



South  
Nottinghamshire  
Academy

Year 9

# Options

Subject Information Booklet



Thursday 5th March 2026

[www.southnottinghamshireacademy.org.uk](http://www.southnottinghamshireacademy.org.uk)

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Equality and Achievement



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# Key Stage 4 Curriculum Overview

All pupils will continue to study English, Mathematics and Science in Years 10 and 11 and have periods of Physical Education (PE) and Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) short course.

Most pupils will study a full curriculum of nine GCSE subjects, five core subject GCSEs alongside up to four chosen option subjects.

## Core Curriculum at KS4

- English (two GCSEs in English Language and English Literature)
- Mathematics GCSE
- Science Trilogy - equivalent of two GCSEs (pupils selecting triple science option will study separate GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (GCSE short course—examined in Year 10)
- Recreational PE (non-examined)

The remainder of the curriculum will come from FOUR additional GCSE options.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE), sex and relationships education and careers are an important part of our Key Stage 4 curriculum and will be delivered in tutor time and at other points throughout the year.



# Available Subjects

We are delighted to offer a wide range of options subjects this academic year that cater for all learners and abilities. A full range of academic and vocational qualifications is listed below.

GCSE Business	GCSE Music
GCSE Computer Science*	GCSE Physical Education
GCSE Design & Technology	GCSE Psychology
GCSE Drama	GCSE Sociology
GCSE Fine Art	GCSE Spanish*
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	GCSE Triple Science*
GCSE Geography*	NCFE Child Development and Care
GCSE History*	NCFE Health and Fitness
GCSE Media Studies	

**PLEASE NOTE: ONLY OPTIONS CLASSES WITH VIABLE PUPIL NUMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO RUN.**

## Starred Subjects

\*Computer Science\*, Geography\*, History\*, Spanish\* and Triple Science\*

These subjects are recognised as EBacc contributing subjects by the Department for Education alongside Science Trilogy (which is worth two GCSES). All students must study at least three of these subjects as part of the Progress 8 measure which is used by the government to measure school performance across the UK.

While students have been given open choice this year, we do expect ALL students to select AT LEAST ONE starred subject within their top four subjects and AT LEAST two subjects within their top 6. All students will be allocated AT LEAST one of these subjects within their confirmed subjects.

You are able to select up to six starred subject within your list and as a minimum, there should be two identified on your form.

# Vocational Courses

Each of the vocational courses offered in this booklet is the equivalent of a full GCSE. They are graded slightly differently but are valued as equal to GCSE subjects in terms of grades and entry to sixth form and colleges.

Features of vocational courses vary but commonly:

- Have a much higher weighting on coursework than traditional GCSE subjects (up to 60%)
- Coursework is completed across the whole course study rather than at end
- There is less reliance on pupil performance in final exams in securing the final grade
- This type of course can be more suitable for pupils who may prefer project work and coursework to studying for exams.

*Please read the curriculum booklet and speak to staff on the options evening to find out specific information about our vocational courses.*

# The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc includes core subjects such as English, mathematics, sciences, a language and a humanity (such as history or geography). The EBacc bucket subjects refer to the specific categories within the EBacc that students must choose from to fulfil the requirements. Studying a humanity and a language like Spanish as part of the EBacc offers several benefits. It ensures students receive a well-rounded education, developing critical thinking, cultural awareness, and communication skills. A broad curriculum choice is important as it allows students

to explore diverse fields, discover their interests, and build a strong foundation for various career paths. This comprehensive approach to education helps students become more adaptable and better prepared for the challenges of the future.

In past years, we have directed student to the EBacc pathway and made humanity and language study compulsory. There is no longer this requirement but we do strongly encourage students to consider this pathway and the breadth of both curriculum and learning provided by these subjects.

## The EBacc Combination of Subjects

English	Maths	Science	Language	Humanity
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# Selecting Subjects

This year, we are implementing an open choice options process. The option blocks will be generated after all forms are received.

The benefits of this method include a curriculum that better reflects pupil demand. Popular subjects become more viable, and without pre-set blocks, there are fewer restrictions on pupil choices and combinations. The blocks are created based on a 'best fit' model for all pupils.

However, the drawback of this 'best fit' model is that it is nearly impossible to accommodate 100% of every child's option combinations (typically around 80% of total combination choices can be met).

Year 9 pupils should rank their courses in order of preference on the options form, including two reserve choices. This ranking is crucial as it will be used to determine choices if there are clashes or if courses cannot be run.



## Making Six Choices

All pupils must choose two reserve choices in addition to their four main choices. It is important that all choices are ranked from one to six and considered carefully.

While we will do our best to accommodate all choices, the reality is that choices need to fit within our timetable. This means there will inevitably be some subject clashes and some courses that are oversubscribed.

## Ranking Choices and Tips

You must rank your choices to ensure your preferences are considered in the event of scheduling conflicts. The favourite subject should be at the top of the list. Additionally, you must pick at least one starred subject within their top four choices and at least two in their overall list. All students will be allocated at least one starred subject.

Challenges students may face include difficulty in deciding which subjects to prioritise and managing the pressure of making the right choices. To help with this, students should:

- ✓ Reflect on their interests and strengths.
- ✓ Consider future career aspirations.
- ✓ Seek advice from teachers and parents.
- ✓ Research the content and requirements of each subject.
- ✓ Think about how subjects complement each other.

