



THE WELLS ACADEMY

Options Booklet 2026/27



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Welcome

Dear Students and Families

The options process marks a significant moment where you begin to shape your academic path for Years 10 and 11. It is an exciting opportunity to explore subjects that align with your passions, interests and future career aspirations. We urge you to review this booklet in detail, as the choices you make will play a pivotal role in the next steps of your educational journey.

Take the time to reflect on your interests, considering the subjects that bring you joy. Success is often linked with enjoyment and opting for subjects that you genuinely enjoy will not only make the journey more fulfilling but will also enhance your chances of succeeding.

Beyond personal enjoyment, take time to consider your future career aspirations. Assess how the courses offered align with potential career paths, ensuring your choices lay a strong foundation for your professional journey ahead.

While considering courses, pay attention to the methods of assessment. A course's structure may significantly impact your learning experience so select an assessment style that resonates with your strengths. Some students excel in exams while others prefer coursework where marks are awarded on projects that are completed over time.

Remember, teaching staff might change due to timetabling updates so it's important to focus on the subject matter rather than the teacher when making your selections. Engage with your interests and speak to your teachers for valuable insights into the courses. We are here to help guide you.

Mr Lawlor oversees our options process. Following our Options Evening, where you'll gather essential information from teachers, you'll have the opportunity to express your initial preferences. Later on in the academic year, you will formally choose your options and receive confirmation of the courses you'll embark on in Years 10 and 11.

This booklet is your companion to help you make an informed choice for your future!

We wish you all the best!

Mr G Coles, Principal

Mr A Lawlor, Senior Assistant Principal

GCSE Art and Design

Exam Board: OCR

What will I learn on this course?

The OCR GCSE Art and Design course offers the opportunity to explore a wide range of creative disciplines, including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and digital media. You will develop your technical skills, experiment with various materials and techniques and study the work of established artists and designers. The course encourages self-expression and personal creativity, culminating in a portfolio of work that reflects your artistic journey.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You will need creativity, enthusiasm for art and an open mind for experimentation. Observational and practical drawing skills are beneficial, as is the ability to work independently and manage your time effectively. A reflective approach to evaluating your own work and attention to detail will also support your progress.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has two components:

- 1. Portfolio (60%):** You will develop and present a collection of work that showcases your exploration of materials, techniques and ideas. This is internally assessed and externally moderated.
- 2. Externally Set Task (40%):** A final practical exam where you respond to a theme set by OCR. This includes preparatory studies and a timed piece created under exam conditions.



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in fine arts, graphic design, illustration, animation, fashion design, photography, interior design and art education. It is also valuable for any role requiring creativity and visual communication skills.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Mrs Billson

GCSE Dance

Exam Board: AQA

What will I learn on this course?

On the AQA GCSE Dance course, you will explore the art of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation. You'll develop your physical skills, creativity and understanding of professional dance works, as well as learn how to communicate ideas through movement.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You'll need creativity, physical coordination and a willingness to work hard to refine your technique. Teamwork and dedication are key, along with the ability to analyse and interpret choreography. Enthusiasm and commitment are essential to succeed.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has two components:

- 1. Performance and Choreography (60%):** Perform set phrases, a solo or duet and create original choreography.
- 2. Dance Appreciation (40%):** A written exam on professional works, choreographic processes and your own performance and choreography.

What careers is this good for?

GCSE Dance can lead to careers in performance, choreography, teaching, fitness instruction, arts management, event planning, therapy and roles requiring creativity and discipline.



Who can I speak to for more information?

Mrs Oliver

GCSE Drama

Exam Board: AQA

What will I learn on this course?

On the AQA GCSE Drama course, you will explore acting, stagecraft and the creative processes behind performances. You'll study plays, create your own drama and analyse live theatre. The course teaches teamwork, communication and how to use drama techniques to express ideas.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You'll need creativity, enthusiasm and a willingness to explore new ideas. Teamwork and communication are essential, as well as developing confidence and analytical skills to evaluate performances and understand theatrical works.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has three components:

1. **Understanding Drama (40%):** A written exam on a set play and live theatre.
2. **Devising Drama (40%):** Create and perform original drama with a log of the process.
3. **Texts in Practice (20%):** Perform two extracts from a play.

What careers is this good for?

