cambridge National Level 2 Child Development | Mrs K Gray | grayk@ridgewayschool.com |
| Computer Science | Mr G Mitchell | mittchellg@ridgewayschool.com |
| Drama | Mrs S Hodge | hodges@ridgewayschool.com |
| Economics | Mr J Edwards | edwardsj@ridgewayschool.com |
| Engineering - Technical Award | Miss L Hodge | hodgel@ridgewayschool.com |
| English Language | Mrs H Siebenaller | siebenallerh@ridgewayschool.com |
| English Literature | Mrs H Siebenaller | siebenallerh@ridgewayschool.com |
| Enterprise and Marketing | Mr J Edwards | edwardsj@ridgewayschool.com |
| GCSE Textile Design | Mrs P Lane | lanep@ridgewayschool.com |
| Hospitality and Catering | Mrs K Stamp | stampk@ridgeewayschool.com |
| French | Mrs I Beaurain | beauraini@ridgewayschool.com |
| Geography | Miss A Curtis-Slater | slatera@ridgewayschool.com |
| German | Mr J Robertson | robertsonj@ridgewayschool.com |
| History | Mr J Bister | bisterj@ridgewayschool.com |
| Mathematics | Mrs C Horton | hortonc@ridgewayschool.com |
| Music | Mrs R Jankinson | jankinsonr@ridgewayschool.com |
| BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts | Mrs S Hodge | hodges@ridgewayschool.com |
| Physical Education GCSE | Mr M McMeeking | mcmeeekingm@ridgewayschool.com |
| Religious Studies | Ms B Lee | leeb@ridgewayschool.com |
| Science | Mr T Pittaway | pittawayt@ridgewayschool.com |
| Spanish | Mrs I Munoz | munoz@ridgewayschool.com |
| Sport Studies - OCR National Cambridge | Mrs R Brennan | brennanr@ridgewayschool.com |
| Technical Award in Graphic Design | Mrs P Lane | lanep@ridgewayschool.com |



...Inspiring learners for their future through a vibrant, innovative and supportive environment where students develop resourcefulness, resilience, responsibility and are challenged to take risks in order to succeed.



The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form, Inverary Road, Wroughton,
Swindon, Wiltshire SN4 9DJ Tel: 01793 846100

James Povoas, Principal

Proud to be a part of The White Horse Federation Multi-Academy Trust