# Guidance for Choosing Options

## Do:

- ✓ Read the Options booklet carefully. It is full of useful information to help guide your decisions
- ✓ Visit department areas throughout the Options Evening to discuss with teachers and find out more information about each course
- ✓ Spend some time discussing your choices with your parents or guardians
- ✓ Choose subjects that you are interested in—you will be studying them for the next two years
- ✓ Think about what skills you have and the subjects you are currently doing the best in
- ✓ Select a broad choice of subjects—don't make your choices too similar. A BROAD and BALANCED curriculum is best and will give you the best opportunities in the future
- ✓ Ask for advice if you need it—Heads of House and SLT are available all evening and over the coming weeks
- ✓ Consider what you may wish to study after your GCSEs. Some A-levels, particularly the more academic subjects will require you to have a GCSE in the subject

## Don't:

- ✗ Pick subjects just because your friends are choosing them—there is no guarantee you would end up in the same class
- ✗ Don't pick subjects because you like the teacher—or equally because you dislike your current teacher



Once you have made your decision, you need to complete the Options form and return it to school.  
If your choices can not be met, you will be allocated one of your reserve choices.

The deadline for submission of options forms to Reception is  
**Monday 16th March 2026**

Spare forms can be collected from Reception

# KS4 Core Curriculum







# GCSE Science and Triple Science



**There are two pathways available to pupils studying Science:**

- All pupils will study a Science Trilogy course— a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics units— worth the equivalent of two full GCSEs.
- In addition, some pupils may opt for Triple Science as one of their four option choices. This allows pupils to study towards three separate science GCSEs— GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. All of the science trilogy content is taught in the triple pathway with some additional units added in each of the three disciplines.

Teaching staff will advise on the appropriate pathway for each pupil, based on past performance, effort and attitude.

- Pupils on Combined Science courses will have ten periods per fortnight of Science lessons
- Pupils on Triple Science pathways will have fifteen periods per fortnight of Science lessons

All GCSE Science courses will be linear in nature, meaning that all examinations will be taken at the end of the course.

## Triple Science Option - GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Pupils who follow this pathway will achieve three separate GCSEs in Science.

This pathway is suitable for able and motivated pupils who have a keen interest in science, and who wish to develop their understanding to a higher level. It is designed to stretch and challenge our most able pupils by providing them with a greater range and depth of science to prepare them for A-level Science study.

The course is assessed through six, 1 hour and 45 minute long exams (two in each of the science disciplines). All exams will be taken in the summer of year 11.

**To study Triple Science, you must select Triple Science as one of the four options on your form.**



*To find out more about GCSE pathways in Science, please speak to Mrs Lambourne or your Science teacher.*

# GCSE Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (Short Course)



In Year 10 all pupils study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics and will work towards a short course GCSE qualification in their weekly PRE lesson.

## Content

**The course consists of two parts:**

- The study of Christianity and Islam; their relationship with the modern world and issues surrounding religious belief/non-belief (50% of final qualification).
- Philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world including; relationships, issues surrounding life and death such as belief/non-belief in the afterlife, ethical issues such as abortion and euthanasia, the nature of good, evil and suffering, and the importance of human rights and social justice (50% of final qualification).

They will gain essential skills in what it means to live in a multi-cultural society and will be encouraged to explore religious and non-religious viewpoints to come to their own critical conclusions (both religious and atheist points of view are equally valued and respected in this subject).

## Assessment

- Four topics are examined at the end of two years of study in Year 10.
- The qualification is 100% exam based.

*To find out more about PRE, please talk to Mr Richardson (Head of History and RS).*

# KS4 Options Subjects



# GCSE Business

## Why study GCSE Business Studies?

Business is everywhere. Think about the last item you bought—how did it get to you? From the raw materials and manufacturing process to marketing and finance, countless businesses were involved in making that purchase possible.

Understanding how businesses operate and what makes them successful gives you a huge advantage in the world of work, whether you want to start your own business or work for a major company.

This course will help you develop problem-solving, decision-making, and analytical skills, which are highly valued in all careers.

## Assessment

The Edexcel GCSE Business course is assessed through **two externally examined papers** at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: Investigating Small Business (50%)

- Covers business concepts, finance, marketing, and human resources in the context of small businesses.

Paper 2: Building a Business (50%)

- Focuses on expanding businesses, strategic decision-making, and external business influences.

Both exams include a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended case study questions to assess your understanding of real-world business scenarios.

## Course Content

This exciting and valuable qualification will help you understand key aspects of business, including:

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship – How businesses start and grow.
- External Influences on Business – The impact of economic and legal factors.
- Business Finance – Managing money, break-even, and profit.
- Marketing Strategies – How businesses promote and sell their products.



- Operations Management – How goods and services are produced.
- Human Resources – Managing people and recruitment.

This course is up-to-date and highly relevant, developing the business knowledge, practical skills, communication, and teamwork abilities needed for a wide range of careers.

## What Next?

GCSE Business provides a strong foundation for further study, leading to: A-Level Business or A-Level Economics and Apprenticeships in Business, Marketing, or Finance. Whether you want to start your own business or work in areas such as finance, marketing, retail, management, or entrepreneurship, this course will give you the essential skills and knowledge to succeed.

*If you want to find out more about this qualification, to help you decide whether it's right for you, talk to Mr Melfi or another member of the ICT and Business Department.*

# GCSE Computer Science



## Why study GCSE Computer Science?

Computer Science is a very practical subject – you will be able to use the knowledge and skills you learn in the classroom on real-world problems. It's also a highly creative subject that calls on you to be inventive. Computer Science opens doors to your future. This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. You'll also do some fascinating in-depth research and practical work. For example, some of the current investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.

### What will you gain from this course?

- Valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace.

- A deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating efficient solution.
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand.
- A good grounding in mainstream computing theory and understanding.

## What Next?

The GCSE (9-1) Computer Science is effective preparation for a range of qualifications including: A Level Computer Science and many vocational qualifications that offer an alternative to A Levels for pupils aged 16+. It also provides a good grounding for other subject areas that require problem solving and analytical skills.