GCSE Drama can lead to careers in acting, directing, stage management, design, teaching, events management, marketing, PR, law and public speaking



Who can I speak to for more information?

Mr Coles and Miss Havill

GCSE French

Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?

On the Edexcel GCSE French course, you will develop your ability to speak, listen, read and write in French. You'll learn to communicate confidently on a variety of topics such as your personal world, holidays, school, work, relationships and global issues, while also gaining an understanding of French-speaking cultures and countries.

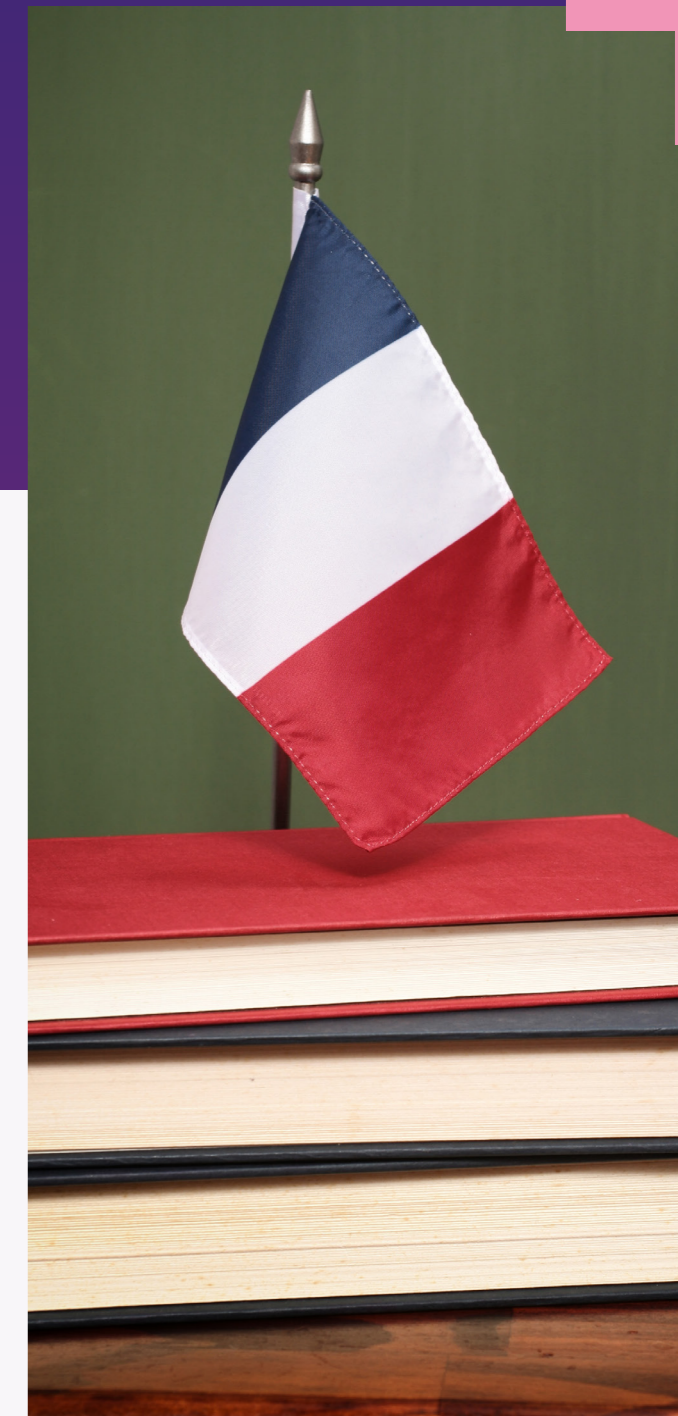
What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You'll need enthusiasm for learning a new language, a willingness to practise speaking/ listening regularly and learn vocabulary to increase your knowledge of French. Strong memory skills and the ability to spot patterns in grammar will help, as will perseverance and confidence to try out new vocabulary and structures.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has four components:

1. **Speaking (25%):** Read aloud with questions, a role-play and picture description with conversation.
2. **Listening (25%):** Questions based on spoken extracts and dictation.
3. **Reading (25%):** Comprehension of written texts and translation into English.
4. **Writing (25%):** Description of a picture (Foundation only), structured writing tasks and translation into French.