Computer Systems Component 1	Algorithms and Programming Systems Component 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How processors work</li><li>• Investigate computer memory and storage</li><li>• Explore modern network layouts and how they function</li><li>• Build skills in cyber security</li><li>• How types of software are used within computer systems</li><li>• How computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fundamental algorithms in computer science</li><li>• Programming techniques</li><li>• Produce programs through diagrams thoroughly test programs and make them resistant to misuse</li><li>• Explore Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT)</li><li>• Understand how we store data within computers in binary form.</li></ul>

## Assessment

There are two exam papers at the end of the syllabus, one focusing on computer systems and one with a focus on computational thinking, algorithms and programming. Each paper lasts 1.5 hours and is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

*If you want to find out more about this qualification, to help you decide whether it's right for you, talk to Mr Melfi or another member of the ICT and Business Department.*

# GCSE Design & Technology

## Why study GCSE Design & Technology?

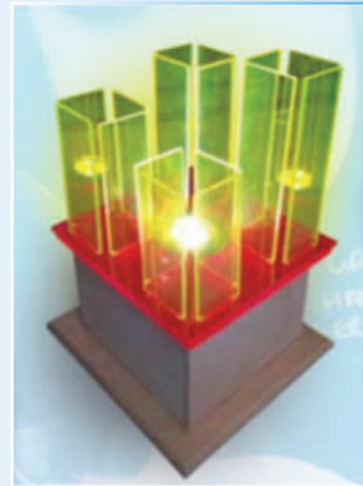
The course seeks to prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on Design and Technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

The GCSE in Design and Technology will enable you to understand and apply an iterative design processes through which you will explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. This course will enable you to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants and values.

This qualification will also provide opportunities for you to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including Mathematics, Science, Art and Design, Computing and the Humanities.

## Course Content

- Real-world contexts, representing contemporary issues and concerns
- Focus on needs, wants and values of individuals and groups, leading pupils to address problems and/or opportunities
- Critical evaluation of new and emerging technologies
- Developments in modern and smart materials, composite materials and technical textiles
- How electronic systems provide functionality to products and processes
- Types and properties of the following materials: including paper and board, timber, metals, plastics and textiles.



## Assessment

- 50% assessment through written examination
- 50% through a design and make portfolio

## What Next?

This course naturally leads to A-Level Design and Technology: Product Design at Sixth Form or into other Level 3 qualifications.

*Contact Mrs Hall, Head of Art and Technology for more information.*

# GCSE Drama

## Course Content

Pupils follow the Edexcel Drama specification that is divided into three components. Each component is assessed in a different way including the assessment of live performance work.

**As part of this GCSE you are required to perform in front of a live audience.**

<b>Component 1: Devising Drama</b>	<b>Component 2: Performing Drama</b>	<b>Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice</b>
<p>You will work as a group to create your very own piece of drama from a stimulus that will be assessed in two ways.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A written portfolio covering the creating and developing process and an evaluation of your involvement in the piece.</li><li>2. You will be assessed on your performance in the devised piece.</li></ol> <p><b>40% of the overall mark.</b></p>	<p>You will explore, rehearse and perform in two contrasting scenes from a selected play.</p> <p><b>A visiting examiner will mark your performance which may be solo, paired or in a group.</b></p> <p><b>20% of the overall mark.</b></p>	<p>You will practically explore a play in class from the point of view of a performer, director and designer. You will also have the opportunity to see a live production at a local theatre which we will analyse and evaluate.</p> <p><b>This is a two part 1 hour and 30 minute written exam.</b></p> <p><b>40% of the overall mark.</b></p>

## What Next?

The GCSE Drama course naturally leads to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies at Sixth Form and University. However, with a developed appreciation of theatre and improved analytical skills any GCSE Drama pupil will be in a great position to rise to the demands of Post 16 English study or any arts – related subject. It is also a course that equips pupils with many transferable skills including critical thinking, communication skills and public speaking.

*Contact Mrs Lang, Head of Drama for more information.*



# GCSE Fine Art



## Why study GCSE Fine Art?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills, improve your analytical communication and research abilities, Art and Design is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. The transferable skills you gain will be valuable in helping you develop problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas. GCSE in Art can show a future employer that you have the ability for creative thinking. The creative industries contribute £60 billion per year to the national economy. Creative industries employ two million people in the UK.

## Course Content

Pupils follow the AQA Fine Art specification exploring a wide range of media through a personalised themed project. Pupils learn to work in both two and three dimensions using materials such as:

- Drawing and painting,
- Printing (lino cutting, mono-printing, dry-point),
- Photography and compositional elements,
- Mixed Media

## Assessment

- **Component 1 Portfolio:**  
Pupils produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60% of your overall marks.
- **Component 2 Externally set assignment:**  
This is a separate externally set task paper set by AQA which features seven starting points in which pupils can choose from to produce a body of work over a 4 month period. Lesson time and homework time is provided with the addition of exam preparation time and ten hours of supervised exam time. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

Homework is an integral part of Art GCSE and must be completed each week. Pupils are expected to research artists work, annotate and evaluate their work in writing.

## What Next?

Progression to A Level Art, Foundation and Degree. Careers in: Art, Advertising, Fashion, Architecture, Film, Illustration, Graphics, Game Design, and much more.

*Contact Mrs Hall, Head of Faculty or your Art teacher for more information.*

# GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition



## Why study GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure pupils develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, diet and health, food provenance and the scientific working characteristics of ingredients in recipes. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing pupils' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition and the science behind our food.

## Course Content

**Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:**

- 1. Food, Nutrition and Health** – Macronutrients, Micronutrients, Nutritional Needs of People, Diet and Health.
- 2. Food Science** – Cooking of food and Heat Transference. Investigating the Working Characteristics and the Functional and Chemical Properties of Food.
- 3. Food Safety** – Food Spoilage, Storage, Handling and Cooking looking at contamination and the Principles of Food Safety.
- 4. Food Choice** – Factors affecting Food Choice, British and International Cuisines, Sensory Evaluation, Food Labelling and Government Schemes.
- 5. Food Provenance – Where our food comes from.** Environmental Impact and Sustainability of Food, Food Processing and Production.

## Assessment

- **Exam:** Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition (50%) Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Non-Exam Assessment:** Task 1: Food investigation (15%) Science based experiment with a written report of findings.
- **Non-Exam Assessment:** Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%). Design and make 3 dishes to a set brief alongside a written portfolio of research and planning. This NEA carries a 3 hour practical exam where all dishes are prepared, cooked and presented.

## What Next?

Studying food preparation and nutrition can lead to exciting and well-paid career options. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. This course could lead you into roles such as a Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer (who travels the world sourcing new food products for manufacturers), Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Home Economist, Hotel and Restaurant Manager, Microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television – for more information on food careers please visit <https://tastycareers.org.uk/>

*Contact Mrs Hall for more information.*

# GCSE Geography

“Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future.”

By Michael Palin

## Why study GCSE Geography?

Studying GCSE Geography provides a comprehensive understanding of critical global issues such as climate change, natural hazards and inequality. Lessons are well delivered, rigorous and delivered by a highly successful department. Geography helps you see the bigger picture, how we fit into both local and global systems. The subject fosters curiosity, debate and evaluative thinking. If you can think like a geographer you have an understanding of diverse cultures, the significance of sustainability and how our natural processes function.

## Course Content

### Physical Geography 35% of the GCSE

#### The challenge of natural hazards:

Volcanoes, earthquakes, extreme weather, climate change.

#### The Living World:

Ecosystems, the Amazon rainforest, the Sahara Desert.

#### Physical landscapes in the UK:

Major uplands, river systems and processes, coastal systems and processes.

### Human Geography 35% of the GCSE

#### Urban issues and challenges:

Megacities, Lagos, London, sustainable urban living.

#### Changing economic world:

Global inequalities in development and wealth. India as an emerging economic power. UK employment and regional differences.

#### Resource management:

Resource supply and demand, globally and in the UK, global food security.

### Geographical applications 30% of the GCSE

Issue analysis

Fieldwork



## Assessment

This Geography GCSE is a linear course, assessment will take place with three examinations at the end of Year 11.

## What Next?

The course is the natural precursor to A level Geography, creating well rounded articulate students confident in their understanding and evaluation of human and physical processes. It teaches highly transferable skills applicable to many other aspects of work and education.

*Contact Mr Hagerty, Head of Geography or your Geography teacher for more information.*

# GCSE History

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, 1905

## Why study GCSE History?

History is an interesting and exciting subject taught by a very successful department. Lessons use a wide variety of thinking skills that are transferable to other areas of the curriculum. History is a thinking, arguing subject based on different kinds of evidence and different points of view. If you find people interesting this is the course for you!

The History course at GCSE is open to anybody who wants to improve their understanding of the world we live in. The ability to think critically and evaluate sources of information is an integral skill you develop that will benefit you in any walk of life. All you need is interest, enthusiasm and the willingness to study hard. This is a subject which requires a large amount of writing and commitment but is highly regarded and applicable in a multitude of disciplines.

## Course Content

This is an exciting History GCSE course which covers a wide range of topics allowing us to look at British and World History over a period of 1000 years.

### Paper 1 Thematic Study and Historic Environment

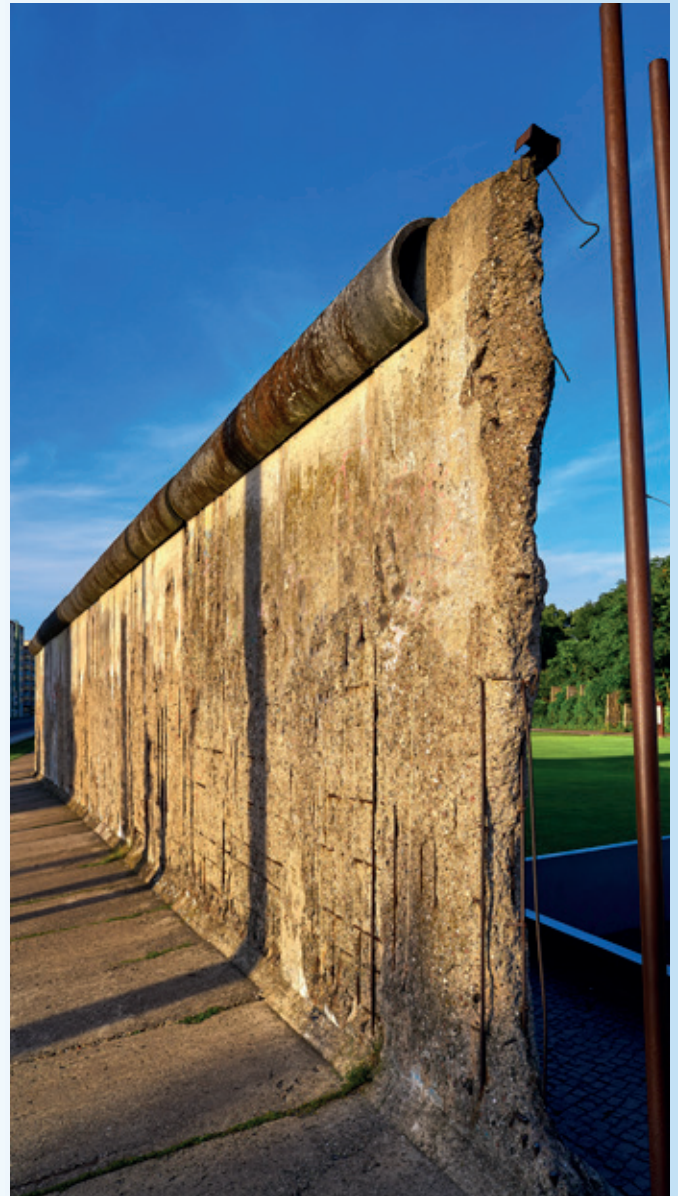
- Medicine in Britain, c1250-present
- The British Sector of the Western Front

### Paper 2 Period Study and British Depth Study

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

### Paper 3 Modern Depth Study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939



## Assessment

This History GCSE is a linear course, so assessment will take place at the end of Year 11.