What careers is this good for?

GCSE French can lead to careers in translation, interpreting, teaching, travel and tourism, international business, diplomacy, journalism, law and roles requiring cultural awareness and communication skills.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Mrs Poland and Ms Brown

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA

What will I learn on this course?

On the AQA GCSE Geography course, you will explore the world around you, studying physical processes such as rivers, coasts and ecosystems, alongside human topics like urbanisation, development and resource management. You'll also develop skills in map reading, data analysis and fieldwork.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You'll need curiosity about the world and an interest in both natural and human environments. Analytical skills are important for interpreting data and good communication skills will help you explain your ideas clearly. Organisation and teamwork are also essential for fieldwork activities.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has three components:

1. **Paper 1:** Living with the Physical Environment (35%): A written exam on topics such as natural hazards, ecosystems and physical landscapes.
2. **Paper 2:** Challenges in the Human Environment (35%) A written exam covering urban issues, economic development and resource management.
3. **Paper 3:** Geographical Applications (30%) A written exam based on fieldwork and issue evaluation.



What careers is this good for?

GCSE Geography can lead to careers in environmental science, urban planning, teaching, travel and tourism, logistics, conservation, geology, architecture and roles requiring analytical and problem-solving skills.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Miss Tideswell and Mrs Green

Cambridge Nationals Health and Social Care

Exam Board: OCR

What will I learn on this course?

The Cambridge National in Health and Social Care gives you an understanding of how to support people's health and wellbeing. You'll explore topics like effective communication, health promotion and how to meet individual needs. The course focuses on real-life scenarios in health, social care and early years settings.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You'll need good communication and organisation skills, as well as an interest in helping others. Teamwork and empathy are essential and you'll also develop problem-solving and analytical skills through applying knowledge to real-world situations.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has two main components:

1. **Examined Unit (40%):** A written exam covering essential knowledge about health and wellbeing.
2. **Non-Examined Assessment (60%):** Coursework based on practical tasks, such as delivering a creative activity to a group of individuals and conducting an interview with an individual about their life events. Students will demonstrate their communication and analytical skills.



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in nursing, midwifery, social work, counselling, early years education, occupational therapy, health promotion and roles in the wider care sector.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Miss Hurrell

GCSE History

Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?

The Edexcel GCSE History course explores key historical events and periods, including Elizabethan England, the development of medicine over time, life in Nazi Germany, and the Cold War. You will study the causes and consequences of significant events, understand how history has shaped the modern world and develop skills in analysing historical sources and interpretations.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You will need an interest in history and an ability to think critically about past events. Strong reading, writing and analytical skills are essential, as well as the ability to assess different viewpoints and evaluate historical sources. Organisation and attention to detail will help with exam preparation.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has three components:

- Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment (30%)** A written exam that focuses on Medicine in Britain, C1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatments and the trenches.
- Paper 2: Period Study and the British Depth Study (40%)** A written exam that focuses on Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991 and Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88.
- Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (30%)** A written exam that focuses on Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in law, journalism, education, public policy, heritage management, archaeology and any field that requires critical thinking, research and communication skills.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Mr Grundy, Mr Berhane and Mr McGarry

Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering

Exam Board: Eduqas

What will I learn on this course?

The Eduqas Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering provides an insight into the hospitality industry, covering topics such as nutrition, food safety, menu planning and preparing dishes. You'll also explore the structure of the industry and the skills needed for a successful career in this fast-paced sector.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You'll need creativity, organisation and an interest in food preparation and presentation. Practical skills like time management and attention to detail are essential, as is the ability to work under pressure and evaluate your own work.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has two components:

- The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40%):** A written exam focusing on the industry, including job roles, health and safety and environmental considerations.
- Practical Application (60%):** Coursework where you plan, prepare and cook dishes, demonstrating your understanding of nutrition and presentation.



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in catering, chef roles, hospitality management, event planning, food production, nutrition, job roles within health care and food hygiene and other roles within the food and beverage industry.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Ms Uwadiae

GCSE Media

Exam Board: Eduqas

What will I learn on this course?