## What Next?

This course naturally leads to A-Level History but enhances skills required across further Education.

*Contact Mr Richardson (Head of History and RS) or your History teacher for more information.*



# GCSE Music



## Why study GCSE Music?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum). When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that studying creative subjects, such as music, is becoming even more important and relevant to give young people the chance to succeed, whatever job or career you pursue. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing.

Whether you already play an instrument or sing regularly or have simply enjoyed learning an instrument in KS3 lessons, you can develop musical skills which could stay with you for life.

Pupils follow the Eduqas GCSE Music specification that is divided into three components.

<b>Component 1: Performing 30%</b>	<b>Component 2: Composing 30%</b>	<b>Component 3: Appraising 40%</b>
<p>Perform a minimum of two pieces lasting 4-6 minutes.</p> <p>One piece must be an ensemble performance lasting at least 1 minute.</p> <p>You can choose any instrument or voice to perform on.</p>	<p>Compose two pieces:</p> <p>One composition in response to a brief set by Eduqas.</p> <p>One free composition in any style of music.</p>	<p>1 hour 15 minute listening exam with music from four areas of study:</p> <p>Musical forms and devices, music for ensemble, film music and popular music.</p> <p>There are 8 questions in total which assess knowledge and understanding of music. This includes one question on each set work: Badinerie by Bach and Africa by Toto. Most of the questions require short answers or are multiple choice with one extended answer required.</p>
<b>30% of the overall mark.</b>	<b>30% of the overall mark.</b>	<b>40% of the overall mark.</b>

## What Next?

The possibilities are endless. Music will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for. This course leads well into A Level Music, however the skills developed can be beneficial to any course or future career. This course is well suited to any pupil who wishes to develop their musical skills and deepen their musical understanding.

*Contact Mrs Wood, Head of Music for more information.*

# GCSE Physical Education

## Why study GCSE PE?

GCSE PE is aimed to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop their own performance. You will develop your understanding of socio-cultural influences on participation in sport, and the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being. You should have an interest in PE and sport and enjoy being active. You will have the opportunity to become increasingly effective in your performance in a range of team and individual activities.

## Course Content

Students will engage in a range of classroom based and practical lessons to delve deeper into the world of sport and physical activity

The external examinations take place towards the end of the course in Year 11. The theory content is broken down into two sections which are assessed in 2 papers.



### Paper 1

Students explore how parts of the human body function during physical activity and the physiological adaptations that occur due to diet and training. They also develop skills in data analysis, and an understanding of the principles of training, why we train in different ways and how training plans can be made to optimise results.

### Paper 2

Students develop their knowledge of the socio-cultural and psychological influences on levels of participation in sport, and also how sport impacts on society more broadly. This includes the individual benefits to health, fitness and well-being of participating in physical activity, as well as the influences of commercialisation, sponsorship and the media.

Due to the weighting of the course being highly practical, it is strongly advised that all pupils have an interest in playing sports and also attend after school sports clubs or out of school sports clubs to improve their practical ability.

## Assessment

- 60% examination over 2 papers
- 30% practical performance (in 3 sports)
- 10% written analysis of performance

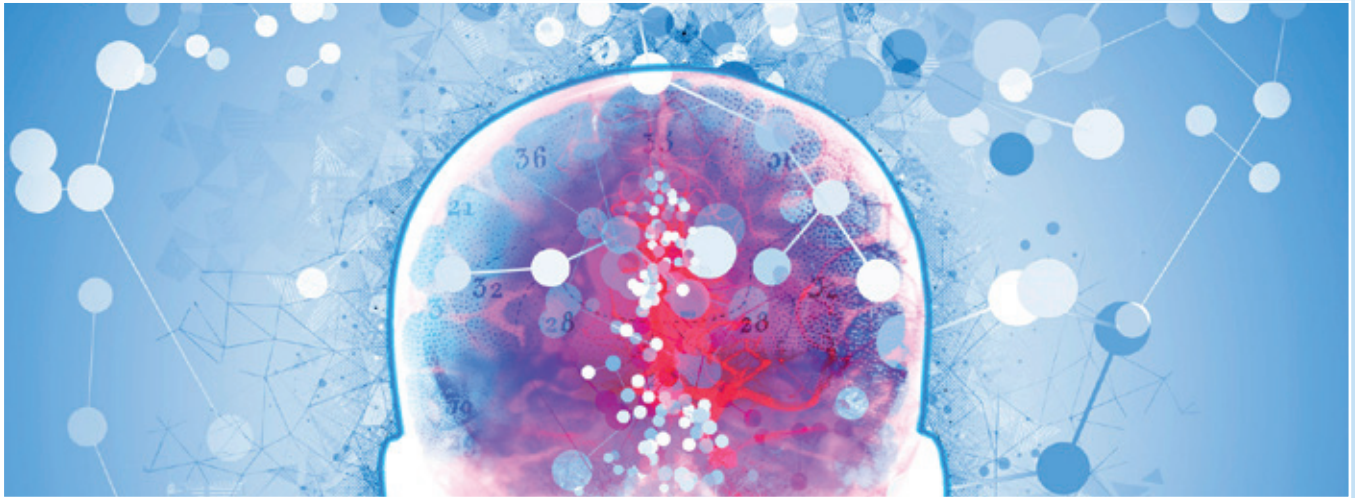
## What Next?

This course naturally leads to A-Level PE or BTEC Level 3 Sport courses in the Sixth Form.

*Contact Mr Dyer, Head of PE or your PE teacher for more information.*



# GCSE Psychology



## Why study GCSE Psychology?

Are you interested in how the mind works? Do you question why people behave the way they do? Do you like Science? If so, then GCSE Psychology may be for you!

## Course Content

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. You will need good Science and Maths skills, as Psychology is very scientific and is based largely on research methods. In each of the above modules you will learn about key studies that have been conducted into that area, as well as how this research can be applied to everyday life.

In this qualification, you will learn about:

- Memory
- Development
- Research methods
- Perception
- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Don't expect to be able to read people's minds or body language by doing GCSE Psychology! You will gain a better understanding of human behaviour by learning about what psychologists have found by doing their research.

## Assessment

This course is assessed 100% by exams. In Year 11 you will sit two exams.

- Each exam lasts 1 hour 45 minutes and are worth 50% each.
- You will be expected to write extended essays in the exam
- At least 10% of the course will test mathematical ability
- At least 20% of the course will test knowledge on research methods (Science knowledge)

## What Next?

This course is good preparation for A Level Psychology and is beneficial for a range of future career paths such as therapy, teaching, research, law, as well as health and social care.

*Contact Mrs Harte Lead Teacher of Psychology, or Mr Hagerty Head of Geography and Social Sciences for more information.*

# GCSE Sociology



## Why study GCSE Sociology?

Sociology is all around us—everyone can relate to it! In GCSE Sociology, you will develop a wide range of knowledge about society and how sociologists' study and understand its structures, processes and issues. Sociology is exciting, interesting and relevant to everyone's lives!

## Course Content

In this course you will cover different topics and learn about the sociology of:

- Key concepts and cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Sociological research methods
- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied methods of social enquiry

For Sociology, you will need good English skills as the course requires you to write essays in the exams.

## Assessment

This course is assessed 100% by exams

- You will sit two exams at the end of Year 11
- Each exam will last 1 hour 45 mins and are each worth 50%

## What Next?

This course is good preparation for A Level Sociology and is beneficial for a range of future career paths such as law, social work, criminology, teaching among many others!

*Contact Mrs Basset Lead Teacher of Sociology, or Mr Hagerty Head of Geography and Social Sciences for more information.*

# GCSE Spanish

## Why study GCSE Spanish?

It may seem that everyone speaks English, but in fact 80% of the world's population doesn't. By taking a language at GCSE you'll have amazing skills and a valuable talent that's applicable to almost everything you do - so, it's quite a handy subject really. A GCSE language builds on what you've already learnt in Years 7 to 9 and you probably know more than you think. Language classes are fun and interactive and you cover things at a slightly quicker pace, but this is good as you'll easily notice the improvements that you make in your foreign language. Plus by taking a GCSE language you don't just learn the language, you get to find out about other people, countries and cultures so it really is an interesting and varied subject.

## Course Content

**Pearson Edexcel GCSE Spanish builds upon what you have been doing in Years 7 to 9.**

- You will develop your communication skills in both writing and speaking.
- You will learn to understand more complex written texts and spoken Spanish.
- You will cover a range of topics including free time activities, sport and healthy living, holidays, customs and festivals and technology.
- You will learn about cultural aspects of Spain and other Spanish speaking countries, including film and music.

## Assessment

Final exams in Year 11 in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, each worth 25% of the overall mark.

## What Next?

This course naturally leads to A-Level Spanish. The ability to speak and understand another language also opens up many career opportunities in the future.

*Contact Miss Baldry, Head of languages or your Spanish teacher for more information.*



# NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care

## Why study Child Development?

The Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care provides learners with the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the sector. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development of children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

## Course Content and Assessment

**Students study a range of topics related to Child Development and Care. These include:**

- Types of settings for early years education
- Roles and responsibilities of early years workers
- Meeting the individual needs of children in an early-years setting
- Child development
- The importance of observation as part of a cycle of observing, assessing and planning
- The importance of routines in a nursery including snack time and outdoor play

**This qualification consists of 3 units:**

- Unit 1 - An introduction to working with children aged 0-5 years
- Unit 2 - Development and well-being 0-5 years
- Unit 3 - Childcare and development 0-5 years



Unit 1 and unit 2 are graded A\*- D. They are externally set but internally marked assessment task (coursework). They make up 50 % of the overall grade.

Unit 3 graded A\*-D, is assessed by an externally set and externally marked synoptic scenario based short answer examination which is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and makes up 50% of the overall grade.

## What Next?

The award will prepare you for level 3 qualifications at school or college. The coursework will help develop independent working and time management skills. This course is suitable for all pupils with an interest in child development.

*If you want to find out more about this qualification, talk to Mrs Hawksworth.*

# Health and Fitness (NCFE Level 2)

## Why study Health and Fitness?

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to health and fitness that includes a vocational and coursework-based element. The qualification will suit learners who wish to pursue a career in the health and fitness sector or progress onto further study. Students will learn how health and fitness involves understanding the functions of the body systems, understanding the principles of training, knowing how the body reacts in the short- and long-term to fitness activities and how to create and apply lifestyle analysis tools to create a fitness programme for a person with specific goals. This course will introduce you to the areas of health and fitness, including the body systems, components of fitness and training programmes. You will apply knowledge of health and fitness to real life examples, learning how to plan, develop and take part in a training programme to improve health and fitness.

## Course Content

- The principles of training and FITT
- How physical activities affect the body in the short and long term
- How relevant fitness test can be used for specific health and skill components of fitness
- Different lifestyle analysis tools and how to apply them
- Creating a health and fitness programme

### The course is broken down into two components:

- Written exam (40%)
- Synoptic coursework project (60%)

## What Next?

Following the completion of this course, pupils could go onto further study of A-Level PE or Level 3 BTEC sport in the sixth form. Alternatively, pupils could progress onto an apprenticeship in the health and fitness sector.