The Eduqas GCSE Media course explores how the media influences society and how different media forms are created. You will study television, film, advertising, music videos and digital platforms, learning about media products, audiences and industry practices. You will also develop skills in creating your own media products.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You will need creativity, an interest in media and communication and the ability to analyse and interpret different media forms. Strong written and practical skills are essential, as well as the ability to work independently and as part of a team. A critical mindset and attention to detail are important when studying media texts.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has two components:

- 1. Exploring the Media (40%):** A written exam on media language, representation and how different media products are created and consumed.
- 2. Creating Media (60%):** Coursework where you create your own media product (e.g., a magazine, advertisement, or short film) based on a set brief.



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in journalism, film and television production, advertising, public relations, digital media, graphic design, marketing and media management.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Mr Wilson

BTEC Tech Award in Music

Exam Board: Pearson

What will I learn on this course?

The Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music covers the practical and theoretical aspects of music. You will develop your performance, composition and production skills, while studying music theory, genres and the music industry. The course includes opportunities for creating music, performing and working with others on collaborative projects.

The Pearson BTEC Music course covers the practical and theoretical aspects of music. You will develop your performance, composition and production skills, while studying music theory, genres and the music industry. The course includes opportunities for creating music, performing and working with others on collaborative projects.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You will need a passion for music and a willingness to practise regularly. Strong creativity, teamwork and communication skills are important, as well as the ability to manage time and meet deadlines. Basic music knowledge and instrumental skills are essential for this course.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has three components:

- 1. Exploring music products and styles. (30%).** You will explore musical styles and techniques and create 3 musical products



- 2. Music Skills Development (30%).** You will develop musical knowledge, skills and techniques and apply them to create 2 music products.
- 3. Responding to a Music Brief. (40%).** You will put the skills you have learnt into practice by responding to a brief as a composer, performer or producer.

What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in music performance, composition, sound engineering, music production, teaching, music therapy, event management and roles within the music industry.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Miss Hutchinson

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board: Edexcel

What will I learn on this course?

The Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies course explores key beliefs, teachings and practices from two major world religions, along with themes such as relationships, peace and conflict. You will study how religions respond to contemporary issues like human rights, the environment and crime and punishment, gaining a deeper understanding of different faiths and their impact on society.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You will need an open mind and an interest in learning about different beliefs and cultures. Strong analytical skills are important for evaluating religious and ethical ideas and the ability to express your thoughts clearly in written form will help with assessments. Critical thinking and empathy are also key to understanding different perspectives.

How is the course assessed and graded?

The course has two components:

- 1. Paper 1: Study of Islam (50%)** A written exam on the beliefs, teachings and practices of the religion of Islam.
- 2. Paper 2: Thematic Studies (50%)** A written exam on the beliefs, teachings and practices of the religion of Christianity.



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in law, education, social work, counselling, journalism, public policy, human rights and interfaith dialogue, as well as any role requiring strong critical thinking and an understanding of diverse perspectives.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Mr Hashim

GCSE Separate Science

Exam Board: AQA

What will I learn on this course?

The AQA Separate Science course provides an in-depth study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will study the Combined Science topics in greater detail and with an increased emphasis on calculations and problem solving. Topics in Biology include cell biology, organisms, ecosystems and genetics. Topics in Chemistry include atomic structure, bonding, reactions, organic chemistry and using resources. Topics in Physics include forces, energy, electricity and waves. Separate Science students also explore an additional space topic within Physics.

What sort of skills do I need to be successful on this course?

You will need a keen interest in science and a strong understanding of basic scientific principles. Analytical skills are important for interpreting data and solving problems and you will need to be organised and capable of working independently in both practical and written assessments.

How is the course assessed and graded?

GCSE Biology Component 1:

Topics 1-4 50% of GCSE

GCSE Biology Component 2:

Topics 5-7 50% of GCSE

GCSE Chemistry Component 1:

Topics 1-5 50% of GCSE

GCSE Chemistry Component 2:

Topics 6-10 50% of GCSE

GCSE Physics Component 1:

Topics 1-4 50% of GCSE

GCSE Physical Component 2:

Topics 5-8 50% of GCSE



What careers is this good for?

This qualification can lead to careers in medicine, research, engineering, environmental science, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, teaching and any field that requires strong scientific knowledge and analytical skills.

Who can I speak to for more information?

Mrs Lomax, Mr Brewin and Miss Lewis



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RECEPTION

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