*Contact Mr Dyer, Head of PE or your PE teacher for more information.*

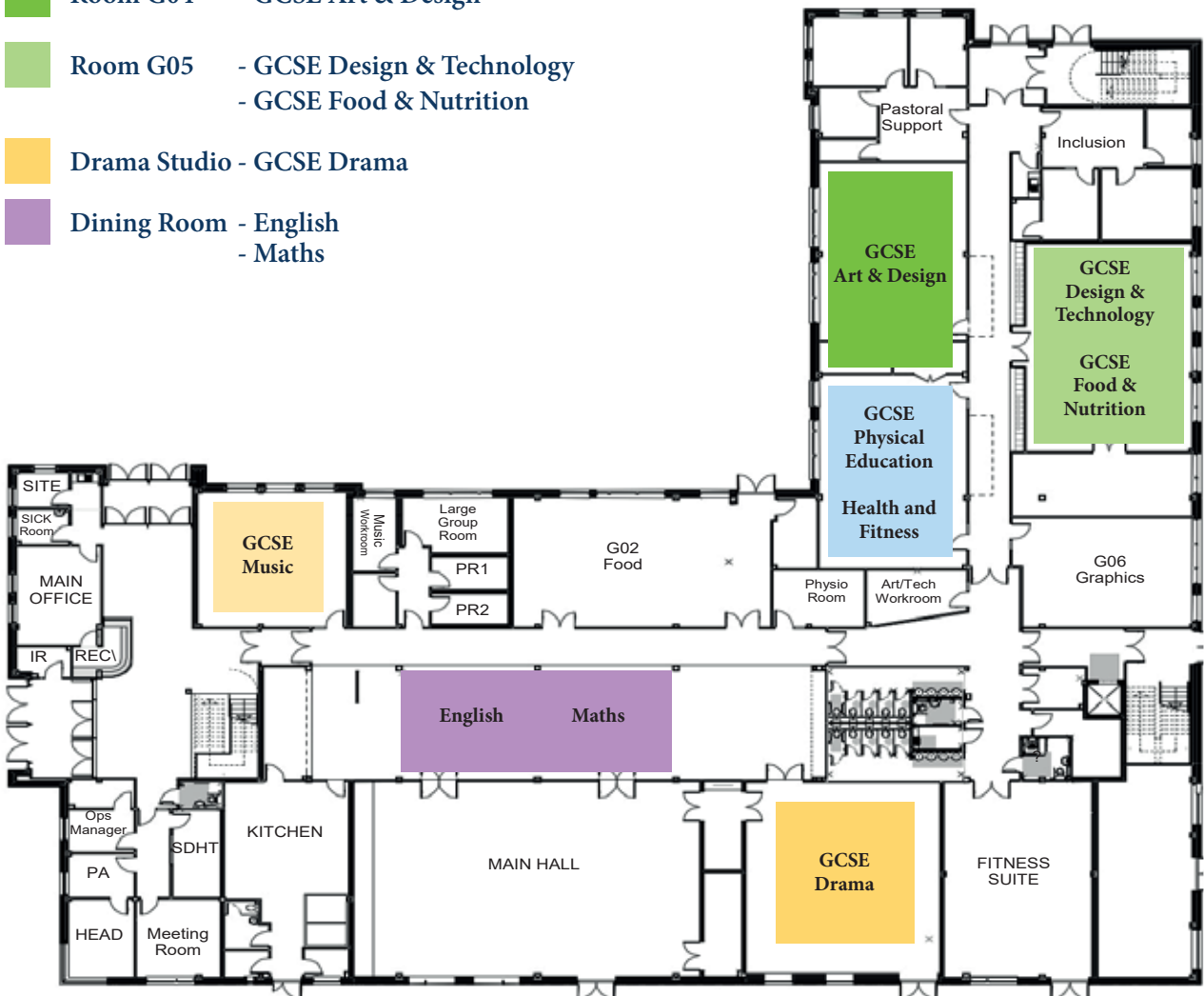


# Location Maps

Locations of all of the subjects being showcased.

## Ground Floor Plan Main Building

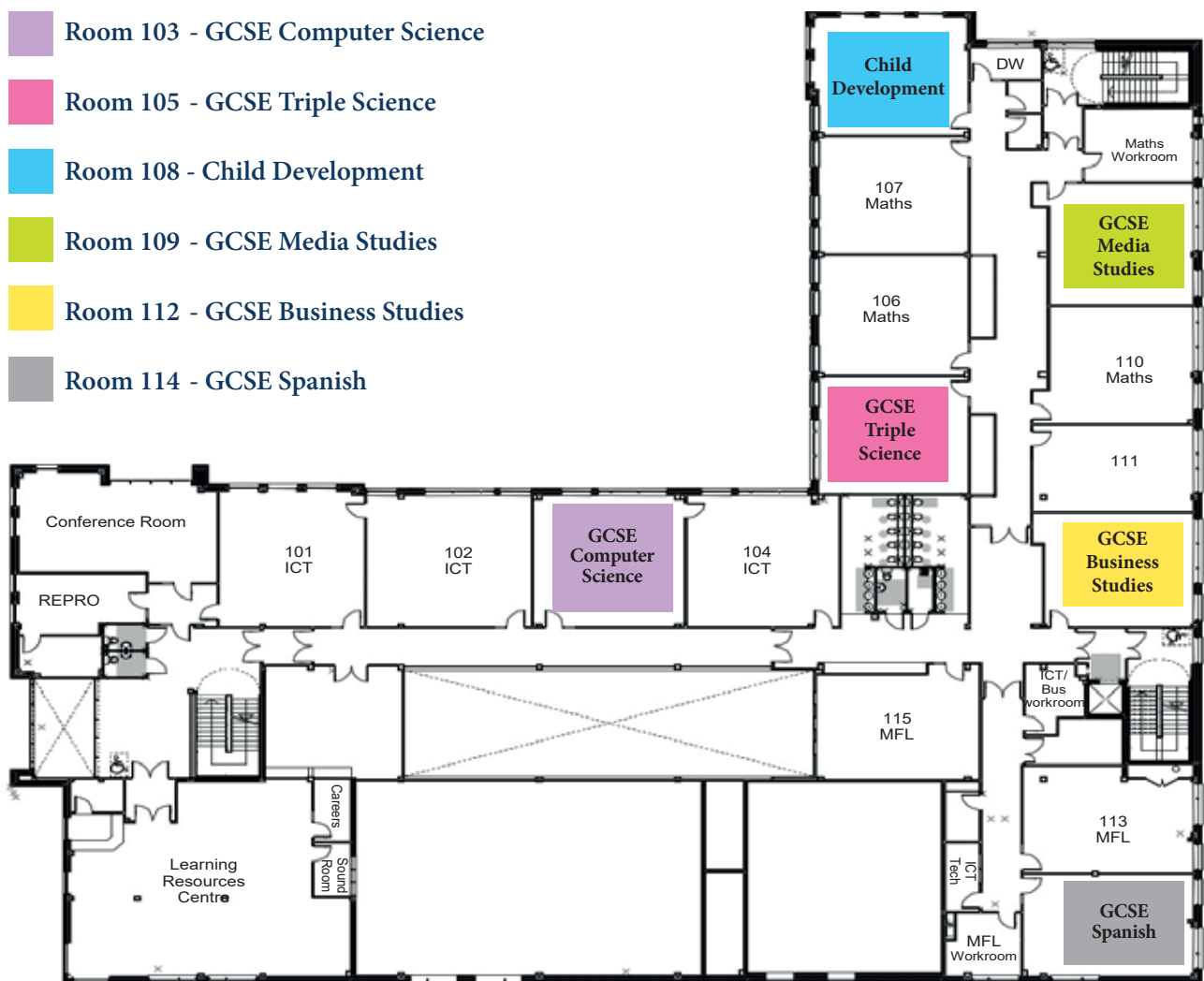
- Room G01 - GCSE Music
- Room G03 - GCSE Physical Education  
- Health and Fitness
- Room G04 - GCSE Art & Design
- Room G05 - GCSE Design & Technology  
- GCSE Food & Nutrition
- Drama Studio - GCSE Drama
- Dining Room - English  
- Maths



# Location Map Main Building




## First Floor Plan

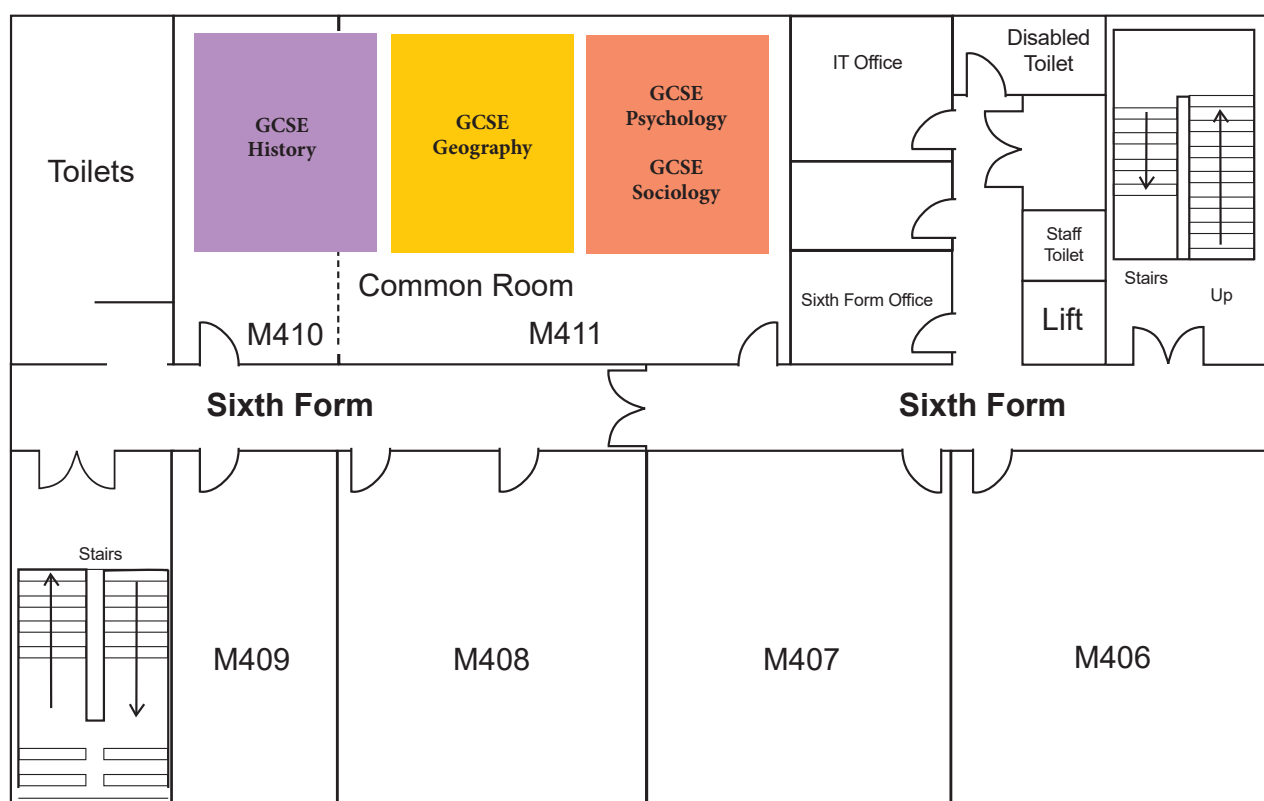
- Room 103 - GCSE Computer Science
- Room 105 - GCSE Triple Science
- Room 108 - Child Development
- Room 109 - GCSE Media Studies
- Room 112 - GCSE Business Studies
- Room 114 - GCSE Spanish



# Location Map Maple Building

## Maple Building First Floor Plan

-  Common Room M410-411 - GCSE History
-  Common Room M410-411 - GCSE Geography
-  Common Room M410-411 - GCSE Psychology and GCSE Sociology













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Academy

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 [Southnottsacademy](https://www.facebook.com/Southnottsacademy)  
 [@southnottsacademy](https://www.instagram.com/southnottsacademy)  
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